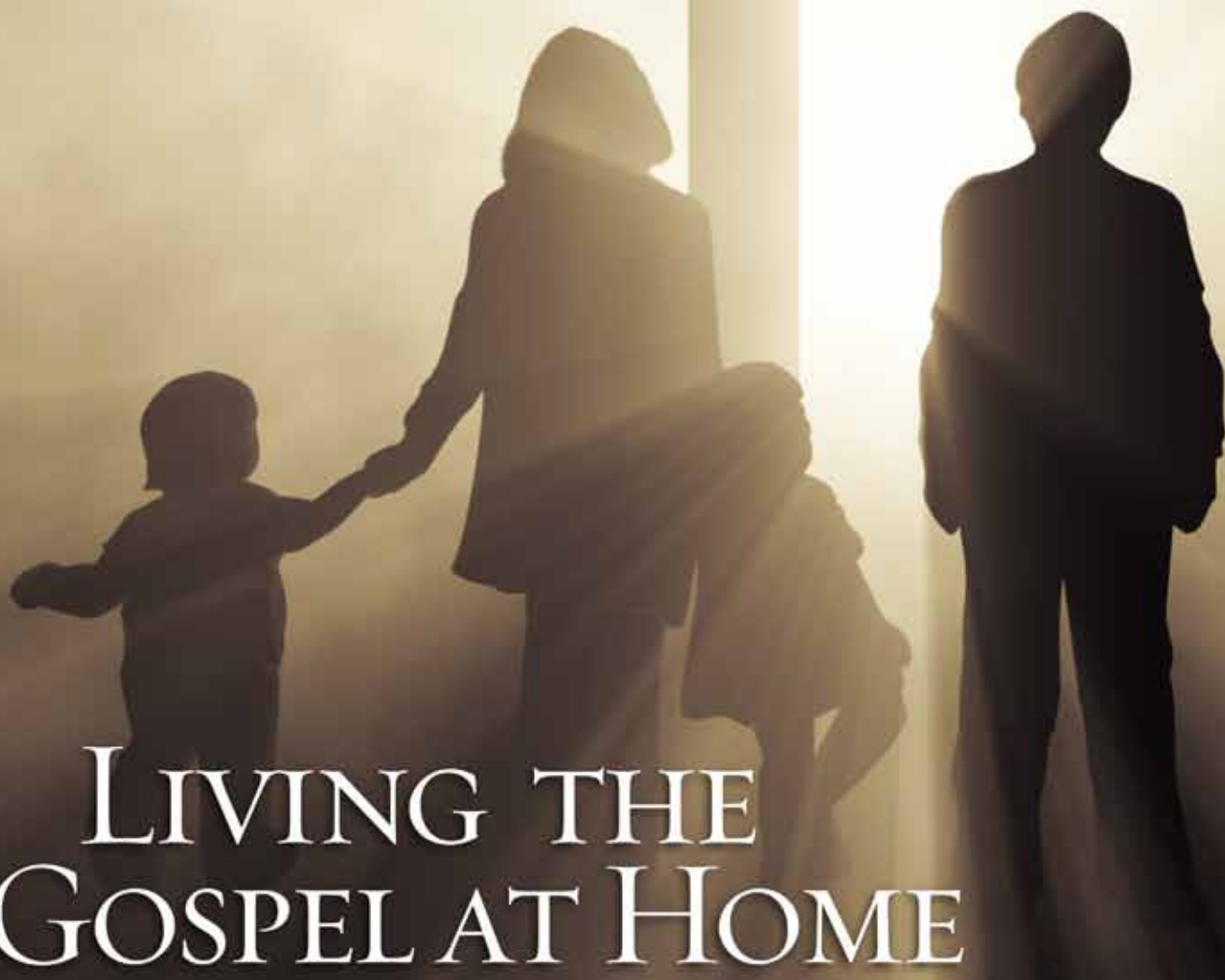


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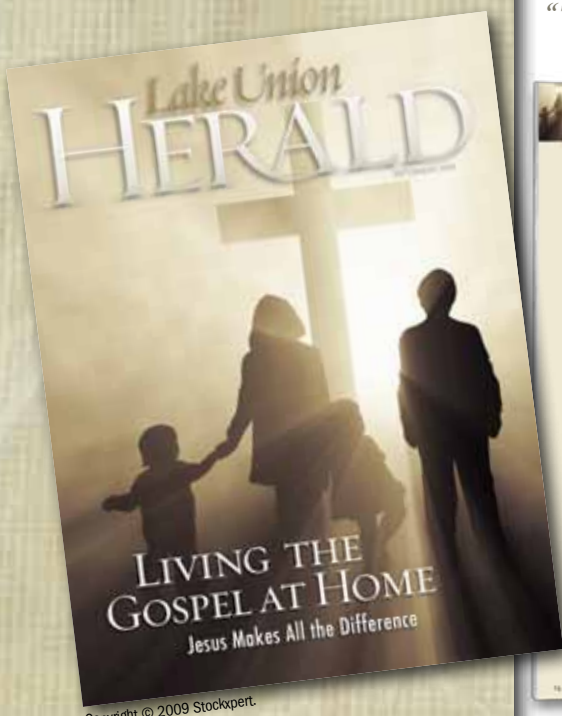
SEPTEMBER 2009



**LIVING THE
GOSPEL AT HOME**

Jesus Makes All the Difference

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



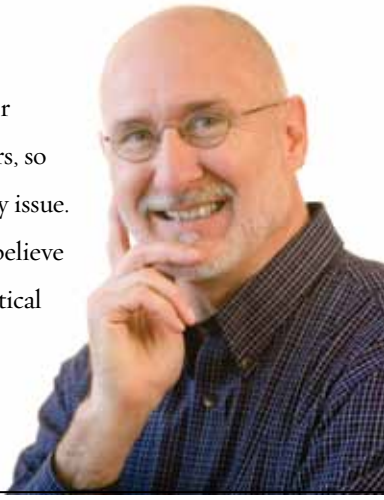
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in this issue...

Our managing editor, Diane Thurber, served with her husband, Gary, in family ministries for a number of years, so we asked her to be the guest editor for our special family issue. She has pulled together a variety of perspectives that I believe you will find encouraging, inspiring and filled with practical suggestions to help you live the gospel in your home.


Gary Burns, Editor



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Same Signals, Mixed Signals

Barbara and I really enjoy being grandparents. Recently, we were reminded that our oldest grandchild doesn't miss a thing. She may seem to be in her own little world, not really listening to or paying attention to the adults around her, but she is most certainly taking it all in. Once in a while she will mimic behaviors or parrot phrases that are surprisingly familiar. But the values behind those words and actions are not always assimilated.

As parents, we attempted to communicate our values to our daughters. Barbara frequently explained to them that we did or did not do certain things—because we loved Jesus. I thought it was great logic. It was Christ-centered and in a sense a stewardship lesson—we express our love for God in the variety of ways we live our lives. Our confidence with this approach somewhat dissipated when one daughter observed someone doing something that was not within our family values or practice. The inevitable question came back to Mom, “Doesn't that person love Jesus?”

God is interested in the inner person, one who is committed to and walking with Him out of the essence of their very being—one “who has clean hands and a pure heart” (Psalm 24:4). Nothing is more important. But living out this principle can create problems, even for adults. Paul addressed this in his first letter to the church in Corinth. In chapters 8–10 of 1 Corinthians, Paul reminds the church that not all of us are living out of the same context or experience. Serving God from the essence of who we are may look different from person to person.

For Christians who came from the experience of idolatry, they could not in good conscience eat food that had been presented to idols (see 1 Corinthians 8:4–8). For one who had never been an idolater, food was food and could be eaten with thanksgiving—it had no other connotation. Paul confirms their conclusion: “Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, for, ‘The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it’” (chapter 10:25, 26).

Paul addresses our granddaughter's question. “Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother for whom Christ died is destroyed by your knowledge” (chapter 8:9–11).

We love God and serve Him from our own experience. “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ... For I am not seeking my own good, but the good of many, so that they may be saved” (chapter 10:31–33).

Our love relationship with God drives what we do, what we say and where we have our focus. Demonstrating to our children our love for God, not judging the motives and actions of others while showing sensitivity to their conscience and experience, will help our children understand our values and will help them live a life that represents Him well.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS



Lisa Helgesen knew she was at the right church when the opening song was her all-time favorite hymn, "This Is My Father's World." She soon asked for Bible studies, and found joy studying the Scriptures with the pastor and his wife.

Illinois

I (**Lisa Helgesen**) think I was an Adventist before I knew what an Adventist was. When I was six years old, someone gave me an old copy of *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*. I read the stories over and over; they were so funny and delightful, and had such good character-building lessons to absorb. Then I discovered more books from that series in my elementary school library, and I read all of those, too.

When I was eight, I received Christ; and in high school, I became very involved with the evangelical movement. Then, my freshman year of college, I had a brief but very frightening encounter with an extremist charismatic group. According to them, you either followed their movement and their leader or you were out of the will of God, and your salvation was in question. I left the group but lost any sense of God in my life. That experience cast a shadow over my college years and beyond.

In 1984, my daughter was born. Though I no longer considered myself a Christian, I wanted to raise her with some sort of religious belief. There was an Adventist church in my neighborhood. At that time Saturday was my only day off, so I visited one Saturday morning and soon enrolled my daughter in Cradle Roll. I came to really love the church, and realized that this was the church Uncle Arthur had spoken of! And I knew according to Scripture that Saturday was the Sabbath.

As time went on, I played piano for the Cradle Roll and led song service. But when the pastor asked me about joining the church, I put him off. I just didn't know if I could trust God with my life again.

When my daughter was 11, we moved to Illinois and I took a job as a 911 dispatcher. I worked all shifts and every Friday and Saturday. There was no Adventist church in our town, so I gave up on the idea of keeping the Sabbath. Many years went by. Then, about a year ago, I felt strongly drawn back to church. The nearest one was 30 miles away, but I was willing to make the trip. I prayed, "Lord, if you find me a job where I can keep the Sabbath, I'll go back to church—and I'll join this time."

Shortly after that, my boss asked if I would like a different position working Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Needless to say, I accepted. And the very first week of my new job, I visited the Champaign Church. I asked the Lord to show me if this was the right church for me. At church, the very first hymn sung happened to be my all-time favorite hymn, "This Is My Father's World." After attending a few more services, I asked about becoming a member.

What a joy to study the Scriptures with the pastor and his wife, and to be reconciled with the Lord of my youth! I now approach God with confidence and trust. The Lord has honored my mustard seed of faith—so many prayers have been answered, so many blessings bestowed.

Lisa Helgesen, member, Champaign Church

Lisa was baptized and joined the Champaign Church on November 1, 2008.

Michigan

Ever since I (**Evangelista Breton**) was a child living in the Dominican Republic, I loved to listen to the Word of God. Though raised with a religious faith, I often visited other churches and absorbed everything I could. When I was 15 and living with my sister, I studied English with a Seventh-day Adventist teacher, Manuel Alberto Mises. I loved the way he taught me about God, so I asked him to give me Bible study lessons. My sister did not approve, and I was forced to tell Alberto that he could no longer be my teacher.

A few years later, I crossed paths with Alberto again. Since I was now 18, I asked if he could teach me more about the Bible. At first he was hesitant to go against my family's wishes, but I quickly found a solution. "What if I go to your house to learn more about God?" He readily agreed and soon I began Bible study lessons with Alberto and his wife. All along, I continued to seek the truth.

I clearly remember a morning in January 1989. I was in my bedroom studying the Word of God and asking the Lord questions. On my knees I implored in prayer, "God, I have been visiting different churches, but please show me Your true church!"



Seminary professor Larry Richards prepares to baptize Evangelista Breton in the Jordan River while on the Seminary-sponsored "Birth of Christianity Tour" to Israel and Turkey.

At that moment, a man knocked on my door. He had knocked on every door on my street, but had initially skipped mine. While standing on the street corner, he felt impressed to turn around and visit the home he had passed. I asked if he belonged to a church, and when he said he was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church I began to weep. I prayed for God's guidance, and He answered my prayer by sending Gustavo Nunez to my door. He invited me to his church, and soon I made the decision to be baptized and become a Seventh-day Adventist Christian.

The decision was not well-received by my family, but I knew Jesus had sent Gustavo as an answer to my prayer. In an attempt to help me forget about the Adventist church, my mother moved us from our homeland to Massachusetts in 1994. Since there was no Adventist church nearby, I invited my co-workers to study the Bible in my home. The group grew, meeting first as a small group in my home and later as an official congregation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When I realized I could make a profession out of my passion of spreading the gospel, I knew it was an answer from the Lord. I relocated to study at Andrews University. It was there I was given the opportunity to fulfill a long-time wish. During a summer 2009 study tour to the Middle East, Larry Richards, professor emeritus of New Testament, baptized me as Jesus was in the Jordan River. Now, as I continue my life-long journey to know the Lord better and share His Word, I look forward to completing my studies to become a pastor so I can serve the Lord more efficiently.

Evangelista Breton, M.Div. student, Andrews University, as shared with Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University

Evangelista works at the Berrien Springs Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is helping plant a new church in Benton Harbor, Michigan, under the leadership of Jonathan Flores, pastor.



Following a cycle of outreach seminars and small group classes, Stevens Point Church members were excited to invite their neighbors to an Adventures in Prophecy series conducted by Ric Swaningson. Following the presentation of Bible truths, 19 community friends fully committed their lives to Jesus Christ and were baptized.

Wisconsin In June, the Stevens Point Church members partnered with Adventures in Prophecy and its speaker, Ric Swaningson, resulting in 19 persons who desired to fully commit their lives to Jesus. Following are several of their stories.

