

Lake Union HERALD

DECEMBER 2009



UNPACKING
YOUR GIFTS

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



This month's cover was created by Andrews University students Ellie Quinones (art direction) and Tom Turner (photography).



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in this issue...

The Body of Christ is the metaphor Paul used to illustrate the amazing complexity, intricacy, unity and diversity of the church designed by God to arrest the attention of a rebel planet. The Master Designer has placed each unique and specially designed member in the body just as He pleased to accomplish His purpose. Rather than proposing a scientific inventory to help identify gifts, this issue is designed to help us appreciate the Gift-Giver, His nature and purpose. By looking to Him, we hope to better understand ourselves and how we fit into His plan.


Gary Burns, Editor



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The Handle of a Stretcher

A few years ago I heard Michael Slater, a pastor, give a workshop on a very practical and spiritual concept. He centered on the story found in Mark 2:1–12, where four men bring a man to Jesus. They encounter the obstacle of a large crowd and no access into the house where Jesus is preaching. They persist—even tearing a roof open to get their friend to Jesus where he is healed and his sins forgiven.

These four men could not heal their friend or forgive his sins, but they could carry him to Jesus. They did not allow what they could not do to keep them from what they could do.

When Michael started teaching this principle, he had a speaking engagement where he noticed a woman in the audience who seemed very troubled. After his talk, he approached her to see if there was anything he could do to comfort her. This woman was amazed that “the speaker” would take time to talk to her. Michael told her what he was teaching at his church and invited her to attend. Although she lived two hours away, the woman came to church and connected with some very nice people who prayed for her. This made her feel better for the moment.

During the next two days, alone at home, she found herself thinking of and then planning suicide. In a last hope for help, she decided to check her mail. If she could find anything in her mail that would indicate she should live, she would. Her mailbox contained the usual junk mail, some bills and a short, stuffy envelope. She opened the envelope, and inside she found a handkerchief along with a note. It was from one of the ladies at Michael’s church. The note read, “I know that there will be times when you feel the need to cry, please use this handkerchief to wipe your tears and know that you have a Stretcher Bearer. You are in my prayers.” That note was a turning point in her life toward restoration.

As we pray for someone, it becomes much more powerful when we become part of the answer. The church member who sent the note and handkerchief was praying for the lady in serious distress, but she also followed through with a note that was tangible and caring. She allowed God to use her to save a life. Caring Christians often make lists of how to help people—in addition to their prayers.

Many years ago, a friend was going through a divorce. Although he lived a couple of hundred miles away, Barbara and I decided to invite him to visit for the weekend. We dialed his number and handed the phone to our two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Christina, to invite him. Who could resist that little voice? He came, and we had a great visit. Years later we learned that when the phone rang he had a gun in his hand, seriously thinking of using it on himself. It’s pretty special to be a part of God’s answer to prayer.

How does your spiritual gift wrap around the handle of a stretcher? God gave you the gift; enjoy the blessing of helping to carry those in need to Jesus.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS



Eric Weiss was baptized in February after studying the Bible with his pastor. One of his favorite Bible lessons was when he learned that Jesus returned to Heaven to build a special home just for him.

Joy Hyde

Michigan On February 2, 2008, **Eric Weiss** was able to do something he had wanted to do for several years. Thirteen-year-old Eric has attended Specialty and Family Camp at Camp Au Sable for the past four years. Every time, before leaving the camp, he filled out a survey card and checked, “I want to give my heart to Jesus and be baptized.”

Eric loves the outdoors and nature, and being at Camp Au Sable brought him closer to Jesus. While studying with his pastor, Bob Stewart, since September 2007, Eric really appreciated how the pastor tied the lessons to nature. Eric also experiences the outdoors by going on campouts with the Metropolitan Rangers Pathfinder club. He said he gets to “hang out with friends and go on campouts instead of being stuck inside with electronics.”

Because of his Bible studies, Eric feels a lot closer to Jesus. He reads his Bible a lot more and really enjoys it. Eric’s face breaks into a big smile when he remembers one of his favorite Bible lessons—the one where Eric learned that when Jesus returned to Heaven He built a special home just for him. That home in Heaven far outshines even Camp Au Sable. Eric was baptized on that cold February day surrounded by his parents, Gloria and Mark Weiss, his younger sister, Vanessa, and fellow church members.

Joy Hyde, communication leader, Detroit Metropolitan Church



Chris Wilson

Mauro Bautista says, “With God, there are no coincidences. I believe He has a purpose for each and every one of our lives. We will only know that by coming to Him, and giving Him all we have.”

Wisconsin Do things in life happen for a purpose or by coincidence? As Christians we believe coincidence does not occur with God, for He says, “I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things that are not yet done...” (Isaiah 46:9–10). In my early teen years, I (**Mauro Bautista**) had no interest in God. I thought religion was useless, the Bible was outdated and church was a waste of time. I never knew that God could change my life by using someone or something at the right time.

In the summer of 2005, a colporteur came to my home and, over the course of time, began to have Bible studies with my parents. By December that year my family, excluding me, became baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Being in a family of Adventists, I later decided to be baptized into the Adventist Church in the spring of 2006, but still had no interest in God or any knowledge of the Bible or the church. My family eventually decided to move from our home town, Chicago, Illinois, to Madison, Wisconsin, in the fall of 2007.

During the years that my family and I attended the Madison East Church, I continued to have no interest in God or spiritual things. One Sabbath morning, in October 2008, our youth pastor, Nestor Soriano, had a study on Daniel 2, and that study changed my view of what I thought was true. If what he taught that morning was true, then the Bible is reliable, a God does exist and He will return soon. Since that day I have been sold on God, the Bible’s message and what it means to really be a Christian.

After my conversion in April, during an evangelistic

series presented by Brian McMahon, I was re-baptized by Nestor. Due to my excitement about studying the Bible and witnessing, I was privileged to attend David Asscherick's school of evangelism, ARISE (a research institute for soul-winning and evangelism), in June.

I am currently a student at Wisconsin Academy, and am excited to see where the Lord will lead me next. With God, there are no coincidences. I believe He has a purpose for each and every one of our lives. We will only know that by coming to Him, and giving Him all we have.

Mauro Bautista, member, Madison East Church



Stanley Cottrell, pastor, is surrounded by (clockwise) Zach Verhelle, Matt Moore and Chris Roman, young men he studied the Bible with before their baptisms.

Michigan August 22 was a high Sabbath day at the Metropolitan Church. That was the day three young men—**Matt Moore**, **Chris Roman** and **Zach Verhelle**—publicly declared their love for Jesus and their desire to follow Him when they were baptized. All three are students at Metropolitan Junior Academy. Interim pastor, Stanley Cottrell, used the occasion to preach about the ultimate value and privilege of an Adventist church school education. He quoted from the chapter, “Right Education and Its Object,” where Ellen White says, “The best education that can be given to children and youth is that which fits them for a life of usefulness and for the future, immortal life” (*Bible Echo*, January 29, 1894).

The journey for these three young men began in the

2008–2009 school year, when Matt, Chris and Zach each started separately studying the Amazing Facts Bible lesson series with then pastor, Bob Stewart. Bob transferred to the Grand Rapids Central Church in January 2009, but he drove from Grand Rapids to Plymouth to continue the studies when necessary. But soon Stanley gladly stepped in and finished the lessons with the boys.

For Zach, son of Julie and Scott Verhelle, the pictures that accompanied the studies really illuminated the stories and helped him imagine more clearly what the Bible had to say. The studies on the Second Coming and Daniel Chapter 12 had special meaning for Zach. As a result of his studies, Zach desires to tell others about Jesus. He is looking for an opportunity to share the Amazing Facts study guide on the Sabbath with his friend down the street. Zach wants to wait for the Holy Spirit's leading, to make sure he won't offend his friend, but he wants his friend to know the joy of the truth.

As he studied, Matt felt the Holy Spirit prompting him to “give his heart to Jesus” and be baptized. He especially felt the lessons made him better prepared to tell others about Jesus. His mother Karen and many family members were very proud of Matt that morning.

Though Chris had previously read approximately 20 books in the Bible, he really enjoyed the lessons with the pastors because they answered his questions right away. His favorite lesson was on Revelation 21 and the New Jerusalem. He said the lesson “was so descriptive. It put a really good picture in my mind of what it's going to be like and how big it's going to be.” After studying all the lessons, Chris felt he should be baptized because it was, “basically the right thing to do.” He now knows that he can go to God with anything and that He loves him no matter what. His dad, Leon Roman, baptized him while his mother, Ema, looked on with many others during Sabbath morning services.

Joy Hyde, communication leader, Detroit Metropolitan Church

The Malakim Movement

BY KATHLYN BEARCE AND ARLENE LEAVITT

Chett Clayton, '08, reminisced when asked about the blessings of the Malakim Ministry he started at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA): "It was amazing seeing people's lives and churches changed."

Malakim is a Hebrew word meaning "messengers." The Malakim Ministry began when Mickey Mallory, Cedar Lake Church pastor, envisioned youth leadership at GLAA. A joint effort between the academy and the church, Malakim consists of students and faculty who travel to Michigan churches to deliver a complete church service, and they often assist with Sabbath school.

Malakim's goal is to involve an army of youth rightly trained for outreach and evangelism. When students are involved in a church service, it creates within them a realization of purpose. "Being in Malakim brought me closer to Christ," said Logan Coon, '09. "The experience was powerfully unique. Over and over I saw God's hand leading me, whether it was in the sermon I was writing or in how the day worked out. To me it was more of a blessing to see how God took my words and turned them into His."

Ellen White tells us, "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!" (*Education*, p. 271) Churches the Malakim group visit confirm this. "We are very encouraged by your dedication," affirmed Leona Peterman of the Onaway Church. "Our future leaders are represented by the youth of today. We are in good hands and God is blessing mightily."

Chelsea Pflugrad recounts a visit to the Onaway Church, "God took what we gave and blessed it." The church members



Chett Clayton, GLAA '08, and Kathlyn Bearce, GLAA '09, were Malakim Ministry student leaders. Chett says the experience taught him to "rely on God."



GLAA students who participate in the Malakim Ministry find it is more than "playing church." Kathlyn Bearce says the ministry makes the Bible come alive.

were so inspired that they took up an unsolicited offering for the students. "The head elder stood up, made an appeal and the church passed around the offering plate," Chelsea remembers. "Afterward, many people came up and said that it was really inspiring to see young people doing things for the church."

During the 2008–2009 school year, the Malakim group visited ten churches. This is an incredible opportunity for youth, but the blessings are abundant for the churches they visit. If you would like to have Malakim visit your church, please contact Mickey at mmallory@misda.org, or read guidelines in the online version of this article at www.lakeunionherald.org.

For the congregations, Malakim is just like the "trustworthy messenger" of Proverbs 25:13. Their services

refresh the spirit while encouraging and strengthening the church member's spiritual walk.

For the students in Malakim, the Bible comes alive. God's presence is known. It's how people are touched and changed. God is glorified in it.

For our Heavenly Father, Malakim is a vehicle He uses to draw His children closer to Him. Through it He can encourage, transform and bless all who have a part. To God be the Glory!

Kathlyn Bearce served as the student leader for Malakim during the 2008–2009 school year. She is currently a freshman at Andrews University. Arlene Leavitt is the assistant development director at Great Lakes Adventist Academy.