Jim Whitcomb's spiritual journey included many months of personal Bible study and discovery. He prayed for God to bring a revival to central Wisconsin that would assist him in his walk with God. His prayer was answered when he received a flier and postcard, both inviting him to the Adventures in Prophecy seminar. At his baptism, Jim exclaimed, "This seminar has been a direct answer to my prayers. God heard them and understood my needs, and now I am in the right place."

Margaret Taylor was a friend of the church for many years, but had never joined its fellowship. She came to the meetings following a personal invitation. She revealed that her heart's response came as she heard the messages and realized her need for a close relationship with Jesus Christ through baptism. She wanted to be a part of the loving church family.

Jessica Khulman attended the series as a result of the Stevens Point Bible worker, Joshua Jeresek, who started a ministry at the local university. The pastor and Bible worker plan outreach activities and keep the church membership active reaching out to this special part of their community. Their efforts and friendship resulted in a natural transition for Jessica to attend the prophecy meetings. On the day of her baptism, Jessica's mother was present to testify, "I have prayed a long time for my daughter, and I am so overjoyed that she is joining this loving church."

David Guerrero, Stevens Point Church pastor, as shared with Bruce Babiencko, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*

Unification in Christ

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Each weekend during the school year, Andrews University creates an environment for expressions of worship and fellowship at the start of the Sabbath hours. On a Friday evening near the end of the school year, two of these expressions, Mosaic and Impact vespers services, were combined into a unifying program, MOSTPACT, giving University students the chance to reach a world in need.

“When Mosaic and Impact have joined together in the past, it feels like a pact, more unified,” says Coronel Lopez, Mosaic ministry leader. “This year we decided to end the year in unity and worship together for a good cause.”

That Friday night, approximately 400 students united in the Johnson Gym for the last vespers event of the 2008–2009 school year. Under the leadership of Coronel and Impact ministry leader, Unique Bolden, MOSTPACT combined the art, music and ministries of both worships into a benefit concert featuring University artists. Poverty, particularly a desire to “feed the children,” was addressed through music, poetry and other creative expressions.

The idea to combine Mosaic and Impact into a single benefit concert began several weeks earlier during a meeting between the campus worship teams and leaders. Coronel proposed a program that would benefit the needy children of Honduras, based on his missionary experiences in the country. The committee discussed the idea and agreed, deciding that the funds raised from the event would aid the First Lady’s Office at the Family and Children’s Institution in Honduras (INFHA), a R.E.A.C.H. International child-protective agency that serves as an orphanage for abandoned children.

As planning began, the worship was entitled “MOST-



Alison Schwirzer (front left) and Chauna Candy (front right) and friends perform two songs during the final Mosaic and Impact vespers service of the 2008–2009 school year.

PACT” as a symbol of unification on campus. The cross “T” in the center was to represent unification in worship with the cross, or Christ, as the center. The leaders also felt that this was a chance for students to grow together in their relationships with God.

During the service, students excitedly praised God and were blessed through varied presentations. “I felt impressed about what Heaven is going to be like

through the different styles and acts that people contributed that night. Also, the music was inspiring,” says Celeste Maldonado, a nursing major.

AU Improv was also involved, providing humor and entertainment between acts. All in all, students enjoyed a multifaceted display of thought-provoking performances. More than \$300 was collected from the students to benefit the Honduras orphanage. Plans for more combined services are being discussed for the 2009–2010 school year, and both groups are exploring ideas regarding unification in Christ.

Looking back on the efforts put into the MOSTPACT service, Coronel says, “I believe people got a lot out of the program. It wasn’t perfect, but it was a good trial run. I hope that as a result of this, more ideas to do something to this extent and encourage unification will come up.”

Asleigh Jardine is a student news writer at the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.



Showing Jesus to San Juan

BY TOM DUNHAM

On April 12, the Hinsdale Adventist Academy class of 2009 and sponsors (18 total) embarked on an adventure they had long anticipated. Ever since choosing a mission trip for their class trip, the seniors prayed God would lead them where He could best use them. God led them to Puerto Rico.

Through some providential contacts and amazing events, God worked out the mission trip details. The group had the pleasure and privilege of working with Florencio Zabala, pastor of The First English Church and Templo Adventista 7 Mo Dia in San Juan.

For five nights, meetings were held at The First English Church. It was a very spiritual time, singing and worshipping together in praise to the Creator. The speakers were mostly students, including Isaiah Horton, Jacki Ryba, Jazmon Mason and Aleena Basilio. The group was especially proud of Aleena and Jazmon, who both presented their first “solo” sermons and allowed their lights to shine for Jesus.

Each night, the students led out in everything from praise time to scripture and special music. A lot of pre-planning and practicing took place. In the end, the meetings were a blessing not just for the people who attended, but also for the group. The Holy Spirit obviously was at work in a powerful way.

The mission team also finished a refurbishing project at The First English Church. The students worked very hard, under the direction of Laurie Valentino, one of Jacki’s aunts. They cleaned and scraped old paint, moved furniture and painted the Sabbath school rooms. After three days, the transformation was astounding! The students were proud of their work, and felt good that the church’s children would enjoy their classes in a brighter, updated environment.

The church members’ generosity and hospitality were overwhelming. The group’s volunteer chauffeur/tour guide



Students and sponsors gathered Sabbath morning at Templo Adventista 7 Mo Dia in San Juan.

was Rossini, a church member who gave up his own personal time to drive them around in the hectic San Juan traffic. Also, the group was blessed by wonderful cooks who treated them to homemade local foods, including delicious Spanish rice, fried plantains and beans. The Litheda Church allowed the group to stay in their Sabbath school rooms and fellowship hall, and use their kitchen facilities and showers/restrooms.

With the assistance of Rossini and Victor Moreno (one of the Spanish-speaking sponsors), the group enjoyed some down time at

the local beaches, forts and Old San Juan, and spent a day hiking and enjoying the El Yunque Rain Forest, a park full of waterfalls, local animals and natural beauty.

God kept His hand of protection over the group. Everyone was in good health and able to focus their energies on the purpose of the mission. The group couldn’t have functioned without Shannon Houda and Kathy Ryba and their help in the kitchen, motherly assistance and excellent shopping skills. The group was also very blessed by the musical talents and Spanish-speaking abilities of Victor.

The students are so thankful for this unforgettable, amazing trip, which united the group and gave them the opportunity to show Jesus to others in a practical, meaningful way.

Tom Dunham was a sponsor of the Hinsdale Adventist Academy 2009 senior class.





Suppertime Devotions

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

There is nothing more satisfying than seeing your children incorporate sound principles in their own family. I asked Michael Hales, our son-in-law, to share how he and our daughter, Marci, incorporate family worship into their busy lives.

“Many families today find it’s hard to get everyone around the dinner table long enough to share a meal, let alone hold a meaningful conversation. This could describe my family. Family devotions are important to my wife, Marci, and me, though finding a workable time is another challenge. It’s either too early in the morning, too late



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in the evening, someone’s too tired, there are too many distractions, or someone’s not paying attention.

“We’ve struggled with how to teach our children while juggling the necessities of daily living. We haven’t wanted our two young gifts to begrudge family devotions. We have varied morning schedules; once at home, in the late afternoon or evening, there are individual household chores to be completed, the inevitable homework, music lessons or practice, an evening meal and eventually bedtime.

“Last fall we started having family devotions at the dinner table. Our family meals are highly animated with tales of all the events that happened during the day. It is truly a time to listen, laugh out loud, and generally let everyone say or ask anything that comes to mind. I’ve learned the most about my family, and laughed the hardest, during these meals. There tends to be a natural lull in the dinner conversation just about the moment that second serving has been consumed, so I pick up on some aspect or theme that was mentioned during the meal and use it as a segue

into a devotional thought or use the Sabbath school lesson’s main focus for the week. I try to keep it short and light, saving more lengthy or serious conversations for Friday evenings.

“We begin by memorizing the Sabbath school lesson’s Bible verse, learning a phrase or two each night, so that by the end of the week we have

memorized the verse. I may read passages of Scripture, talk about lessons to be learned from our day’s events, and close with prayer. The television is turned off, and we don’t respond to ringing phones. We also avoid the temptation to become too verbose or hinder the kids from expressing their thoughts. Asking the children to lead devotions gives us opportunities to learn more about them and their thought processes.

“Suppertime devotions help us hide the word in our children’s hearts (Psalm 119:11) and train up our two gifts in the ways of the Lord (Proverbs 22:6). Our suppertime devotions are well received, surprisingly relevant to what is going on in our daily lives, and a blessed opportunity to share a testimony of God’s love from both the Bible and our own experiences with our children.”

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. Michael and Marci Hales are the parents of 13-year-old Cassie and 12-year-old Alex. They are the family life coordinators for the Woodbridge Church in Virginia.

HEALTHY CHOICES

Hypertension is one to two times greater in sedentary persons than active individuals.

Lowering the Pressure

Potassium-rich fruits and vegetables lower blood pressure.

About one in every four adults in the U.S. has high blood pressure. Because there are no symptoms, many people don't know they have high blood pressure. Uncontrolled high blood pressure can lead to heart attack, stroke, heart failure or kidney failure. This is why high blood pressure is called the "silent killer."

High blood pressure, which is considered 140/90 mm Hg or higher, is more common in persons older than 35 years, in African-Americans, persons overweight, the elderly and heavy drinkers. People with diabetes, gout or kidney disease are also more likely to have high blood pressure. About 150,000 people die each year in the U.S. from strokes due to high blood pressure, and many more have non-fatal strokes that leave them disabled.

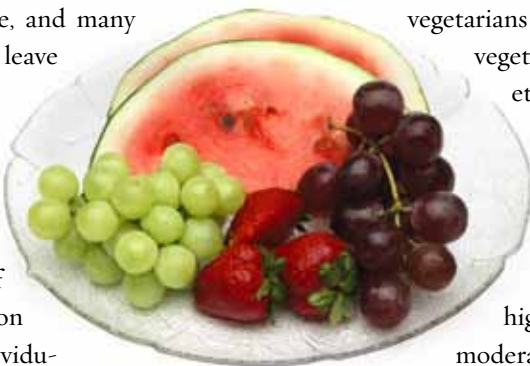
Antihypertensive drugs are commonly used, but these have undesirable side effects. Weight control is the single most important factor in the prevention of hypertension, and weight reduction in hypertensive overweight individuals offers the most effective non-drug means of decreasing blood pressure. Other important modalities include elimination of alcohol and sodium restriction. The average American typically consumes about six to eight times the amount of sodium needed per day. Using processed food significantly increases your daily sodium intake.

Regular exercise helps lower blood pressure. It is important for effective stress management, another risk factor for high blood pressure. Blood pressure in hypertensives is normally lowered 3 to 6 mm Hg by an increased calcium intake. In the Nurses' Health Study there was a 23 percent reduction in risk of high blood pressure associated with a regular calcium intake of at least 800 mg/day compared to

an intake below 400 mg/day. Cheese, wine and chocolate should be avoided by sensitive individuals and those using mood elevators, since these foods can raise blood pressure.

In the Adventist Health Study, non-vegetarians had a risk of fatal stroke that was 20 to 30 percent higher than the vegetarians. The lower blood pressure levels seen in vegetarians may result in part from the fact that vegetarians are leaner. In addition, vegetarian diets are low in saturated fat and rich in fruits and vegetables, excellent sources of potassium and magnesium that lower blood pressure. During an intensive two-week live-in program, a low-fat, high-fiber vegan diet, combined with moderate exercise and stress management, reduced blood pressure five to seven percent in middle-aged men and women.

A diet providing substantial levels of potassium and calcium, and with reduced saturated and total fat, has an anti-hypertensive effect, in both normotensives and hypertensives, comparable to that achieved with many pharmacological interventions. After three weeks, a diet containing ten servings per day of fruits and vegetables and two to three servings per day of low-fat dairy products reduced systolic and diastolic blood pressure by 5.5 mm and 3.0 mm Hg, respectively. Much greater reductions in blood pressures were seen in the hypertensive subgroup.



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



EXTREME GRACE

Joy Returned

BY DICK DUERKSEN

Sabbath is the worst day of the week if you're a single mom with three kids under age four. That's how it was for Brenda, and she dreaded Sabbath.

Sure, Sabbath school was wonderful with lots of fluffy animals, action songs and a boatload of smiling helpers. But as soon as the last notes faded from "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School," Brenda was sad she'd come to church.

Where do you sit? Which child gets your lap? Who carries all the stuff? Where did the quiet books go? How can they all need to go to the bathroom again already? Why does Dad have to be on the platform again?

Yes, Brenda was happily married and Dad was in church with the family. But she was alone in the pews while Dad was up on the platform where all good academy principals were supposed to be. Last Sabbath he was off campus on a band tour. The Sabbath before he was recruiting students at another church. Next Sabbath was school break, and he would be driving a bus to take students home.

But this Sabbath he was here, right here, but his lap was 90 feet away and unavailable. Brenda wanted to go home.

But she stayed, along with all three wiggly, squeaky, questioning and hungry children, all shoe-horned into the last pew—the one closest to the bathroom escape route.

Announcements, hymn, prayer, offering ... then everything fell apart. The youngest wanted to eat. The oldest had lost Noah from the quiet book and was desperate to find the patriarch before the flood hit! The middle child was trying to help, but making everything worse.

"Can't you take care of your kids!"

The "pew" ahead had spoken. She turned her head only



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far enough so Brenda could see the ferocity of her anger. Then she spit the words like rubber bullets from an automatic rifle.

"Can't you take care of your kids!"

Then, with the appropriate shoulder huff, she returned to worship.