Bringing the Gospel to Purranque

BY JOY HYDE

Various rose bushes blossom seemingly unattended in the city center. Hydrangea shrubs are lush with volleyball-sized blooms growing up out of small spaces between businesses. Deep velvety Zinnia flowers line backyards. Bushes by the highways are ripe with juicy, sweet blackberries. In the distance, one can see the powerful, snow-capped peak of the Osorno volcano. These delights awaited the Detroit Maranatha church-building team as they descended upon the longest country in the world and the 22,000-resident municipality of Purranque in Chile. The average monthly income is \$400, and the main source of that income for the area residents is agricultural.

In September 2008 project leaders, Arthur “Doc” Weaver of the Plymouth Church and Dick Lane of the Metropolitan Church, traveled to Purranque for their preparation visit. However, finding lodging for the upcoming February 2009 project team was a stalling point. The closest “hotel” to Purranque was 30 miles away and \$70 per night per room. That would have put the project financially and logistically out of reach. Fortunately, a member of the Purranque Church knew Cesar Negron, the city’s mayor. Cesar, excited about the prospect of a new church in his city and the 41 Americans and Canadians who would visit, cut red tape and secured the Internado Liceo Tomas Burgos School for the Maranatha group’s stay. Since the team would visit the Southern Hemisphere in summer, the children who normally lived at the boarding school would be on summer vacation. The school had barracks-style sleeping quarters, bathroom and shower facilities, a large school kitchen, a dining hall with tables and chairs, a central meeting room for team meetings, and a classroom for Vacation Bible School—all only three blocks from the building site and for an agreeable price. Doc and Dick knew this was the Lord’s hand.



The Detroit Maranatha church-building team surround Cesar Negron, Purranque’s mayor, and his wife. Cesar told them they “brought the world to Purranque.” They also brought the “gospel in working clothes” to that city.

The team arrived on February 4, after 24 hours of travel, and work began the next morning. The Lord’s blessing continued with temperatures in the 70s and 80s, though previous teams experienced temperatures greater than 100. The mayor prayed for rain for the drought, and the Lord answered his prayer; but the rain did not hamper the team’s work. On Thursday evening, February 5, Cesar and his wife

visited the school during the team meeting. He answered questions and participated in picture-taking. Cesar told team members that they “brought the world to Purranque,” and he was very grateful.

The very organized and experienced team completed work on the church one day ahead of schedule. The hard work culminated on Sabbath, February 14, in the newly-built Purranque Iglesia Adventista del 7-día filled beyond capacity, when the team witnessed the baptism of a new member, Joel. Though the mayor was not present, he sent a City Council member to witness the event. The Maranatha team may have brought the world to Purranque, but they brought also the “gospel in working clothes” to that city.

Joy Hyde is the communication leader of the Detroit Metropolitan Church.



Children and Spiritual Gifts

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Two passages from the Bible show us that spiritual gifts are not age-based. In I Corinthians, Paul instructs the church about the importance of discovering and using spiritual gifts. While this speaks to abilities and opportunities of those who may be older, nowhere does he suggest an age limit. In chapter 12, verse seven, we read, “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

As parents and other important adults in children’s lives, we can make the Bible come alive as we also share I Peter 4:10, which reads, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” How empowering for children to begin to understand that there is a role for them, no matter their age, in God’s army for good! They need our help to see who they are in Christ, and need to be nurtured in age-appropriate ways to identify and develop the gifts He has given to them.

So what are some ways we can accomplish this? Our children deserve to be taught specifically about God’s purposes for the church and what the Bible says about spiritual gifts. We can help them realize that they have a part to do now, not just when they are older. They deserve opportunities to serve in various types of ministry so they can begin to identify how they may be gifted. When they have opportunities to work side by side with family members as well as others, they can grow passion within their hearts.

Allow them to plan and lead in their own programs, under appropriate supervision, and the leaders and teachers will emerge among them. You will see the gift of mercy blossom as children have chances to minister to those who are in need. Volunteering in the community and church is a way that the gift of service may be discovered.

Be careful that in the process you don’t use coercion or



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a reward system to get them involved. They need to learn to serve out of love and obedience. They need to understand that serving is a worthy enough calling in itself that they do not need to be bribed in order to do it.

Provide affirmation and feedback. When Jesus sent out His disciples to ministry, He took the time to discuss how it went with them. Our children deserve no less. They also deserve appropriate training for what we are asking them to do. If they just don’t seem suited for a particular type of ministry,

help them to find something that is a better fit for them.

Sadly, many adults do not do their part by serving along with children. Sending them out to the work while you remain uninvolved sends a strong, contradictory message to them.

Prayer can be a powerful tool in this journey. We can pray that ministry and using their spiritual gifts goes beyond head knowledge but translates into a real love for the Lord and a true desire to serve Him. Pray that God will use opportunities even in small ways to grow a passion in their hearts to follow His purposes in their lives. Always, pray for their walk with the Lord!

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.

Note: Some ideas were adapted from <http://mintools.com/children-spiritual-gifts.htm>.

Grapes and berries improve your memory.

Brain Food

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Walnuts can improve brain function.



Consumers are increasingly interested to learn how their diet can help protect them against a decline in cognitive ability. An increasing number of products have appeared in the marketplace, which supposedly improve brain health. For example, some beverages provide a variety of antioxidants such as vitamins C and E and fruit concentrates to protect against oxidative damage in the brain.

Blueberries, blackberries and other berries contain a high level of anthocyanins and other protective antioxidants. The berries protect the brain from age-related changes and its ability to process information. Blueberry extracts increase the activity of brain kinases that are involved in mediating cognitive function. They are also rich in anti-inflammatory compounds that slow neurodegeneration.

Rats fed blueberry extracts were better able to find or remember the location of an underwater platform. Aged rats fed a blackberry-enriched diet improved their motor performance on tasks that rely on balance and coordination, and had a better short-term memory performance. The polyphenols in berries improve nerve signaling and can promote the generation of new nerve cells.

Berries contain resveratrol, a flavonoid that has cancer-fighting properties, and is also purported to have anti-aging properties. Purple grape juice also slows down memory decline in an aged brain. Older adults fed grape juice for three months improved their short-term retention and spatial memory. In addition, grape seed extract contains polyphenolics that decrease cognitive deterioration.

DHA is an omega-3 fatty acid essential for brain health. Higher DHA blood levels were found to produce improved listening comprehension and vocabulary skills in four-year-olds who were given DHA supplements for four months. Omega-3 fatty acids have been linked to improving vari-



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ous conditions that involve brain function including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Plant sources of omega-3 include flaxseed, soy and walnuts.

At Tufts University, diets containing walnuts were found to slow down aging of the brain, as well as reverse age-related motor and cognitive deficits in old mice. The polyphenolics in walnuts can inhibit the breakdown of the important neurotransmitter acetylcholine.

In a British study, middle-aged persons with high levels of HDL (good) cholesterol (60 mg/dl or higher) exhibited better short-term verbal memory than those with low HDL levels (less than 40 mg/dl). Healthy HDL levels can be maintained by regular exercise, losing weight and avoiding trans fat.

A number of supplements have shown some promise to improve brain function. Phosphatidylserine, a soy-derived lipid, is approved to help reduce the risk of cognitive dysfunction and dementia in the elderly. S-adenosylmethionine (SAM-e), an important compound found naturally in the body, is claimed to provide relief as an anti-depressant. When given to centenarians for six months, L-carnitine reduced fatigue and improved their cognitive function. Citicoline, also known as CDP-choline, is used by the brain to make phosphatidylcholine. Studies suggest that citicoline ameliorates memory impairment.

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



EXTREME GRACE

Shimon's New Client

WE WORSHIP GOD BEST WHEN WE SEE HIM IN OTHERS

BY DICK DUERKSEN

My home smells like leather—tanned leather being trimmed and stretched to match the shape of feet like yours. I, Shimon, am the sandal maker of Bethlehem; it is my job to protect the feet of the children, both young and old.

Some feet require soft and supple leather that caresses. Others must be protected with leather that is like mountain stone, so it will last a year in the heat and briars. For a few, leather must be hard on top and bottom, mashing clods and massaging calluses with each step.

“Sandals for the person,” I say. “Not sandals for the masses.”

Bethlehem's innkeeper demands sandals with tiny golden threads woven into the ties. Tax collectors require sandals to match their tunics, and the children want sandals in which they can run. And mothers? Mothers want sandals so babies can look foolish as they are being named in the synagogue.

And everyone wants their sandals *now!* Most of our census guests wore their shoes out on the journey, so strangers are always peeking into my shop and asking for a fitting. Sometimes, they complain of sickness—or of wealth—and command me to come to their lodgings and begin their sandals there.

Like that girl who had the baby in the cave. I don't think she rode the donkey very much on the journey, for her sandals were straps wanting soles. Her husband brought them to me, asking, “Can you do something for Mary before the baby's naming ceremony?”

I gave him my speech. “I cannot create a new sole unless I can form it directly onto the foot of the one who will wear it. If I make a shoe to fit, it must fit the wearer, not my vision of the wearer.”



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He took me to the cave. It felt like holy ground bathed in the glow of angel light, and I walked like a sinner in a synagogue.

She was everything the Messiah's mother should not be. Too young. Too small. Too thin. Too quiet. Too much girl and not enough woman! I imagined that both sides of her sandal soles would need to be soft, since she wouldn't get outside much.

Then she looked at me.

Her look was the peace of eternity etched with divine power—like the Jordan at flood tide. I made a mental note to tan every part of the sandals hard enough to handle the strength she would bring wherever she walked.

I began to describe the sandals I would create for her.

Then she spoke and I was silent. She spoke of grace, of angels talking to children, of shepherds singing like angels and of sins flying away. She spoke of me, a sandal maker, whose life would be forever better because Jesus had come. She spoke of hope and held the Child of Hope cooing in her arms.

I measured her feet and prepared the molds for the soles she would wear. The sandal tops will be as soft as leather can be tanned. The soles will be harder than granite. She brings a soft heart that will walk on very hard ground.

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



Dear God...

BY DON JACOBSEN

Dear God,

Do You need me? I mean, really? Are You sure?

As You know, most of my prayer life is focused on how much I need You. But it seems to me I'm sensing more and more something about the fact that You need me.

Now there's a shocking thought to ponder...

See, I get to thinking that I really don't bring much to the table. Whenever someone comments on a child and says, "He/she is really gifted," it makes me think, *Now, that's a nice compliment*, and I need to remember that applies to all Your children.

But I can't play the piano. (Well, I can play "Work for the Night Is Coming," if they don't sing it too fast.) I don't sing well—not as well as I did when I was 25, and that was no bargain. I putter around the house pretty good, but I would never make it as a professional handyman. I'm not a brilliant scientist, and I would never have survived as an ER doc.

I'm not very comfortable with two-year-olds. Or horses. I'm not a very good bookkeeper, and people seldom come back when I invite them over to eat my cooking.

When I think of all the things I don't do well, it makes me again ask the question: Are You sure You need me?

But the fact is I am gifted too, right?

You've given me a deep love for teaching. I enjoy writing for others to read. Few things give me greater joy than slipping up to someone in distress and seeking to bring them hope. I love to hold doors open for people—and smile.

So, here's what I'm thinking: *I'll let someone else play the piano and sing. I'll farm the two-year-olds out to someone with more patience than I have.*

My eight-year-old friend, Eric, down the road, loves to take care of horses ... so that will be his domain. I've got a calculator that keeps my checkbook in order and a wife who is a marvelous cook. I've got a friend at church who can do the little maintenance stuff for me at home. Someone with other interests than mine can work on space shuttles and managing the H1N1 problem.