Brenda's face showed that the flood had come,

even though two kids were still under the pew searching for Noah. At that moment the youngest chose to sing her own version of the doxology.

That's when Judy arrived.

"May I hold your baby?" Brenda glanced up, handed off the youngest, and untangled the other two.

"It's amazing how a pair of grandma arms can improve Sabbath," Brenda remembers. "I was about ready to dash out of the service and not return forever, but 'Aunt Judy' changed my mind. She never accused me of doing a 'bad job,' she just sat down and made herself helpful."

Every Sabbath for the next four years Aunt Judy was part of the family. Yes, Dad stayed home and off the platform a lot more, but it was Aunt Judy who brought the joy back to Sabbath. She seemed to know what the kids needed before they needed it. She brought her own set of quiet books. She made a new Noah. She loved the kids as if they were her own. Every Sabbath. For four years.

Happy Sabbaths!

Dick Duerksen is the official "storyteller" of Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact the author at dduerksen@maranatha.org.



Dear God...

BY DON JACOBSEN

Dear God,
Although it's been a long time, I still remember that some of the most useful classes I took in college had labs connected with them. Biology and chemistry come to mind. So do bookkeeping and woodworking. And golf.

I learned that it's one thing to have someone tell me about how something works, but it's a whole different sensation when I am hands-on with it. A lab is a great learning environment.

I can study sketches of the major arteries in the leg of a frog, but when I take my scalpel and gingerly slice down till I find them, I have a whole new appreciation for the circulatory system You designed.

I can *read about* the effect of a crosswind on my approach shot to the green, but when I take my 9-iron out of the bag and try to remember what to do next, I discover that although it works like the book said, it still isn't easy.

That gives me some insights into why You came up with the family plan. That is truly Life 101—with a lab.

In this lab I've learned that it's one thing to *read about* forgiveness, but it's a whole different transaction when I have to go to my wife and ask her to forgive me for something selfish or rude I've said.

It's one thing to *read about* patience, but it's a different issue when one of my kids spills her milk for the third time at breakfast.

It's one thing to *read about* forbearance, but it stresses that trait when one of the kids unplugs the deep-freeze in the garage one autumn and a whole season's worth of spoiled strawberries and asparagus has to be scooped out.

It's one thing to *read about* humility, but I get a chance to get hands-on practice when my son throws up all over the foot pedals of a Hammond organ in a radio studio where we are recording.

And then there are the advanced labs...

I can *read about* unconditional love, but if my teen-age daughter comes home one night and tells us she's sexually active—and pregnant—now *there's* a lab.

I can *read about* how it is expected of me as a follower of Jesus to love everyone, regardless. But how does that work when someone rapes my daughter?

It seems like many of the things You want me to know are too grand for lectures alone; they need a lab. The forgiveness I have received means even more when I experience how much it costs to forgive.

Your patience toward me is even more real when I see how difficult it can be to express it toward others. The unconditional love You have for me takes on new dimensions when someone I love makes a heart-breaking decision that can't be undone.

So, Lord, my reflection brings me to a huge sense of gratitude. I want to thank You for giving me these wonderful people to love. And for everything I've learned about You from them. Better than any college class I ever took.

Your friend.

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

At God's Beck and Call

BY JULIA O' CAREY

Linda Webb, a gifted seamstress from the Chicago suburbs, candidly shared how frustrated she felt one night. *I cannot believe it's after nine p.m. and she still has not come to pick up her dress!* she fumed to herself. Her thoughts continued in a downward spiral the later it got. *Does this lady think the whole world revolves around her?* she wondered.

Dressed in her pajamas and slippers, Linda headed to the door to turn off the porch lights but was stopped in her tracks by a persistent yet gentle impression. "My child is still coming for her dress. She needs you, Linda."

"Okay, God. I'll stay up for her," Linda obediently and soberly prayed as she sat down in her quiet living room. She continued to pray, "Lord, I do not know what this lady is going through, but You told me she needs help. Please give me love for her. Give me words to encourage her." Then she waited.

Not long after her simple, humble prayer, an urgent knock sounded on the front door. Linda was prepared to warmly welcome her client into the living room. With a checkbook grasped in her quivering hands and pen poised, her frazzled client protested, "Oh no, I can't take any more of your time. I'm so sorry for being this late. I'll just take the dress and go!"

Linda persisted and kindly told her, "I have all the time in the world!" Her client needed no further encouragement, and as she sat down a gush of tears and concerns tumbled out of her mouth. Linda sympathetically listened as her client spoke of her terrible health challenges and tumultuous family issues. Her life was falling apart. As she unloaded for about two hours, Linda listened and offered words of en-



Linda Webb looks for opportunities to share God's love whenever she sees a need in one of her clients who frequent her sewing business, Linda's Bridal Creations.

couragement and assured her that she would be praying for her.

Though Linda does not know how everything turned out, she does know one thing—God used her that night to minister to a someone in great need. "It feels wonderful to be at God's beck and call," she said with a sparkle in her eyes. At the same time, Linda was sobered by her recognition of prejudging her client and was remind-

ed from this experience that each person God puts in her path has some need, great or small, that she can minister to.

Linda faithfully attends the Lake Union Chapter Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) conventions because she gains ideas and support in how to make her sewing business, Linda's Bridal Creations, a ministry. ASI is an organization that is an integral part of the Adventist Church, and its members work hard to support and nurture not only people in business-related occupations, but all mission-minded professionals who have a desire to share Christ where God plants them. Would you like to rub shoulders with people like Linda and other like-minded peers who share your passion to be a missionary in your workplace? Consider becoming an ASI member today! Visit www.asiministries.org.

Julia O'Carey is the vice president of communication for the Lake Union Chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries.



UNIDOS Y ADIESTRADOS, TERMINAREMOS LA OBRA

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Dios demanda el adiestramiento de las facultades mentales. Necesitan ser cultivadas de tal manera que podamos si fuera necesario, presentar la verdad delante de los más altos poderes de la tierra para la gloria de Dios” (Review and Herald, 28 de julio de 1896).

Recuerdo el primer entrenamiento laico al que asistí en el mes de junio del año 1971. En aquella ocasión, la Asociación Greater New York ofreció un curso de entrenamiento para los líderes potenciales de las sociedades de jóvenes, y mi iglesia me invitó para que asistiera a dicho curso. Me sentía tan feliz de pertenecer a ese grupo de jóvenes reunido para recibir tal entrenamiento, y aunque no me acuerdo lo que se enseñó, sí sé que me sentía tan agradecido por el apoyo que la asociación nos ofrecía para prepararnos a ser mejores líderes en las iglesias.

En el mes de mayo tuvimos un entrenamiento laico en la Universidad Andrews, en el cual se enfatizó fortalecer a nuestras iglesias de manera que fueran más eficaces nuestros proyectos de evangelismo. Más de 300 hermanos, junto con los pastores y los coordinadores hispanos de las asociaciones de nuestra unión, vinieron para recibir inspiración y adiestramiento. Al concluir el programa pedí a los participantes que



Laicos y pastores asisten al entrenamiento para laicos en la Universidad Andrews.

diesen su evaluación del evento. Una hermana de Chicago, Alicia Contreras Torres, me respondió con estas palabras:

“Los laicos tenemos que proponernos revisar los materiales que presentó el pastor Roger Hernández y usarlos en nuestros pequeños grupos. Al igual que ésta y otras nuevas ideas que adquirimos, debemos decidir ponerlas en practica para que el entrenamiento sea realmente de bendición para nuestros grupos e iglesias y así cumplamos con la meta de traer a otras personas bautizadas para el próximo entrenamiento.”

Un hermano, Jorge Del Águila, me respondió con las siguientes palabras:

“El entrenamiento de laicos realizado en la Universidad Andrews, para mí en lo personal fue una gran experiencia, porque no solamente tuve la oportunidad de aprender lo

que fue presentado en los talleres sino que también pude gozar mucho del compañerismo y la convivencia que tuvimos todos unidos como hermanos en nuestro Señor Jesucristo.”

Estos comentarios y otros que he recibido me han confirmado la necesidad de seguir ofreciendo entrenamientos para nuestros hermanos, tanto a nivel de asociación como a nivel de unión. Los hermanos que fueron a Andrews se propusieron traer con ellos por lo

menos a un nuevo converso al próximo entrenamiento de unión que se llevará a cabo en el año 2011. ¿Qué tal usted mi hermano? ¿Desea usted aceptar el desafío de ser un mejor discípulo para Cristo y traer a un nuevo converso para que sea adiestrado y se convierta así en un mejor ganador de almas? Mi deseo es que se cumpla la visión de Elena White que se encuentra en el libro *La educación*, p. 263:

“Con un ejército de obreros como el que nuestros jóvenes, debidamente adiestrados, podrían proveer, ¡cuán pronto se proclamaría a todo el mundo el mensaje de un Salvador crucificado, resucitado y próximo a venir! ¡Cuán pronto podría llegar el fin -el fin del sufrimiento, el pesar y el pecado.”

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



Living the Gospel at Home

Healing Words

BY RICHARD O'FFILL

"God's kindness leads you toward repentance."—Romans 2:4 NIV

Betty and I have celebrated our 49th anniversary. When I mention this to an audience, they're inclined to give me a standing ovation! I usually say, "Please don't do that until my funeral; after all, I promised, 'till death do us part.'" If you think 49 years of marriage is good, wait until you hear this: During all those years, we have had only five or six spats that went from one day until the next.

You're probably thinking that we have a perfect marriage or that either or both of us are a perfect partner. We aren't. Inasmuch as there are no perfect people, there is no such thing as a perfect marriage. Do I hear you saying that your marriage is pretty near perfect? Then you know that a so-called "perfect marriage" is really a well-maintained marriage.

Even in the best of marriages, couples sometimes hurt or wrong each other. The question to ask is not, "Will that happen?" but rather, "What will we do about it when it happens?"

I'm not a person who shouts, screams or uses bad language when I get angry. In fact, I rarely say anything. But I can "feel it in my gut." It starts out as a knot and grows into a small fire. Nothing explodes or gets out of hand; it just sits there, seething and smoking. Sometimes Betty isn't even aware that she's said anything hurtful.

But do you know something? I've discovered that being angry with Betty seems to short out my relationship with God; i.e., for me to be happy with God and angry at Betty is like having software that's incompatible with a computer's operating system. It just doesn't work.

When I feel anger toward Betty, I have to ask her to forgive me. Why? Not to get it off my chest but out of my



gut. I see the anger as my problem, no matter what I perceive that she has done. Someone said that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we react. I can't change the little 10 percent that made me angry, but I can do something about the big 90 percent of what I'm going to do about it.

A text for your refrigerator door might be, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed" (James 5:16). Notice

the word "healed." When we wrong each other, it leaves a wound. Not confessing our faults over time ruins a home, a heart and our relationship with God. Not asking for forgiveness—in other words, not keeping our marriage well maintained—will damage our home in the same way that a car engine is damaged when it runs without oil.

You may be thinking, "But, Pastor O'Ffill, you don't know my spouse." You're right, I don't. But remember the 10/90 rule. Your spouse is only 10 percent of the problem. You have control over the 90 percent. Read James 5:16. We can't go wrong doing what God has told us to do, especially at home.

Richard O'Ffill is a revival specialist and the author of several books, including *Lord, Keep Your Mansions*, *Just Save My Children*.



A Spirit of Forgiveness

BY WILLIE AND ELAINE OLIVER

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”—Ephesians 4:32 NIV

We just returned from a speaking itinerary in South Africa. During our visit in this magnificently beautiful country we became more intimately acquainted with its history. Many will remember the concept of apartheid, which literally means “apart” or “separateness” in Afrikaans (the official language of South Africa until 1994). Apartheid was introduced into South Africa following the general election of 1948, and involved classifying its population into racial groups (Black, White, Coloured and Indian) and segregating residential areas by means of forced removals. Blacks were deprived of their citizenship, legally becoming citizens of one of ten tribally-based, self-governing homelands. The government segregated education, medical care and other public services, and provided Black people with services inferior to those of Whites.

Reforms to apartheid during the 1980s failed to subdue the growing opposition within South Africa, as well as without. So, in 1990, Frederik W. de Klerk (then president of South Africa) began negotiations to end apartheid, culminating in multi-racial democratic elections in 1994, won by the African National Congress under Nelson Mandela.

Wrongly convicted and imprisoned by the apartheid regime for 27 years (most of these spent on Robben Island), Nelson Mandela, as president, led South Africa in a spirit of forgiveness. Nelson asked the Black majority—many of whom had suffered great abuse and even the death of family members at the hands of the apartheid regime—to forgive rather than retaliate. It is this spirit of forgiveness—giving up the right to punish those who have done you wrong—that has been most helpful in facilitating the healing process in South Africa.

As God’s people, we must learn to forgive those who trespass against us. Not because they deserve to be forgiven, but because we have been forgiven by Jesus and need to learn to be like Him. Christians must study, understand



Elaine and Willie Oliver visit the Nelson Mandela Museum in Soweto, South Africa.

and practice forgiveness. Our children will only grasp and learn this essential concept when it’s modeled in our homes every day. By accepting God’s forgiveness, we are empowered and enabled to offer the gift to others. The spirit of forgiveness avoided a blood bath in South Africa, and will also prevent resentment, bad feelings and unnecessary stress in our lives.

The Bible is clear when it declares:

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:14, 15 NIV). Jesus did not teach His disciples to earn God’s forgiveness by forgiving others. This would be contrary to the notion of God’s free grace being available to all. However, when we truly experience the forgiveness of God, He gives us the ability and desire to forgive others (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13).

Willie Oliver, Ph.D., an ordained minister and family sociologist, is director of family ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Elaine Oliver, M.A., is associate vice president for Enrollment Management at Washington Adventist University and a marriage and family consultant for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.



Living the Gospel at Home

A Puzzle of Gifts

BY BRENDA AUFDERHAR

“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.”—Psalm 139:14 NLT

Dave turned his head away from her while thinking to himself, *Why can't she see that I know what I am talking about?* It was a pattern between them. Whatever the topic, they had differing opinions; and as far as he was concerned, Jackie always went soft while he stayed logical. This was true whether it was the budget, kids' bedtime, the in-laws or church attendance. They tried to hide it from the kids, but their avoidance and glares were now visible to the children's eyes.

Relieved to leave the tension of home behind, Dave headed to work where his logic and thinking were appreciated. Out on the freeway he mindlessly turned on the radio to listen to some chatter outside his own thinking. A clear male voice was speaking. “Even James 1:17 tells us that ‘Every good and perfect gift is from above.’ What is God's gift in you? What are God's gifts in those around you—your spouse, in your kids, in your supervisor or employees? Recognize that the thing that irritates you could actually be a gift. Thank your spouse for helping you be flexible; thank your boss for helping you be accountable; thank your children for helping you practice patience. These are gifts and resources for you today. Will you fight with the gifts and resources God has surrounded you with, or will you accept them?”

Dave gripped the steering wheel and faced the reality of himself in the mirror. He brought the gift of logic, and his wife brought the gift of compassion and understanding to their home. He tried to change her, which really meant he was unwilling to accept her strengths and find a way to honor the gifts she brought to their marriage.

The voice from the radio brought him back, “We sometimes reject the very picture that God intends to have in our families by criticizing and putting others down or puffing ourselves up, leaving no room to accept and honor the gifts



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and abilities that are in each of our family members. Let us accept God's good and perfect gifts that He sends us in those around us.”

Jackie felt relief as Dave left. She listened as her youngest asked for help putting a puzzle together. Her mothering hands helped while her heart ached and mind wandered. It was a simple puzzle. Each piece was needed to make the full picture.

Her family was like a puzzle—each member an important piece. Each was gifted with abilities and resources that could create something cohesive, whole and beautiful if combined. If one of the puzzle pieces said to the others, “I don't need you; I am the picture!”—that would be pride. If one of the pieces said to the others, “I am nothing; you can do without me!”—that would be false modesty.

Jackie could point out her husband's prideful ways that evening, or she could confess her own false modesty. Jackie quietly asked God, “Help me to be fully me, to complete my family puzzle as You created me to.”

What rich texture and colors do you bring to your family puzzle? The picture will not be complete without each of you.

Brenda Aufderhar, RN, MSW, is the mother of two. She enjoys teaching marriage and family seminars together with her husband. Brenda is a mental health counselor at Children's Home Society in Wenatchee, Washington.

To learn ways to apply this article to your family life, read the online version of this article at www.lakeunionherald.org.



Think Thanks

BY KARL HAFFNER

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.”—Philippians 1:3 NLT

My friend Linda asked, “Hey Karl, can you park your car again in the Antique Car Show?”
“Sure,” I said, “assuming I can crank the handle and get it started! I haven’t driven it since the show last year.”

Although the comment about getting it started was a joke, when I tried to fire it up I wasn’t laughing. The engine coughed, then went quiet. It would only be coaxed alive by cables. Then the dashboard illuminated the warning, “Gen.”

Having the mechanical aptitude of Paris Hilton, I called my friend, Dallas. “I’m on my way to Big Cheese Piz-za. I’m driving the Ford to run it through the carwash before the show this weekend but it wouldn’t start. I jump-started it, but now the generator light is on. Is that a problem?”

“You’re probably okay,” Dallas replied.

The six-mile trip provided ample time to ponder my problems. *This car is a pain. It’s a maintenance nightmare, a heap of junk, a useless boat that hogs space in the garage.*

My carping continued until I arrived at the Big Cheese drive-thru. When the kid working the window saw my car he leaned forward and gasped, “Whoooooaaaa! That’s a ‘64, with leather and electric seats, right?” By now he was hanging out the window as if he was about to upchuck.

“Yes,” I answered. “My grandpa bought it new.”

“You are soooooo lucky. That’s got the 391 under the hood, doesn’t it?”

“Um, yeah,” I stammered, “391, 110, 220—something like that.”

For five minutes the kid rattled off numbers about my car that only Ford engineers who get paid loads of money should know. I was expecting him to recite the VIN.

“I’m restoring a ‘72 Impala—but it’s nothing like yooooour car.”



Karl Haffner

I couldn’t think of what to say (except “Could you get my stinkin’ pizza sometime today?”); I just marveled at his marveling.

Then I went to the carwash. *It is a nice car*, I thought.

My mind detoured through memories of the “Ole’ Gal.” I remembered Grandpa piling us into the Ford to hit A&W for a

root beer. I thought of the special place the car had for my wife and me. Our first date, our honeymoon, our first kiss (not necessarily in that order), all happened in the Ford. I thought about how easy it is to skim in the thankfulness department.

Hearing someone else’s perspective reminded me of a blessing I enjoy. Whether it’s a warm house, a ripe peach or a trusted friend—it’s easy to take our billions of blessings for granted.

Our richest blessing, of course, is the gift of God in His son Jesus. The apostle Paul exclaims, “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15). In Romans he explains, “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus (Romans 6:23).” We deserve death, but God offers the gift of eternal life. When you think about it, how can you help but be grateful?

So open your eyes and thank God for life and your family. You will see things you haven’t noticed before. For me, when I finally opened my eyes in the carwash, I noticed the “Gen” light was off.

Karl Haffner is the senior pastor of the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kettering, Ohio.



Living the Gospel at Home

A Touch of Grace

BY DICK DUERKSEN

“Repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.”—1 Peter 3:9 Today’s NIV

Sleep came easy and ended with an invisible touch. No sounds. No flashing lights. No tugs and pulls or growls and whimpers. Just the clear sensation of skin touching skin and bringing every sense to full throttle instantly. A personalized Twitter direct from God to a father.

Dad lay in bed—eyes wide, heart racing, mind trying to understand why he was awake and not finding an answer. He slipped out his side and walked room to room through the house.

Nothing odd in the basement. No smell of smoke. No sound of water dripping. Nothing worthy of a 3 a.m. wake-up call. Kitchen okay. Living room okay. Dogs asleep.

Then to the kids’ rooms. One. Two. Three. Four. At “four” it all made sense. Her window was open and her bed was empty.

I hope she’s okay, was Dad’s first thought. His second was less magnanimous.

What’s a father to do? The question seemed empty but received an instant Divine follow-up.

“Sit down by the window and wait. She’ll come home soon.”

Twenty minutes later his teenage daughter slipped in through the open window. He was the first thing she saw. The silence thundered and then she whispered, “I’m sorry.” They hugged, and as he closed the window he said, “Let’s talk in the morning.”

It wasn’t a good sleeping night. Daughter, Dad and Mom each struggled with their own feelings while they practiced words to shout at each other after sunrise. But Dad kept feeling that touch, a clear sensation that God wanted to be part of the conversation. When the conversation finally happened, most of the shouts came out as whispers; the angry words sounded more like confessions, and within a few days the hateful feelings were transforming into hugs.

One night God woke Dad up again. Just to say, “Thanks for loving my girl.”



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That’s when the healing began.

The next months were hard, but here’s what they learned about growing their relationship.

What the teenagers want their parent to know:

I know you’re trying your best. Please be open to the possibility that we may ALL be wrong and can improve. Sometimes we need to make mistakes, fall and learn on our own. You may have had similar experiences, but my life is different from yours. I’ll want to go to anyone but you, but I need you to stick

around ... even when I push. Sometimes it is really hard for me to talk to you. Let’s have a third person with us as we talk. I’m not perfect and have made some really bad decisions, but please listen to understand me—without telling, shouting, explaining or trying to teach.

What a parent wants their teenagers to know:

Nothing you can do will change my love for you. This is the one gift I can give you. I realize/understand that it will also be the hardest one for you to accept. It comes with patience. I’ve made many bad decisions with my own life and with yours. I’m sorry. Please forgive me. I want the very best for you and will listen to understand you. Neither of us can make good choices on our own, but with Christ we can. I am praying intercessory prayers for you—specifically that you, and I, may find God’s grace in our relationship. I will support you, though it may not always feel like it.

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



My Judging Ministry

BY KIM PECKHAM

"So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall."—Romans 14:13 NLT

I am willing to judge people. This is a service I provide without charge. People can come to me, and in just a few minutes I can let them know where they fall short of my standards.

I don't even need to meet a person face to face to judge them. For example, I can judge you as you read this column. No offense, but wouldn't your time be better used by cleaning up the kitchen?

So you may be asking me, "Why are you willing to take time out of your busy schedule to provide this service for the public?"

Why? Because I care. I want to do my part to make the world a better place. And if I can do that by pointing out the flaws of my family and friends ... well, I'm just glad I can give something back to the community.

For example, my wife may not be making the proper effort to get to church on time. I'm happy to bring that fact to her attention with a helpful toot of the horn as I wait in the idling car. Or let's say that—in my opinion—my teenage daughter is wearing too much make-up. I feel it is both my duty and my privilege to draw a picturesque comparison with Queen Jezebel.

Now, you may be wondering, *How can I get involved in this ministry?* I'll tell you, it's easier than you think. We each have been given, in a larger or lesser degree, the gift of discernment when it comes to other people's defects.

I, for example, can tell when people use the word "hopefully" incorrectly in a sentence. Because I've been given this special gift, I feel obligated to point out the mistake when I overhear it in a conversation at the dinner table. You might



be surprised by the shocking lack of appreciation my family shows when I offer them assistance in their grammar.

You may ask yourself, *How will I find time for a judging ministry with my busy schedule?* Yes, you'll have to give up a portion of the time you spend minding your own business. But this ministry comes with rich rewards.

Judging has an invigorating effect on your self-esteem. You can almost get to the place where you forget about your own shortcomings if you take time to focus on the faults of others. It's a good, good feeling when you realize that, hey, at least you're not as bad as other people.

For example, you're a better steward with the family's money than your wife who went and wasted \$20 on a new pair of shoes. Of course, when you purchased that four-wheel-drive pickup, you were thinking of how much you'll save by hauling your own firewood.

I hope you will consider taking up a judging ministry of your own. Right now someone you know is doing something wrong. Let them know it hasn't escaped your attention.

By the way, step over here a little closer. Is that a speck in your eye?

Kim Peckham is a columnist for *Women of Spirit* magazine and author of the book, *Stop Laughing, I'm Trying to Make a Point*.



Living the Gospel at Home

The Whole Tooth

BY CÉLESTE PERRINO-WALKER

“We should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.”—Galatians 6:10

It happened on the day of the school picnic in about the most bizarre way possible. The ninth grade student council had been allowing students to douse them with buckets of water to raise money for a mission trip. When the kids decided their student council advisor should get wet too, things got a little hairy. As a boy tried to dunk the teacher, one of the girls made a heroic effort to stop him, but he looked up at the wrong moment and the bucket of water she held connected with his tooth, breaking it cleanly in half.

He was in shock, his mother was frantic, and the girl responsible was distraught. Immediately, people gathered to help look for the boy’s tooth. Even though we knew it wouldn’t be of any use to the dentist, I could tell it would make him feel better if we did find it. In the meantime we tried to console him. The girl wielding the bucket was crying, so I hugged her.

And in the middle of this scene of raw emotion, I slowly became aware that my son, Josh, who was hot, tired and anxious to start his summer vacation, was persistently poking me in the side. I gave him the “not now” high sign, until I felt that we’d done all we could to help the injured parties before we left.

But it bugged me that he cared so little. As I told him later, if we don’t care about other people, what’s the point of life? Why are we here? What else is there? Human relationships are the most significant experiences we will have on Earth. If we don’t invest time and effort into them, not only are we missing out on incredible personal fulfillment, we’re missing out on the point of being on planet Earth—our divine commission.

All ten of the commandments are about relationship;



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four about our relationship with God and six about our relationship with other people. When Jesus distilled the ten into two they were, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV).

There’s only one way we can learn to care about the needs of others with the same enthusiasm we care for our own and that’s through close, personal and intimate contact with Jesus who can change our self-centered hearts. It’s not natural for us to put the needs of others above our own. Only God living through us can display that kind of love.

It’s not always enough to display compassion for others and hope our example alone will instruct and inspire our kids. They have to go to God themselves and experience His life-changing love before they can share it with others. That was the lesson I learned on that hot June day from a bucket of water and half a tooth.

Céleste Perrino-Walker is the editor of *Listen* magazine. She writes from Rutland, Vermont.