Meanwhile, I'll stop fussing about what I can't do and rejoice at the gifts You have given me. And I promise I'll use them. I'll accept an invitation to teach a Sabbath school class every time I'm invited. I'll work on my calendar so I can come up with a bit of time every day to do some writing. I'll be on the lookout for people with the corners of their mouths turned down so I can whisper courage. I'll keep holding the door open for people at the post office. And smiling.

So, then, if You can mix my gifts with everyone else's, we can come up with a pretty effective package. I get the distinct sense that's the way You planned it.

Thank You.

Your friend.

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

A New Direction

BY JANENE WILLIAMS

FullProof! is one of several small groups under “Emmanuel Connects,” the small group ministry of Emmanuel Church. FullProof! met for five weeks in preparation for the Word of Life Revelation Seminar. It was facilitated by Sherri Headen, chaplain, and Nicolette Jones, lay Bible instructor. The facilitators started FullProof! because of comments expressed by co-workers, friends and other people with whom they came in contact. Generally speaking, people expressed a desire to get to know God.

The name “FullProof!” came out of a brainstorming session. Sherri and Nicolette founded the group on the idea that relationships aren’t at their healthiest unless a relationship with God is intact. The entire title of the group was “FullProof! Developing your relationship with God.” Participants were invited by e-mail and Facebook, a social networking Web site. The goal was to have more participation from community guests.

Group sessions were structured according to the phases of a romantic relationship. During each session, there was mingling time, prayer, an opening activity, discussion of the topic, sharing of prayer requests and closing prayer. The first session was an open session but started out with four Adventist members. However, the second week brought a couple more people of different faiths. The group covenant was discussed and agreed upon. Members also shared what they expected to get out of the five-week series. The second topic was titled “At First Sight.” Members shared what characteristics attract them to someone. Answers were compared with first encounters with Christ, and biblical examples were shared.

The third topic was “Getting to Know You.” A few more new individuals came. The group discussed things they did in their relationships to get to know their significant other. This led to a discussion on some spiritual disciplines such as devotion, Bible study and prayer.

The fourth topic was “What to Do When Your Fire Is



Members of the Emmanuel Church and community guests enjoyed studying together to learn how to strengthen their relationships with God and their significant other. From left (front row): Christopher Burris, Nicolette Jones, Ida Ratcliff, Bryona Johnson; (back row) Khalilah Muhammad, Sherri Headen (chaplain) and Michael Scott; not pictured: Sherie Bledsoe, Michael Clemmons

Gone.” Discussions centered on the things that creep in and somehow take precedence, thus weakening the relationships with your significant other and God. There were practical takeaways for members to try later to help strengthen their relationship with God.

The final topic was “It’s Not About You,” a phrase coined by the church’s pastor, Ronald Williams Jr., as Emmanuel’s thematic focus for the year. Group members discussed things they do for their significant other that pleases them. This led to a discussion

about Christian service and what God requires.

The group included nine members of various faiths who now have a newfound or rekindled desire to strengthen their relationship with God. All members made verbal commitments to attend the Word of Life Revelation Seminar, which began September 13.

Feedback from those who attended Fullproof! reflect their appreciation: “Great fellowship, faith building experience,” remarked Khalilah Muhammad.

“I’ve been reading the Word more, sharing what I have learned,” stated Bryona Johnson.

Michael Scott said, “FullProof! has been very helpful in my walk with learning the whole truth.”

“Being part of FullProof! has really opened my eyes and pointed me in a new direction,” stated Ida Ratcliff.

Janene Williams, MSM, is church marketing director for Emmanuel Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.



CRISTO SÍ VIVE!

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Cuando las pruebas vienen sobre nuestras vidas, cuando las nubes oscurecen el horizonte, cuán pronto olvidamos que Jesús es nuestro Salvador, que detrás de las nubes está brillando el Sol de Justicia, que los ángeles están muy cerca de nosotros, preservándonos del mal.... Vuelve los ojos de tí mismo a Jesús, quien está intercediendo ante el trono de Dios en tu favor” (En lugares celestiales, 12 de septiembre).

Miles de jóvenes y adultos que asistieron al Camporee Internacional de Conquistadores en la ciudad de Oshkosh, estado de Wisconsin, tienen como recuerdo un cuadro especial que apareció en el cielo al final del Camporee. Esto sucedió el último sábado del Camporee después de un bautismo de más de 500 jóvenes. Más de 36,000 personas estaban reunidas aquel día. Mientras esperábamos que comenzara el programa de la tarde, noté de pronto que todos los que me rodeaban se habían dado vuelta y miraban hacia mi izquierda como si estuvieran observando algo en el cielo. Cuando me di vuelta y miré también en esa dirección vi algo que me pareció increíble. Como se puede notar en la fotografía que acompaña este artículo, se divisaban algunas nubes que estaban tomando la forma de una cruz. Se notaba el asombro en las caras de muchos de los que observaban cómo se formaba esa cruz. Al principio pensé que quizás era parte del programa, pero al usar mi cámara para ver más de cerca ese fenómeno no tuve duda alguna que eran simplemente nubes que por su colocación parecían dibujar en el cielo esa forma que para los cristianos tiene un significado tan especial. En ese momento, al ver el cuadro que formaban esas nubes, me vinieron a la mente tres palabras para describir el evento: ¡Milagro de Dios!

Lo interesante es que ese “milagro” tocó e impresionó a algunos de manera muy personal. Como ejemplo, comparto con el lector el testimonio de Kathie Smith, enviado vía correo electrónico. La traducción al español es mía.

“Durante el Camporee recibimos noticias trágicas en nuestra familia. Mi abuelo había fallecido el martes



Nubes en forma de cruz en Oshkosh,

por la tarde. Mi papá tuvo que volar de regreso a la casa y tuvo que perderse el Camporee. Mi mamá y yo tuvimos que quedarnos, ya que mis padres eran los coordinadores de los conquistadores para el área en el norte de California. Los de la Conferencia nos rodearon con amor, y los programas de la tarde nos sirvieron como bálsamo sobre nuestras almas tristes. Las nubes que parecían como una cruz, aunque eran “sólo nubes, significaron mucho más para mí. Al ponerse

el sol ese sábado sentí la presencia de Dios con nosotros, y especialmente para mí...sirvió como un toque de sanidad especial de Dios para un alma triste.”

No hay duda alguna que hay multitudes que sufren por las tragedias de la vida. Quizás una de esas personas sea un lector de este artículo. Sólo quiero animarle con este

pensamiento: ¡Cristo vive! Vive para interceder por nosotros; vive para sanarnos de nuestras dolencias; vive para preparar un bello hogar más allá del sol!

Al terminar el año 2009 y comenzar un nuevo año es mi deseo animar a cada uno a que ponga su vista en un Cristo crucificado que vive hoy y que pronto vendrá.

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



Lord, Make Me an Instrument

ENERGIZED FOR SERVICE

BY ROY NADEN

Last Sunday morning I tuned to a church service on television to hear Timothy Brown, the president of Western Theological Seminary. His sermon inspired me.

Some years ago, Timothy had in his congregation an elderly missionary who had served for years in the Arabian Gulf and had become dearly loved by the Middle Easterners she served. She became so thoroughly one of them, they gave her an alternate name. Rather than using her given name, Cordelia, they called her, "Princess." And when in her advancing years she returned home to America, the congregation where Timothy served treated her like royalty.

Near the end of her life, Cordelia had abdominal surgery. The day of the operation, her pastor took the Dan Ryan Expressway to Chicago and went to Cordelia's room in Rush-Presbyterian-St. Lukes Medical Center. When he walked into the room, she was asleep. He waited. After some time, Cordelia opened one eye, but quickly closed it again. Later, she opened both eyes and said softly, "Good morning, Pastor," and followed the greeting with the words: "I saw Jesus of Nazareth this morning." Timothy could not help but be startled by those words, but was well aware she was coming out from the effects of an anesthetic. So he gently asked, "What did He look like?"

She began the description in a predictable way. "He had dark, deep-set eyes," she said. And Timothy thought to himself, *That's how we all imagine Jesus looked. After all, He was a Middle Easterner. No surprise there.* Then she continued, "He had long, tapered fingers—soft to the touch." That was a little unusual, for we tend to think of "carpenter Jesus" with hands calloused from the daily use of saw, chisel and plane. But with no more than the shortest break, Cordelia added, "His brow was furrowed, and He was perspiring freely." That struck a familiar chord, and Timothy immediately thought of Christ on the cross. But her next words shattered that image: "He wore a little green scull cap, spectacles and had a stethoscope around his neck."

Timothy smiled down at his friend and said, "You're describing your surgeon!" And Cordelia responded confidently: "That's how Jesus came to me today."

How true: When God has a ministry to do in this world, He usually chooses people as His instruments.

To do His work in your neighborhood, He chooses you; in mine, He chooses me.

Long after the sermon ended, I found my thoughts drifting back to Cordelia, and the privileged role men and women play as God's instruments influencing those with whom we come in contact.

It brought to mind The Association of Adventist Women, which this year named two amazing Adventist Women of the Year: one a sportsperson (that's a first), the other a church administrator. Mary Whipple was the coxswain when America's Women's 8 won the 2000-meter event in the Beijing Olympics. She continues as coxswain in the rowing program at the University of Washington. What an amazing opportunity it is for her to be His instrument to a handful of young women whose lives are preoccupied with the sport of rowing. Audray Johnson, now more than 70 years of age, is director of four departments in the Southeastern California Conference, and one of a growing number of women in North America who has been commissioned to the Gospel ministry by her conference. In her work in Family Ministries, Audray has been God's instrument in healing numberless families, and the encouragement of many ministers who have been called to nurture some of their members through their family traumas.

Whoever you are, wherever you live, whatever you do from day to day, you are also called to be His instruments in your sphere of influence whether it be with a few, like Mary, or with many, like Audray.

Which brings us to the topic on which I was asked to write

this article—spiritual gifts. Nearly 30 years ago this theme became part of the focus of my attention in preparing a course in the Theological Seminary, and it inaugurated a decade of research—including several doctoral dissertations. Some of the results were quite academic, but the most important findings I found to be both intriguing and reassuring.

THREE PREEMINENT BIBLE PASSAGES

In three of his letters, the apostle Paul explains: first, how to prepare ourselves to receive the Spirit's gifts; second, the purpose of these gifts; and third, the process by which we receive and use them.



In Romans 12, we learn that preparation on our part means to give ourselves to God, without reservation, as completely as if we were about to become one of the sacrifices placed on the Altar of Burnt Offering in the Old Testament Sanctuary courtyard. We read: “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship” (Romans 12:1 NIV). Then the chapter continues by naming many of the Spirit’s gifts through which we can be His instruments to bless others.

In Ephesians 4, Paul details the purpose of spiritual gifts in God’s great scheme of things. It is to nurture into maturity all that take the step of preparation described in Romans 12, and to make them more effective instruments in nurturing others—both inside and outside the church. We read: “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11–13, NIV).

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul notes three steps in the process by which the Spirit’s gifts vitalize the ministry of the members of Christ’s body.

First, he references the gifts themselves, these “gifts of grace” bestowed from the overflowing hands of the Holy Spirit.