Extravagant Love

BY DIANE THURBER

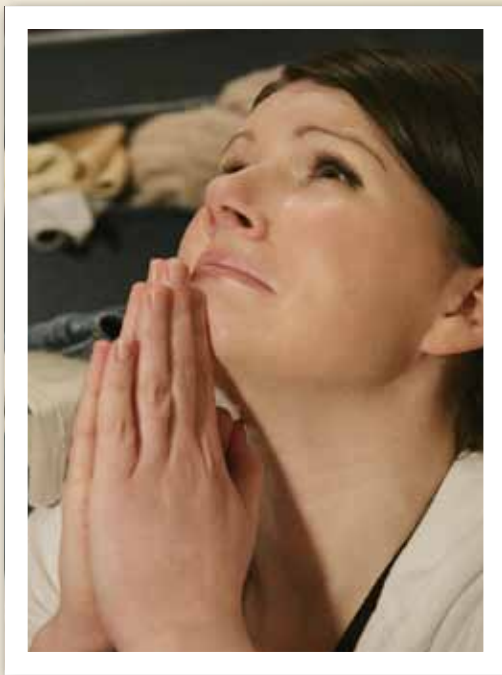
“Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.”—1 Corinthians 13:13 The Message

As a young child, I often admired all the pretty things in my mother’s dresser drawers and closet. I especially enjoyed her assortment of shoes, hats and purses. One day I spotted a new, white leather clutch purse with an interesting magnetic snap closure. After opening and closing it a number of times, I wondered, *What would this soft, smooth leather be like to draw on?*

Retrieving a ballpoint pen, I glanced at the clean canvas I held in my hands. I hadn’t learned to think about all the effects of my actions, so I proceeded to create a “masterpiece” first on one side of the purse and then the other. The pen glided effortlessly across the smooth leather, and pretty soon I was lost in creative bliss.

I was admiring my handiwork when Mom entered the room. At that moment, I realized she might not appreciate my drawing like I did, and it dawned on me that I had, in fact, ruined her beautiful, new purse. I could see the disappointment in her eyes, but she did not raise her voice at me as I apologized and asked if we could get the pen marks off. She simply brought me a cloth and an assortment of cleaning solutions to try. I worked so hard on that purse, wanting to restore it to new again for my sweet mother. The ink was embedded, and Mom’s love was indelibly embedded, too.

Another time I remember observing my mother wearing a particular dress more times than I thought she should, so I remarked, “Mother, it’s time for you to get yourself a new dress. You’ve been wearing that dress too many times.” I’ll never forget her response. She said, “Diane, I could buy myself a new dress, but I’d rather get you a new one. That’s



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why I wear this dress so often.” At that moment, I sadly remembered the white purse and how I had destroyed the last new item I thought she purchased for herself.

Mother loved lavishly. Whether it was searching for the perfect fabric for a new dress for her three daughters, taxiing her daughters to music lessons, creating special recipes for each home-cooked meal or maintaining elegant garden spots for us to enjoy—she gave with all her heart to make her family’s home a delight.

At night, Mom and Dad knelt on opposite sides of their bed and prayed aloud to their Heavenly Father. I often strained to hear their

prayers. The tone of my mother’s voice changed, and she used special words to address her Heavenly Father. She prayed for each daughter, but I also heard her humbly utter prayers of repentance and thankfulness for God’s grace in her life.

Reflecting on those prayers, I now realize mother knew she was forgiven much. Her love for God spilled out to those around her in an extravagant way, much like the aroma that escaped as Mary lavishly poured perfume Jesus’ feet. Is your home fragrant with God’s love?

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



Living the Gospel at Home

An Ounce of Example

BY GINNY ALLEN

“Now He uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.”—2 Corinthians 2:14 NLT

From the time Ashley was born I sang to her. I held the sweet little bundle that was our first grandchild and filled her ears and heart with words of love. “You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. You make me happy when skies are grey. You’ll never know, Ashley, how much I love you, please don’t take my Ashley away.”

At first Ashley slept through much of my crooning, but eventually she giggled with sparkling eyes as my song bathed her in love. Then one day, when she was about two and a half, she listened intently while I sang her song. When I finished, she shouted out, “Now it’s my turn.” She sang, “You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. You make me happy, when skies are blue (grey skies had no place in her thinking!). You’ll never know, Mimi, how much I love you, please don’t take my Mimi away.”



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granddaughters, Ashley and Kennedy. I ask them to pray for the people in my stories. Now their conversations often include their observations: “I don’t think they know Jesus”; “We need to pray for her”; or “Mimi, let’s pray that they will find Jesus.” Once, when Ashley was about seven, she told me earnestly, “Mimi, when you are too old to do this anymore, I will take your place.”

Recently, I bought a new Bible with an unusually pret-

ty leather cover. Kennedy saw it and immediately said to me, “Oh, Mimi, I would love to have that Bible!” She wasn’t asking for trinkets or treats, but instead she wanted the beautiful Bible. It is now engraved with her name, waiting for her birthday. She has been watching and absorbing the great joy that both my husband and I, and yes, her mother, too, find in the Word of God. Yes, she has other Bibles, but what joy to see the desire in her heart for yet another. And she reads them. I listen with wonder as she sometimes tells me, “Mimi, I just finished my devotions and prayer...”

Something in my heart turned over that day. Now it was not just my love song to her, but it was our love song to each other. She caught the intent of my song simply by listening, watching and absorbing over and over again.

A wise writer once said, “An ounce of leading by example is worth a pound of pressure.” Maybe that’s why Jesus told His followers, in John 13:15, “I have given you an example to follow...” An example gives us something to hang on to, a solid path to follow—not just pretty words, but a workable way of life.

My passion is preaching, sharing the love of Jesus wherever and whenever I am asked. When even one person experiences a new or renewed relationship with Jesus it is, of course, worth whatever it costs me in time, energy and missing my family. I share the stories of the people I meet, the changed lives and the joy in my journey with my

Recently, I bought a new Bible with an unusually pret-

ty leather cover. Kennedy saw it and immediately said to me, “Oh, Mimi, I would love to have that Bible!” She wasn’t asking for trinkets or treats, but instead she wanted the beautiful Bible. It is now engraved with her name, waiting for her birthday. She has been watching and absorbing the great joy that both my husband and I, and yes, her mother, too, find in the Word of God. Yes, she has other Bibles, but what joy to see the desire in her heart for yet another. And she reads them. I listen with wonder as she sometimes tells me, “Mimi, I just finished my devotions and prayer...”

Yes, it is true—“An ounce of leading by example is worth a pound of pressure.”

Ginny Allen is a retired school nurse living in Vancouver, Washington. She is best known for her interest in both prayer and ministry. Ginny founded “Joy! Ministries,” a lay ministry committed to bringing joy to the heart of God as we seek to know His heart and be His hands.



Until that Great Day...

BY GARY THURBER

“This is exactly what Christ promised: eternal life, real life!”—1 John 2:25 The Message

When did your family last dream about spending eternity together? Some of the most precious memories I have of our sons when they were young include conversations about Jesus’ soon coming and what Heaven will be like.

One time when Ryan, our oldest, was just two years old, he called his mother to the living room with great excitement. My wife Diane hurried to see what he was looking at out the window as he shouted, “Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!” She realized he saw a plane coming through the clouds. He had learned that Jesus was going to return in the clouds, and he just knew He was in that plane.



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Justin, our youngest son, had the most wonderful imagination as he dreamed of all he would do in Heaven. He wanted his mansion to be underwater so that he could see all the beautiful ocean life. But he said what he looked forward to the most about Heaven was to play tag with me. That touched my heart, because I knew what he was really saying. Because I was unable to run with him due to an accident, playing tag with Dad meant Heaven was going to bring healing.

One night after family worship, brushed teeth, bedtime stories and our sons were fast asleep, Diane and I stayed up for several hours talking about our family and the future we knew God had planned for us both here on Earth and in Heaven. Our minds filled with all the possibilities, and it not only brought great excitement and anticipation, but also tears of joy as well.

As our families continue on their journey, we experience joys and sorrows, breakthroughs and setbacks, and times

of peace and stress. We often wish our families didn’t have to experience all the difficulties and trials they do, but the truth is that’s part of what it means to live in a broken world. Even though this knowledge doesn’t always make what we face easier, we do have a wonderful hope that God’s plans for our families are loving *and* eternal.

The amazing truth, for each of

our families, is that the best is yet to come!

Buddy Houghtaling wrote a beautiful song entitled, “Family Reunion.” The song’s words speak of the immense joy families will experience when Jesus comes. Let the words of the last verse sink into your heart.

No more sorrow, no more pain.

Ever with the Savior to remain.

No more heartache, no more grief,

Only joy beyond belief.

No matter what this world throws at our families, the good news is that at the Second Coming God will make all that is broken right again. What a great day! What a great day for our families!

Gary Thurber is president of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Read the full lyrics of “Family Reunion” in the online version of this article at www.lakeunionherald.org. The “Family Reunion” CD is available at www.buddyhoughtaling.net. Words and Music by Buddy Houghtaling, © Copyright 1985. Yellow Lab Records (BMI). Used with permission.



Bruce Powell

DeLora Hagen, manager of pastoral care at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital, has dedicated her life to serving others.

Chaplain leads life of faith

Even as a child, Adventist GlenOaks chaplain, DeLora Hagen, lived a life dedicated to helping others. At the age of seven, Hagen's parents greatly impacted her life by moving her entire family to Sumatra, Indonesia, to work as missionaries.

"I lived a wonderfully simple childhood," the Darien, Ill., resident said. "Being a missionary was never a sacrifice, because it gave me more time with my family and made me appreciate people of different cultures."

Hagen and the other children received their education from a missionary's wife, who also introduced Hagen to the piano and helped her to explore the world of music.

"Music touches the spirit in so many ways and has always influenced my life," Hagen said. "It also strongly connects to chaplaincy, because listening is a foundational part of music as well as working as a chaplain."

After earning a bachelor's degree in 1966, in piano performance from Union College in Lincoln, Neb., she then received her M.A. in music educa-

tion in 1967 from Andrews University, in Berrien Springs, Mich. Because Hagen believes music is closely aligned with spirituality, Hagen feels that through teaching piano lessons and playing the organ at local churches, she was given the chance to worship and appreciate God's gifts.

Eventually, Hagen married Stanley Hagen in Lincoln, Neb. Together they had three children: Ronald, Roger and Loree. In 1971, Hagen moved with her family to Brazil, where they lived for 12 years. Stanley worked in the mission office, while Hagen taught cooking and piano lessons. Eventually, the family returned to the United States to give their children a better education.

Although she has always led a spiritual life, Hagen believes God called her into ministry in 1990. After visiting Union College, Hagen noticed a bulletin offering a degree in pastoral care through a program that would pay for her entire tuition; she would only have to cover the cost of books. Her advisor was eager to have her in the program, and she eventually earned a B.A. in Pastoral Care in 1995.

"I had kids in college during this time," said Hagen. "I could not afford

to pay my own tuition, but this incredible opportunity showed that God was opening doors for me to explore ministry."

Before she could begin her work as a chaplain, Hagen needed to enroll in Clinical Pastoral Education training to further develop her skills in ministry. Unfortunately during this time, the only class available had been filled for months. However, Hagen discovered an opportunity at the Visiting Nurse Association Hospice in Lincoln, Neb., that would allow her to do clinical training. According to Hagen, God offered her the chance to complete the four units of Clinical Pastoral Education that she needed to proceed on her journey of chaplaincy.

In 1998, Hagen and her family relocated again to Chicago, where she began working at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital. She later earned her M.A. in Christian Ministry from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard. Hagen also created "Women in Touch," a monthly program that provides an educational speaker, tea and dessert for hospital employees to enjoy. Hagen says it has built bridges for women in various departments because they appreciate being able to get together to make new friends.

Hagen also organizes the breakfast for the National Day of Prayer held annually in May. This opportunity gives the community the chance to enjoy speakers, music and time to connect with others.

"Hagen always approaches her patients and staff with consideration and care," said Vicky Syren, manager of pastoral care at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital. "Those who know Hagen can attest that she has touched their lives with her compassion. She truly lives her mission as a caregiver."

Ashley Lawless, public relations intern,
Adventist Midwest Health

Andrews University grabs attention at National Soybean Research Laboratory

Melinda Smith, then-associate director of Andrews University Dining Services and president of Berrien Springs-based Caitlan's Catering, provided the lunch menu at the International Soybean Program (INTSOY) course, "Processing and Marketing of Soybeans for Meat, Dairy and Baking Applications." The class was held at the National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL), University of Illinois-Urbana, on June 1.

Smith's company, Caitlan's Catering, had worked with the company, Microsoy, in developing soy products. "It was



Melinda Smith

interesting that I was introduced in Illinois as the president of Caitlan's Catering and associate director of Dining Services at Andrews University—an

all-vegetarian campus. That took the meeting by storm, and Caitlan's quickly became a second stringer," says Smith, who became director of Dining Services on July 13.

This program was attended by more than 100 research personnel and technical representatives from around the world, including Argentina, Bolivia, Israel and Pakistan. Smith says several of the international participants became interested in partnering with Andrews University as a research test market for their soy products. She was also approached by universities who wished to send their graduate students to Andrews University to observe and study it as an all-vegetarian campus.

Smith's menu included "Crabmeat Rangoon," black bean soy sliders and tofu cheesecake to name a few. The menu was well-received, and Smith plans to involve Andrews University in future research and development of soy-based vegetarian food items with INTSOY and the NSRL.

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

Ferguson heads new Undergraduate Leadership Development program

David Ferguson, the first to hold the newly created position of director of Undergraduate Leadership Development underneath the Division of Student Life, brings a wealth of leadership experience to the role. His mantra for leadership is simple, yet profound: "Lead by permission, not by position."

Ferguson's role as a director involves oversight of the Undergraduate Leadership Development certificate in addition to being an adjunct professor in the College of Arts & Sciences and School of Education.



David Ferguson

Students who wish to receive the Undergraduate Leadership Development certificate must complete 11 credit hours, which include the course, "Intro to Leadership," a change project and a combination of capstone and cognate courses. "In today's climate, it gives you an edge," says Ferguson. "I believe that in a fairly short period of time we will be able to demonstrate a qualitative difference that will set our students apart."

Ferguson holds three degrees from Andrews University: Master of Religious

Education ('90), Bachelor of Science in religion ('87) and Bachelor of Arts in business management ('87). "It's not hard to go back to somewhere you love," he said of his return to the Andrews University community.

Following completion of his studies, Ferguson spent several years working for the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, first as a pastoral intern, later as senior pastor for a two-church district and finally as a youth director. In 1999, he was called to serve as a chaplain and religion/leadership teacher at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Pennsylvania. During his time at BMA, Ferguson taught junior and senior religion/leadership courses and mentored student leaders as the head Student Association sponsor.

In 2005, while at BMA, Ferguson felt called to co-found TrueWind, a leadership development organization created to inspire, equip and launch young leaders for God's kingdom. It was his previous leadership experience and success with TrueWind that made him an ideal candidate to head up the University's Undergraduate Leadership Development program.

"Dave Ferguson comes with a rich experience in leadership training. He is a strongly self-motivated individual who in the three or so weeks he has been on campus has initiated a meeting of the leadership council, established relationships and jumped right into improving the start to the program stimulated by Steve Yeagley last year," says Keith Mattingly, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. "I am excited with the possibilities Dave brings to our campus in developing this undergraduate leadership program and look forward to seeing a difference in our students as a result of this important program."

Ferguson, and his wife, Caryl-Lynn, have three children.

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

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Indiana Office of Education launches webinar program

Indiana—Using the Internet, Indiana Conference teachers enjoy weekly meetings without having to leave school or home. “The webinar topics were interesting, and I learned a great deal that I could use in my classroom,”



Judith Yeoman

Mark Haynal, superintendent of schools for the Indiana Conference, leads out in the weekly webinar meetings from his office in Indianapolis or wherever he travels.

says Janie Feather, teacher/principal at Elkhart Christian School. “And all I had to do was to be at my computer one day a week for 25 minutes!”

Indiana Conference began having weekly 25-minute webinars online

rather than having teachers drive in for whole-day professional development events for three reasons, says Mark Haynal, superintendent of schools, “Reducing isolation, avoiding brain overload and saving money!

“Getting together online once a week helps reduce the sense of professional isolation many teachers in small, rural schools experience,” explains Haynal. “The webinars are a great way for teachers to keep in contact with each other,” says Suzanne LeBrun,

teacher at South Bend Junior Academy; “They help us feel like we are a team working together.”

“One thing I like about the webinars is that I get a smaller amount of information at a time,” says Sheldon Schultz, teacher at the Aboite Christian School in Fort Wayne. “When I go to all-day events I lose a lot of valuable infor-

mation as I get sensory overload,” says Schultz. “I find I put more of what I learn into practice when I have smaller bits of information to deal with.”

With the high costs of transportation, bringing teachers together for

a one-day professional development event could cost more than \$1,700. “Meeting online not only saves money, it saves something even more valuable—teacher time,” explains Haynal. Ken McHenry, teacher at the Evansville School agrees, “I used to spend almost eight hours driving to and from meetings; now I just drive home and log on to my computer!”

The Indiana Conference Office of Education presents two webinars a week (the second a live repeat of the first). Presenters have included authors, teachers, college professors and school administrators. “Because our meetings are online, anybody on Earth with Internet access can be a presenter,” says Haynal. “I’ll never forget one meeting where Jim Roy, a professor at Pacific Union College and author of the book, *Soul Shapers*, was the presenter. I was hosting the meeting from my car parked by Panera Bread, and 12 teachers scattered around our conference were participating.”

“We have been paying WebEx to host our webinars,” says Haynal. “However, this coming school year we will be using DimDim, a free service for both the video and audio portions of our meetings.” Most meetings have been recorded and are available online at <http://www.multiagelearninglabs.com/Teacher/teacherinfo.htm>.

Judith Yeoman, correspondent, Indiana Conference, as shared by Mark Haynal, superintendent of schools for the Indiana Conference

[PATHFINDER NEWS]

Pathfinder club holds ‘Truth 4 Youth’

Michigan—The Edwardsburg Seventh-day Adventist Church experienced its first “Truth 4 Youth” series of meetings, June 7–12, conducted by the Edwardsburg Pathfinder club. Each night a different Pathfinder gave the presentation. Presenters were Daryl and Jurrel Fajardo, Travis Page, Carl



Daryl Fajardo shares his presentation at “Truth 4 Youth.”

Mainda and Ernie Cardenas. Each presenter put together his own PowerPoint program by using the “Amazing

Adventures” study guides from Amazing Facts. “It was pretty cool to see the kids come forward and preach the Word,” stated Andy Arends, seminary student.

As people arrived, they were encouraged to write out Bible questions on slips of paper. After the nightly presentation, questions were answered by a three-person panel. Panel members who rotated included Isaias Santos, Edwardsburg Church pastor; Ken Scribner, head elder; Andy Ar-

ends, James and Shawn Moss, Glenda Gensolin and Dennis Page. Pathfinder leader Ken Leak read the questions and often remarked, "That's a good question, let's see what the Bible says," and the panel went to work to discover the answers to share with those present.

On the final night two Pathfinders, Daryl and Jurrel Fajardo, joined all



Panelists searched the Scripture for answers to questions raised at the series of meetings.

the panel members who participated throughout the week. It was thrilling to see every person in the room bent over their Bibles, searching the Scriptures for truth. The week, though physically tiring, was spiritually invigorating.

Kathryn A. Scribner, personal ministries secretary, Edwardsburg Church

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Dedication Day at Martinsville marks conclusion of successful work by many

Indiana—Sabbath, Apr. 11, brought to a happy conclusion many months of planning, renovation, repair, installation, purchase, alteration, rebuilding, painting, hoping, praying and working. The morning and afternoon services were a celebration because the Lord had blessed, the entire project was completed and church members could rejoice at the conclusion of a successful work accomplished by so many.

As far as can be determined, the Martinsville Church family meets in the oldest church building in Martinsville. The sanctuary itself, very ornate and awe-inspiring, was constructed in 1888 by a local Catholic congregation. In 1962 the building was sold to a Lutheran congregation, and at the end of 1997 it was purchased by the Adventist

congregation in Martinsville under circumstances that to this day still seem to be quite providential. This historic building is pictured twice in each of two different publications presenting the history of Martinsville.

The renovation and reconstruction began more than two years ago. On the outside this included roofing repairs, guttering, spouting, garden cleanup and cladding the steeple. Inside the sanctuary, the work included attention to the flooring, a new chapel door, electrical repairs, lighting, upgrading of electronic equipment for the audio and video systems, a new baby grand piano and the installation of a full-size church organ.

In the fellowship hall the work included new flooring, painting, all new window treatments, all new cupboards, new kitchen appliances and new sets of kitchen items. In addition, the church office now includes new cabinets, new computer and phone systems, a new copier machine and a beautiful, inspirational church painting in a country setting by the renowned Thomas Kinkade.



The Martinsville Church, the oldest church structure in Martinsville, is now a beautiful house of worship.

The events of the dedication day were graced by the presence and participation of then conference president, Gary Thurber, and by many returning members and visitors. Thurber spoke at the morning worship service and in the afternoon. He invited the Martinsville membership and guests to fully surrender their life anew.

The Martinsville Church was formulated as a congregation with 19 members in 1937. Today, more than 70 years later, we are still a small congregation, but our hope is in the Lord and our field is the community nearby.

Heather Spicer, member, and Adrian Peterson, pastor, Martinsville Church



Flowers were given to all who helped with the Martinsville Church renovation work bees.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



A patriotic float prompts viewers to remember the sacrifice of our soldiers.

Edwardsburg Church members join 2009 Memorial Day Festival

Michigan—Edwardsburg Church members had a broader plan for their involvement in this year's annual Memorial Day Festival—a follow-up event in place for each age group.

The festival began with a parade. This year church members chose a patriotic theme for their float, which awarded them a spot near the front of the parade. A silhouette of a soldier kneeling at a cross was mounted in the center of a carpeted trailer with a red, white and blue patriotic skirt surrounding it. Large pots of geraniums were placed on the corners with a flag mounted at the front, depicting all the armed services. At the back of the float a banner was mounted which read, "Remember: Lest We Forget The Sacrifice and the Promise" and included the church's name as float sponsor. The newly-formed Edwardsburg Explorers Pathfinder Club marched in front of the float. Church members in matching blue T-shirts flanked the float and passed out small American flags to the children in the crowd. An attached message invited the children to attend this year's vacation Bible school. Printed on back of the T-shirts was a little boy fishing from a boat with the words, "Fishing for Truth?"

At the festival the Pathfinder group supported the youth table,

which included *Hidden Truth*, *Steps to Christ* (youth edition) and *Listen* magazines. Periodical packets distributed included fliers advertising the upcoming "Truth 4 Youth" Bible study series.

At the children's table, the guests decorated colorful crowns with glitter glue and star stickers. Bible text stickers were placed on the backs of the crowns. Two texts were used: "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away" (1 Peter 5:4 NIV) and "Behold I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done" (Revelation 22:12 NIV). All ten issues of the *Special Edition Primary Treasure* were distributed, which contain testimony stories written by children for children.

The adult table contained copies of *The Great Controversy*, *Ten Command-*

ments Twice Removed and *Happiness Digest*, along with a new addition this year from the Kenneth Cox ministries, *Quick Bible Answers*, which went like hotcakes. Fliers announced the upcoming five-day stop smoking seminar.

Books and periodicals on the table were kept from blowing around by large glass paperweights. Many festival attendees approached the tables just to get a closer look at the beautiful paper weights, which then opened the way to share God's truth with them.

Please pray for the people who visited the Edwardsburg Church booth and carried away gems of truth, and also pray that God's work will continue to move forward everywhere.

Kay Scribner, personal ministries secretary,
Edwardsburg Church.



Edwardsburg Church members partner with the newly-formed Explorers Pathfinder club to share God's truths at the festival.



The Pathfinder club pauses at the graveyard for a special ceremony.



Pathfinders march ahead of the patriotic float near the front of the parade.



Along the parade route, church members distribute American flags with invitations to the upcoming vacation Bible school.

[WORLD NEWS]

Adventist librarians convene for annual conference

The 29th Annual Conference of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians (ASDAL) was held at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., June 20–25. The conference, “Partnering through Mentoring, Leadership and Research,” drew international attendees representing libraries in Canada, the Philippines, South Africa,

Hardesty served as the president of the Association of College and Research Libraries and received the ACRL Academic Research Librarian of the Year Award. His keynote, “Pass It On: Mentoring via the College Library Directors’ Mentoring Program,” overviewed the mentoring program. Now in its 18th year, the program has matched mentors and mentees from 43 states. “There have been 257 first-year college library directors representing 223 institutions of higher education participating in the program,” said Hardesty. He has had five Seventh-day Adventist librarians participate in the mentoring program:

from Helderberg College, South Africa, who talked about how she collected data for writing a book on the history of Helderberg Primary School; and Uloma Doris Onuoha from Babcock University, Nigeria, who presented a paper written by herself and Yacob Haliso on the mentoring practices in selected university libraries in Nigeria.

Several presentations addressed the three aspects of the theme: mentoring, leadership and research. Carlene Drake of Loma Linda University spoke about determining the worth of libraries; Warren Johns of Loma Linda University talked about finding free online Adventist books; Steve Sowder of Andrews University demonstrated using Google Analytics to find demographics of a Web site; and Genevieve Cottrell, Stanley Cottrell and Marge Seifert, all from Southern Adventist University, discussed the concept of team leadership as applied at Southern’s McKee Library.

The conference provided various venues of learning and sharing through pre-conferences, presentations, breakout sessions, poster sessions, book displays and a chance to visit with local authors and see their works. Attendees also had the opportunity to visit the Horn Archaeological Museum on the campus of Andrews University; the Gerald Ford Museum, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, and the Grand Rapids Public Library, all located in Grand Rapids, Mich.; and the Adventist Historical Village in Battle Creek, Mich.

ASDAL continues to contribute to the Adventist church through the “Adventists and Ellen White Classification Scheme,” the *Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index* and the *Obituary Index*. ASDAL also facilitates discounted database subscriptions for Adventist institutions domestically and internationally through the ALICE Consortium. Learn more about the association at www.asdal.org.



The 29th Annual Conference of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians drew international attendees representing libraries in Canada, the Philippines, South Africa, Jamaica, Mexico and Nigeria.

Jamaica, Mexico and Nigeria. The highlight of this conference was the approval of *Adventist Resources 2.0*, a comprehensive one-stop Internet clearinghouse for resources about Seventh-day Adventists.

Adventist Resources 2.0 will provide full-text access to resources about Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, history, practices and lifestyle along with resources for nurturing spirituality and church growth. It will aid in the training and development of church pastors, leaders and laity around the world by providing access to a range of practical and scholarly works in the area of theological and pastoral education.

Larry Hardesty, founding director of the College Library Directors’ Mentoring Program, was the keynote speaker.

Cristina Thomsen, Southwestern Adventist University; Josip Mocnik, Southern Adventist University; Lee Wisel, Columbia Union College; Margaret von Hake, Columbia Union College; and Adu Worku, Pacific Union College. Although Hardesty has worked with Adventist librarians in his program, this is the first time he has visited a Seventh-day Adventist university.

Workshops and presentations were given by an array of attendees. First-time attendee Nicola Palmer from Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica, said this conference was “a wonderful opportunity” to present her paper, “The Role of the Christian Librarian in Postmodern Academia.” Other international presenters were Yvette Sparrow

Cynthia Helms, on-site coordinator for the ASDAL conference, with Kerri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

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.

Anniversaries



Jeanette and Reginold Eighme celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 24, 2009, by a tribute and life-history program and celebration party with family and friends, hosted by their daughters, at the Michiana Fil-Am Church, Berrien Springs, Mich. The Eighmes have been members of the Pioneer Memorial Church (Mich.) for 37 years.