Next is a reference to the great variety of gifts. And there is need for a great variety in order for the whole range of human needs to be met. As we explore all the gifts the apostle names at the end of this chapter, we see they fall into two main categories: gifts to nurture those who have committed their lives to God, and gifts of outreach to those who have not yet made that commitment.

And third, as we begin to sense how we have been gifted to be His instruments, God expects us to use those gifts in ministry, blessing the lives we touch. The word Paul uses to describe this implementation is the one from which we get the English word “energy.” And with the realization that God has gifted us, we become “energized” to use our gifts in ministry.

We are not meant to be naval-gazing Christians, wasting time pondering what we might do or admiring our gifts in a way that promotes pride, but rather the Spirit energizes us to be God’s instruments blessing the people we meet. The gifts are not an end, merely the means to the end of being God’s active instruments. We read: “There are different kinds of gifts [of grace], but the same Spirit. There are different kinds [varieties] of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works [energizes] all of them in all men” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 NIV).

As Timothy expressed it in his sermon: When God does what God does in the world, He chooses to do it through people—like you and me.

EMPIRICAL RESEARCH FINDINGS

By exploring the responses of a very large sample that participated in our research over a decade, we learned some important facts about what it means to be God’s instruments employing the Spirit’s gifts. For me, it removed some of the mystery when we established that there is a predictably high correlation between each individual’s personality traits and the gifts God gives in order for us to become His instruments to bless others. God loves to see us just be ourselves when we relate to others! It is not likely (though it is certainly possible) that God would expect a very shy, retiring person to suddenly become an outgoing public evangelist.

I have a very outgoing friend. He just loves being with people. It is always such a pleasure to have him stay with us. On one occasion we stood in front of an elevator door waiting to

go to another floor of a department store. After a short wait, the door opened and we saw the elevator jammed with people. There was not a chance of squeezing in even one more person. My friend Russ glanced at them; they stared back at him, almost daring him to try to get into the crowded space. Then, without a moment's hesitation, I was startled to hear him say in his booming voice: "I'm sure you're wondering why I've called you all up here this afternoon!" And the doors closed. You can imagine the bemused looks on the faces of the people in the elevator as it sped up to the next floor. My friend has many gifts that perfectly match his spontaneous personality.

You do too.

A second finding of our research is that most of us don't have just one gift; we have a cluster of gifts, and they spread across the full range of the various elements of our personalities.

Then we defined all the gifts named in the New Testament and analyzed them statistically through factor analysis. The results showed that two gifts can be so closely related that they are in reality two faces of the same coin—for example, leadership and administration. So there is not much to be gained by trying to be precise about the exact gift or gifts we have been given by the Spirit. We are just asked to be ourselves and use our gifts as opportunities arise.

One final finding of our research has been that there is a very close relationship between your natural talents and your spiritual gifts. Those individuals who are gifted speakers before they give their lives to Jesus are still gifted speakers after conversion. Gifted musicians before conversion are still gifted musicians after conversion. Quiet intimate nurturers before conversion continue to be quiet intimate nurturers after conversion. Skilled organizers before conversion are skilled organizers after conversion. Skilled money managers before conversion are just as skilled after conversion. And the main difference before and after is simple to understand. Before, we lived to glorify and promote self. After, we have a different goal, a new aim, a changed perspective described ably in hymn-writer Fannie Bolton's memorable words:

*Not I, but Christ, be honored, loved, exalted
Not I, but Christ, my health and strength to be,
Not I, but Christ, be seen, be known, be heard,
Christ only Christ here and eternally.¹*

The apostle expressed a similar commitment in his letter to the believers in Corinth: "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2 NIV).

It is not the raw ability that has changed by conversion, but rather the way it is employed. Our motivation is completely changed.

MODERN GIFTS

Much attention has been given to the lists of spiritual gifts named and listed in the New Testament letters. And it is fruitful attention. But we should not expect the letters written 20 centuries ago to name all the abilities, expertise, talents and gifts to be found among Christians in our technological age. Imagine what use Peter and Barnabas would have made of high-speed connection to the Internet if the cities they were about to visit had the same access! In those circumstances, I imagine Paul could have named computer programmers and analysts in his gift lists. Today, as then, any of the ways you can bless someone's life is a revelation of the Spirit's gifting.

It is believed Francis of Assisi wrote meaningfully about being a Spirit-gifted, Spirit-empowered instrument:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.²*

And once again, I find my thoughts drifting back to a missionary in a hospital after surgery. And it leads me to ask myself a question, and maybe it's one you would like to ask yourself too: I wonder if any of the people I met today said afterward, like Cordelia, "That's how Jesus came to me today."

Roy Naden is professor emeritus at Andrews University and writes from his home on Bainbridge Island in Washington's Puget Sound.

1. Fannie Bolton. "Not I, But Christ." Lyrics and Music. *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*. Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1985 (adapted).

2. Francis of Assisi. "Prayer of St. Francis." Words attributed. (1182-1226)





God's Creative Spirit

MADE IN HIS IMAGE

BY TERRY BENEDICT

Fade in: Interior—Christian Hospital Delivery Room

A baby's first cry pierces the air. A cheer rises from the family and medical staff. The doctor confirms, "Yep, he's got all his toes and fingers. Congratulations, you're the proud parents of a healthy boy. Don't break him now." Laughs all around.

The proud father decries, "I can't wait to teach him to be the next Tiger Woods."

The mother says, "No, he's going to be a doctor."

The father, more realistic, "Okay, I'll make him a partner in the business."

And so it begins. Year after year studies try to explain the continuing generational exodus of young people leaving the church. All too common reasons given include that the church is judgmental (87 percent), old fashioned (78 percent), too involved with church politics (75 percent) and the list goes on. Some statistics show that as high as 92 percent of Christian teenagers will leave the church and abandon their faith by their 20th birthday, and more than half of these never return.¹ But rarely does any survey actually define the undercurrent causing the systemic drift taking us all off course. Could it be that people's reasons are really red herrings that are an

obstacle to getting to the heart of the matter?