Reginold Eighme and Jeanette Beasley were married June 22, 1959, in Orlando, Fla., by Pastor A.D. Burch. Reginold has been a teacher and employee in various positions at Plant Services at Andrews University, retiring in 1999. Jeanette has been a Registered Nurse in obstetrics at Lakeland Hospital in St. Joseph, Mich., retiring in 2000.

The Eighme family includes Keri and John Robison of Independence, Ky.; Vicki and Kevin Wiley of Berrien Springs; and three grandchildren.



Silver "Buck" and Marlene Housand celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 28, 2009, by a reception held in their honor at the South Bend (Ind.) First Sev-

enth-day Adventist Church. They have been members of the South Bend First Church for more than 60 years.

Silver Housand and Marlene Schrader were married June 28, 1959, in South Bend, by Pastor Earl Amundson. Silver has been an AM General employee and has raced stock cars at South Bend Motor Speedway. Marlene has been a nurse.

The Housand family includes Mark and Debbie Housand of Osceola, Ind.; Chuck and Doris Housand of South Bend; James and Linda Housand of Elkhart, Ind.; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

BRYANT, Florence C. (Swift), age 69; born Apr. 18, 1939, in Joplin, Mo.; died Apr. 17, 2009, in Downers Grove, Ill. She was a member of the La Grange-Brookfield (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her sister, Sue Ann White.

Memorial services were conducted by Stanley Hagen, with private inurnment.

FARNHAM, Dorothy, age 93; born July 15, 1915, in Philadelphia, Pa.; died June 20, 2009, in Bay City, Mich. She was a member of the Midland (Mich.) Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Darryl Bentley, and interment was in Midland Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

GANN, Bernard E., age 81; born Oct. 16, 1927, in Shelby, Ind.; died Feb. 20, 2009, in Goshen, Ind. He was a member of the Plymouth (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Lenora P. (Ringer); son, Dennis; daughters, Mary Beth Runyan and Kimberly Snyder; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bryce Bowman and Elder Don Inglish, and interment was in Maple Grove Cemetery, Argos, Ind.

HENRY, Lilly N. (Fairclough), age 91; born June 15, 1917, in Montego Bay, Jamaica; died Mar. 23, 2009, in Bellevue, Wash. She was a member of the Shiloh Church, Chicago, Ill.

Survivors include her sons, David H., Rolando R. and Ricardo A.; sister, Eugenia Fields; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Eugene Lewis and Wally Lyder, and interment was in Greenwood Memorial Park Mausoleum, Renton, Wash.

KELLER, Ruth M. (Edelman), age 94; born Apr. 13, 1915, in Greene Cty., Ind.; died June 13, 2009, in Cory, Ind. She was a member of the Lewis (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Charles, Ron and Roger; daughters, Phyllis Wrate, Wilma Rasmussen, Frances Shaver and Sue Williams; brother, Don Edelman; 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

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

MAY, Harold A., age 90; born Dec. 23, 1918, in Rome, N.Y.; died May 18, 2009, in Hinsdale, Ill. He was a member of the Hinsdale Church.

Survivors include his wife, Gaile M. (Seri); son, Paul; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Ron Schultz and John Pinner, and inurnment was in St. James Cemetery, Hinsdale.

PARISH, Ferene (Coble), age 98; born Jan. 6, 1911, in Grayson Cty., Ky.; died Apr. 12, 2009, in LaFontaine, Ind. She was a member of the Marion (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, James E. Jr.; five grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Javier Quiles, and interment was in Gardens of Memory Cemetery, Marion.

PIPER, Dorothy L. (McKibben), age 92; born Apr. 21, 1917, in Manlius, N.Y.; died May 28, 2009, in Bangor, Mich. She was a member of the Bangor Church.

Survivors include her sons, Ernest and Ralph; sisters, Ardith Knecht and Eleanor Clark; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Kevin Scott, and interment was in Arlington Hill Cemetery, Bangor.

ROBERTSON, Charlene (Van Allen), age 71; born July 2, 1937, in Hudsonville, Mich.; died Feb. 22, 2009, in Collegedale, Tenn. She was a member of the Gobles (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Chuck; sons, Terry and Daniel; daughters, Cheryl Sears, Lisa Robertson and Kimberly Johnson; brother, Murlin Van Allen; sisters, Vesta McCart and Zelda Christen; half sister, Beverly Huff; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Ed Wright, John Nixon, Wolfe Jedamski and Paul Smith, and interment was in Collegedale Cemetery.

SMITH, Mildred A., age 92; born May 8, 1917, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died July 9, 2009, in Grand Blanc, Mich. She was a member of the First Flint (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Gerald W. Jr.; daughters, Cindy Marshall, Jolene Padgett, Dianne Engle, Sharron Hamblin, Debra and Denise Smith; 14 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Carl Ballard, with private inurnment.

ZIMMERMAN, Doris I. (Griswold) Ordway, age 87; born Sept. 17, 1921, in Rock Lake, N.D.; died Apr. 27, 2009, in Big Rapids, Mich. She was a member of the Lansing (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Benjamin O., Dale A. and Bruce Ordway; brothers, Ronald I. and Benjamin R. Griswold; sisters, Ellen E. Maurer and Donna D. Ryan; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Dan Towar and David Gotshall, with private inurnment.

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What message do Seventh-day Adventists have for Islam? Find out at a special weekend dedicated to teaching what we have to share with Muslims, Sept. 24-26, at LaSierra University, Calif. Register at www.plusline.org/events.php. For more information, e-mail NADAdventistMuslimRelations@gmail.com, or call 423-368-2343.

Employment

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

seeks American History professor. Preferred applicants must have earned a Ph.D. (or be ABD) in some field of United States history and be committed to continuing scholarship. A second field in non-Western history would be advantageous. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Interested Adventists apply at http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

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Announcements

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

Andrews University

Announcing the 2009-2010 Howard Performing Arts Center Concert Season: For more information, call HPAC at 269-471-3560.

Sat., Sept. 12, 2009: Brandon Heath

Sun., Sept. 27, 2009: Fiscoff National Chamber Music Competition Winner—Linden String Quartet

Sat., Oct. 3, 2009: Violin, French Horn and Piano Trio—Claudio Gonzalez, Scott Russell and Peter Cooper

Sat., Oct. 17, 2009: FFH

Sun., Oct. 18, 2009: Storioni Trio

Thurs., Nov. 5, 2009: Vienna Boys Choir

Sat., Jan. 30, 2010: Jaci Velasquez

Tues., Mar. 2, 2010: Soweto Gospel Choir

Sat., Mar. 6, 2010: Chi Yong Yun, piano

Enjoy another Mich. sunset at Andrews University's Homecoming. Plan to visit us for Alumni Homecoming Weekend, **Sept. 24-27**, on the campus of Andrews University. This year's honor classes are 1929, '39, '49, '59, '69, '79, '84, '89 and '99. For up-to-date information, schedule of events, to R.S.V.P. and access forms, please visit www.andrews.edu/go/homecoming. Contact us with questions at alumni@andrews.edu or 269-471-3591.

Illinois

Burr Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church

30th Anniversary Celebration: You are cordially invited to attend on **Sept. 11-12**. The Burr Ridge Church services are held at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 725 75th St., Darien, Ill. The Celebration includes vespers at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 11, followed by a light supper; Sabbath school on Sept. 12 at 10:00 a.m.; Church at 11:00 a.m., with luncheon immediately after; and an afternoon program at 2:00 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. to Diana Bauer at bauerdiana@yahoo.com.

Hinsdale Men's Chorus is calling all alumni and current/past members to a HMC Reunion weekend at the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church on **Nov. 20-21**. All three directors—John Baldwin, Ole Mercado and Arnold Hutabarat—will be in attendance and directing, as we spend the spirit-filled weekend reminiscing, getting reacquainted/making new friends, and

singing of and to our wonderful God. Special guest speaker is Dan Smith, former senior pastor of the Hinsdale Church. We end the reunion with a concert on Sabbath evening. For more information, look for Hinsdale Men's Chorus on Facebook; e-mail HinsdaleMen@hotmail.com; visit Web site www.hinsdalemenschorus.org; call Yvonne Brown at 630-654-4207; or call the church office at 630-323-0182.

Elmhurst Seventh-day Adventist Church is celebrating it's 40th Anniversary on **Nov. 21**. Everybody is invited to come to look back at all of God's blessings keeping this church standing for His honor and glory. If you would like more information, please contact us at 630-530-0600; visit our Web site, www.tagnet.org/elmhurst; or leave a message at girose@aol.com. If you know any past members of the Elm-

School Notes

BY TARI-SUE
JOHNSON
GILLEN

Prayers of Faith

It happened during Week of Prayer my junior year at Wisconsin Academy. I was having a voice lesson when my teacher, Miss Larmon, told me I was as white as a sheet. She quickly sent me to the dorm, and there I suddenly became sick with a very high fever and chills. My dean decided I needed to go to the hospital that very day. She stayed with me until my parents came. As the night wore on, my fever kept going higher.

When my parents finally arrived, the doctor told them to call the family; he feared I would not make it through the night. They packed me in ice and transferred me to a hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. It was then a miracle happened.

The Week of Prayer meeting was begin-

ning as I was being transported. The whole student body paused to pray for me! By the time I arrived at the hospital, my fever had broken. Many doctors examined me; they determined I had Scarlet Fever. But within 24 hours I was well again! God listened to those teenagers that night and rewarded their faith. I praise Him!

"And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. ... The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:15, 16 NIV).

Tari-Sue Johnson Gillen, '77, lives in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where she works as a certified nursing assistant. This story was adapted from *h3: head, heart and hands*, a compilation of mini biographies documenting the lives touched through Wisconsin Academy Christian education.

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hurst Church, please let them know of this special celebration.

Illinois/Lake Region

Youth Leadership Training, "Recharge," to equip, train and empower youth leaders, will be held **Sept. 11-12** at Hinsdale Adventist Academy, 631 E. Hickory St. in Hinsdale. Sponsored by NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Lake Region and Illinois Conference Youth Ministries, presenters will be James Black Sr., Art Preuss, Charmaine Matthews, Steve Case, Ralph Shelton, Jason McCracken and Manny Cruz. Registration deadline is Sept. 3; register at www.plusline.com. Registration fee of \$30 includes handouts, T-shirt, book, Sabbath lunch and leadership resources. For more information, call Lake Region Conference Youth Ministries at 773-846-2661, ext. 206; or Illinois Conference Youth Ministries at 630-856-2857.

Indiana

Campestre Hispano 2009—Hispanic Family Retreat is **Sept. 4-6** at Timber Ridge Camp. Contact Antonio Rosario, Hispanic coordinator, for details at 317-856-5770.

Women's Ministries Fall Retreat is **Sept. 11-13** at Embassy Suites North, Indianapolis. Guest speakers: Richard and Patricia Garey. For details, contact Tammy Begley at 317-919-5318 or tammy.begley@gmail.com; or Linda Reece at the Indiana Conference Office, 318-844-6201.

Heartland Health & Wellness Conference—Learn the causes of our western killer diseases and how to stop or reverse them with 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 for Fri. (8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.) includes breakfast and lunch featuring Chef Mark Anthony. Thurs. evening event (5:00-8:00 p.m.) 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.

Elders Training Retreat with guest speaker, Jim Cress, General Conference ministerial director, is **Sept. 25-26** at Timber Ridge Camp. To register, contact Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201.

The Indiana Academy Alumni Association welcomes all graduates/attendees to the IA campus for Alumni Homecoming, **Oct. 9-10**. For detailed information regarding the alumni weekend, contact Jimmy Arnett, chairperson IAAA Board, at 219-629-1177 or jimmy_arnett@vfc.com. For information regarding the alumni golf/auction event on Friday, contact Lawrence Johnson at 765-649-7256 or ljohnson@mustinbuilders.com.

International Day is an annual event at the Glendale Church, 2900 E. 62nd St., Indianapolis. Plan to be blessed as you join with people from more than 30 nations of the world in a special multi-cultural worship service, **Oct. 24**. Bring a favorite dish from your heritage for the all-nations dinner following the services.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Sept 5** Local Church Budget
- Sept 12** Fall Mission Appeal
- Sept 19** Local Church Budget
- Sept 26** Local Conference Advance

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

- Sept 26** South American Division

Special Days

- Sept 5** Men's Day of Prayer
- Sept 6-12** Nurture Periodicals (*Adventist Review, Insight, Guide, Primary Treasure, Little Friend*)
- Sept 13-19** Family Togetherness Week
- Sept 20-26** Hispanic Heritage Week

Michigan

Young Adult Singles Retreat: Mark your calendar and join fellow young adult singles (ages 18-35) for a high-energy retreat at Michigan's beautiful Camp AuSable, **Sept. 10-13**. Gail Michieff, family ministries director, and staff have planned a Christ-centered, uplifting program with plenty of fellowship, spiritual enrichment and fun activities! This is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends without the added pressures of the "single's scene." Registration forms are available at www.misda.org. For more information and prices, contact Alyce Blackmer at 517-316-1543 or e-mail ablackmer@misda.org.

The Michigan Boarding Academies Alumni Association invites all alumni from Adelpian, Cedar Lake, Grand Ledge and Great Lakes Adventist Academies to Alumni Weekend **Oct. 9-10** on the

campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy. This year's honor classes are 1959, '69, '79, '84, '89 and '99. Come join us for a memorable weekend. For more information, visit www.glaa.net, or call the Alumni office at 989-427-5181.

Christian Singles Fellowship Retreat:

Mark your calendar and join fellow adult singles (ages 35+) for a relaxing retreat at Michigan's beautiful Camp AuSable, **Oct. 22-25**. Gail Michieff, family ministries director, and staff have planned a Christ-centered, uplifting program with plenty of fellowship, spiritual enrichment and of course fun! This is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends as well as renewing previous acquaintances. Registration forms are available at www.misda.org. For more information and prices, contact Alyce Blackmer at 517-316-1543 or e-mail ablackmer@misda.org.

North American Division

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend (Centralia, Mo.) will be held **Oct. 1-4**. Honor classes are 1949, '54, '59, '64, '69, '79, '84, '89 and '99. Activities begin Thurs. evening with the Silver Showcase Banquet, and continue on Fri. with Career Day. The Sabbath speaker is Fred Riffle, class of 1979. Sun. is the Alumni Golf Tournament. For additional information, call 573-682-2164, or visit www.sunnydale.org.

Greater Boston Academy Reunion will be held **Oct. 16-18** at Stoneham Memo-

Sunset Calendar


	Sep 4	Sep 11	Sep 18	Sep 25	Oct 2	Oct 9
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:16	8:04	7:52	7:40	7:27	7:15
Chicago, Ill.	7:22	7:10	6:57	6:45	6:32	6:20
Detroit, Mich.	8:04	7:52	7:39	7:27	7:14	7:02
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:13	8:02	7:51	7:39	7:27	7:16
La Crosse, Wis.	7:38	7:25	7:13	6:59	6:46	6:34
Lansing, Mich.	8:10	7:58	7:45	7:33	7:20	7:07
Madison, Wis.	7:29	7:17	7:05	6:52	6:39	6:26
Springfield, Ill.	7:28	7:16	7:05	6:53	6:41	6:30



rial Church, 29 Maple St., Stoneham, Mass. Fri.: 6:00 p.m. light supper, 7:30 p.m. vespers; Sabbath: 10:45 a.m. church—guest speaker, former principal Bill Arnold, 1:00 p.m. fellowship luncheon at GBA; Sat. night: class reunions; Sun.: 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. School Fall Festival. For additional information or directions, contact Arthur Barnaby at 951-359-4344 or afbarnaby@juno.com, or call GBA at 781-438-4253.

More Than Gold 2010: The 2010 Olympic (Feb. 12-28) and Paralympic Games (Mar. 12-21) are rapidly approaching and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is preparing to host the world. Together with other Christians in a network called “More Than Gold,” we will provide services and witness in Vancouver to local residents and international guests. Whatever your skills or passion, there are many ways you can get involved

in this outreach opportunity. You can become a volunteer by applying as an individual or as a team. For more information, visit Web site www.gothe-distance.org. Lake Union Conference volunteers can contact Vernon Byrd at 269-208-7183 or e-mail Vernon@andrews.edu.

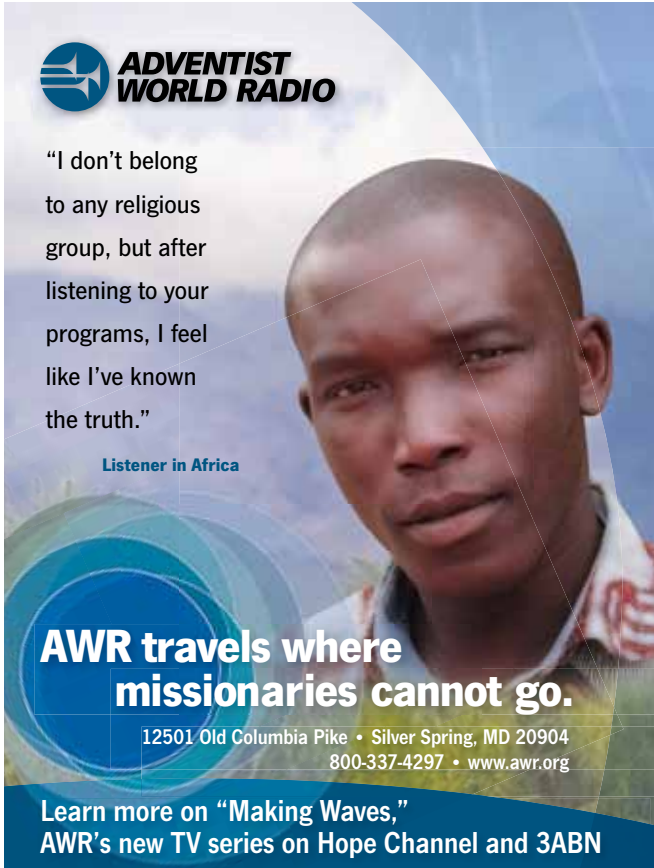


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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

What’s a Parent to Do?

BY GARY BURNS



I don’t know of too many feelings worse than the agony a parent feels at the bottom of the guilt pit. It would be bad enough if it were only self-induced, but too often others are more than willing to point out our errors in parenting. The “accuser of the brethren” is also there to point the finger and coach us with line after line of self-abusing condemnation.

And why are we in the bottom of the guilt pit? Because our son or daughter made a wrong choice.

None of us is a perfect parent, but there is One who is. But even the children of the Perfect Parent made wrong choices that brought sin and death into this world. Was their Creator a bad parent?

I’m not sure what kind of home Adam and Eve formed after leaving

the Garden, but my guess is it was better than yours or mine. Yet, their son, Cain, killed their son, Abel. Were Adam and Eve bad parents?

What’s a parent to do? We can partner with God to provide the information, love and motivation needed for our children to make good decisions. Then we allow them to make their own choices and live with the consequences. Never leaving them nor forsaking them, by God’s grace we continue to love with the love of the prodigal’s Father trusting that God’s Spirit continues to call them home. Forgiven of confessed shortcomings, we also accept that our children have the God-given freedom to choose.

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

Lessons from a Sailboat

BY BAYLIE THOMPSON

I love sailing. I have been sailing at least once a year for as long as I can remember. For the last three summers I shared this amazing experience with campers at Timber Ridge Camp in Spencer, Indiana. Four days a week our group of five staff drove 12 kids about 40 minutes to Cagle's Mill Lake. Once we arrived at the lake the campers could either ride one of two sailboats or a jet ski. My job was to take kids out on my 18-foot catamaran and teach them the basics of sailing. Nothing to me is more rewarding than showing kids they don't need an engine or to be going 45 miles per hour to have fun—all they need is free, God-given wind.

As simple and carefree as sailing can be, it requires a lot of work beforehand. You can't just jump in the boat, push the start button and speed away. The sails have to be raised, all the ropes and pulleys set in order and numerous other tasks must be completed before the boat can be put in the water. Most of the time I was very happy to take all the necessary steps to get my boat ready to sail. There were days, however, that the last thing I wanted to do was spend an hour rigging up a sailboat. I always tried to come up with some excuse: no one really wanted to go sailing, I was too tired, or it was too hot or too cold. The list went on.

Skipping a day at the lake wasn't an option, but I could choose the attitude I took with me to the lake. Choosing to have a positive attitude opened my eyes to interactions with campers I might have missed if I had continued to focus on my own selfish desires. Ephesians 4:22–24 (NIV) says, "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your



Ryan Thumber

minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Often, the days that started out the worst were the days a camper would sail for their very first time and absolutely love every minute. I had many great conversations with campers on that sailboat about sailing and life, but I often learned more from the campers than I ever hoped to teach them.

Just like I had to choose to have a good attitude about going to the lake, every day we need to make a conscious decision to spend time with God. We can always come up with a list of excuses not to have devotions or go to Sabbath school, but in the end we have to make the decision to come to God. He never leaves our side, but we have to choose to answer His call. We will never be disappointed when we take time to get to know God better—and that is an experience even better than sailing.

Baylie Thompson lives in Arcadia, Indiana. She is a sophomore at Southern Adventist University where her major is nursing.

Kyle T. Davis, 16, is a junior at Peterson-Warren Academy. He is a member of the City Temple Church in Detroit, Michigan. Kyle is the son of Thomas and Madge Davis of Detroit.



Kyle Davis

Kyle has a vision to help others learn both academics and spiritually through his knowledge of audiovisual technical information. He is active with the audiovisual department both at church and school. Kyle can be seen running wires to connect or maintain the Internet service, or serving computers that may be down. He sets up the audio system for programs, operates cameras, and tapes church and school programs.

Another mature side of Kyle was exhibited one Sunday morning when others his age would be either at basketball practice, sleeping or enjoying free time. Instead, he was at a church board meeting to learn the church process.

The most important thing Kyle says he learned in school was “expanding my knowledge of the various aspects of computer service and repair, and the various programs that can enhance creating audiovisual programming.” He recalls his most memorable experience as “having the teachers need me and seek my advice when there was a technical problem with their computers.”

Kyle’s favorite class is English, and he enjoys reading the different essays and stories that are taught.

After graduation, Kyle plans to attend Oakwood University or Andrews University.

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Iris Fletcher

Iris A. “Eye-Eye” Fletcher, 19, graduated from Peterson-Warren Academy (PWA) in 2009. She is a member of the City Temple Church in Detroit, Michigan. Iris is caring and thoughtful, and she shares a special relationship with her mother, Tresa Fletcher, of Canton, Michigan.

Most people are attracted to Iris’ constant smile. She helps clean her church and is a church soloist, participating in the African American Choir Ensemble. When asked to sing in church, her response is a smiling, “Sure!” Iris spends some of her time in Evansville, Indiana, doing volunteer work like feeding the homeless.

Iris says, “Having always attended a public school, my senior year at PWA taught me that this experience far outweighs having been in public school. Even though my classmates [at PWA] were not perfect, as I am not perfect, the religious experiences have been uplifting. . . . Getting to know the teachers who would pray with me and talk with me as a parent away from home will hold a special place in my heart.”

English is Iris’ favorite class, and she enjoys writing.

Iris plans to attend Southern Adventist University and major in computer animation.

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

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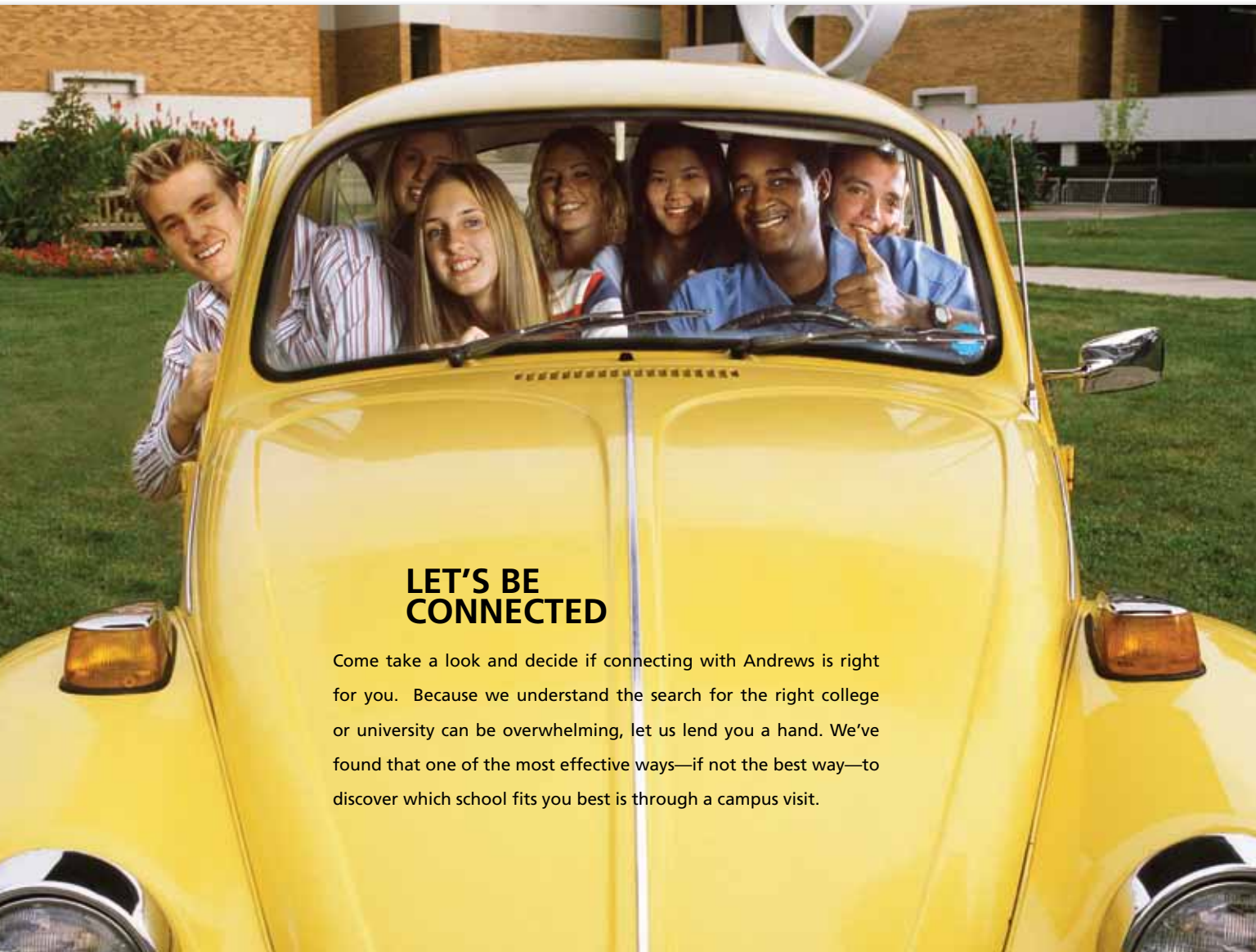
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