A Biblical sidebar: "For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13 NRSV), and "God, who set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace..." (Galations 1:15 NRSV) We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. (See Romans 12:5 NRSV) Do we really believe these precepts? Or do we think they just make for great poetic prose? Are they a salient part of the Master Plan or is the Master Plan just about finality at the end of time? How important are these precepts in the big scheme of life?

"How to" books hit the *New York Times* best seller list by the dozens every year, recommending ways to find your path to happiness. This would certainly seem to indicate an insatiable desire to quench the thirst of a large sector of society that leads unfulfilled lives. After all, how many of us are actually

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living a life where our giftedness is being utilized?

Do you know your area of giftedness? Did your giftedness get nurtured or squashed by parents, church family or the educational system? Questions, questions, questions. Any sporting coach worth his salt after seeing his team fall into a pattern of mistakes will say, “We’ve got to get back to the basic fundamentals of the game.” In the spiritual context that’s not 150 years ago—try Genesis 1. But if you need that 150-year-old stepping-stone, here’s a clue from an often-quoted church pioneer: “To restore in man the image of his Maker ... to promote the development of body, mind and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized. ... This is the object of education, the great object of life” (*Education*, pp. 15–16).

The Creator created us *all* in His image equally. Yes, equally. The Creator intentionally created us equally and unabashedly by infusing in us His most core characteristic—a creative spirit driven by love. The sinful world didn’t change how we are created. If that were true, then it makes the Master Plan a fraud. And it nullifies a core principle that King David, the Apostle Paul and Jesus Christ talked about regarding the essential role we have to play on this world stage. Certainly, being on stage can be intimidating—especially if you don’t know your role. An actor who doesn’t understand his role has a hard time fulfilling the character’s purpose in the story. As a result, a chain of dysfunction occurs—starting with a poor performance that communicates a weak message, leading to an unresponsive audience.

Art imitates life. When starting the Shae organization, I explained our philosophy that giftedness implies purpose to a woman who told the story of how her son loved to draw. She showed me some of his artwork from his toddler years to first grade. It was obvious he was gifted. When I asked to see more, her emotions percolated up. There was no more. Turns out, her son was told by his father that all boys who grow up to be artists are gay. The little boy put down the pencil and didn’t draw again. Our first reaction is, we would never say that. But do any of these sound familiar?

“You can’t make a living doing that.”

“You need to follow in your father’s footsteps.”

“But we planned on you going to this school.”

“It was good enough for your parents.”

“You’re really talented, but at some point you’ll have to get a ‘real’ job.”

We’ve caused an epidemic. Recently, I gave a trilogy of seminars about discovering your giftedness and purpose. I’m always amazed that the line of people waiting to talk with me can usually be divided into two groups: group one—the happy group—people who are thankful that someone finally

validated that being creative is a Divine gift; group two—the conflicted group—people who want a “How to” recipe to discover their giftedness, passion and purpose.

In today’s digital and information age, we think we should be able to find the answer by Googling it or looking for it in Wikipedia, through intellectual and analytical processes. But the reality is it’s the shortest recipe arguably ever written. Simply put: If you want the answer, ask your Creator. He’s the only one who actually knows. He knows precisely why you came out of the womb the way you did. Your parents do not know. The Church does not know. Certainly, society does not know. Why then do we tend to self-choose or, worse, choose for our children their purpose in life? It truly shows where our faith walk is headed—down a path of discontentment.

A seventeenth century philosopher, John Locke, came up with the well-known theory, *tabula rasa*. Essentially, he believed we are born as blank slates waiting for the world to make its indelible mark on us. In other words, we’re strictly a product of our environment. This idea flies in the face of the fundamental biblical principle that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14 NIV). Locke did not subscribe to the Divine principle that we all were born “hardwired” with a certain giftedness to fulfill a specific purpose. Interestingly, the following statement attributed to Locke points out an all too painful truth still visible today: “Parents wonder why the streams are bitter, when they themselves have poisoned the fountain.”

As Christian parents, in the spirit of “train up the child” guided by our own “How to” book, we impose our ideas of what our children should become. How incredible is it that much of our time is actually spent fighting the will of the Creator instead of discovering and accepting His plan for our children? What a concept—accepting that God already has it figured out.

The Apostle Paul points out the fact that we can only “see in a mirror dimly” (1 Corinthians 13:12 NASB), but God sees the purpose picture perfectly clear. Reconciliation with the Creator and continual communion makes self-evident the giftedness in everyone and illuminates the path of purpose. That’s the beauty of the Master Plan—a Master Plan that includes a unique design for every snowflake reflecting God’s creativity. He did the same for you and me. What shape is your snowflake?

Terry Benedict is a filmmaker and founder of the Shae Foundation—an educational and humanitarian organization focused on nurturing the creative spirit.

1. Barna Group, <http://www.barna.org/topics/faith-spirituality>, (November 4, 2009).



From left: Diane Leonard, RN, Kathy Mitchell, RN, Brad Krueger, Jolene Albaugh, RN, Pat Wallace, Julie Grivetti, RN and Jamie Rowden, RN, participate in the annual "Nurses for Tomorrow" bike run sponsored by Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital.

Annual motorcycle run raised money for scholarship

More than \$2,400 was raised for the Bolingbrook Hospital Foundation's nursing scholarship during the annual "Nurses for Tomorrow" bike run sponsored by Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital, Sept. 27. The 45-mile

ride departed from the hospital and ended in Seneca, Ill. Forty-four people rode 35 bikes. Derek Cazeau, executive director of the Bolingbrook Hospital Foundation, expressed his appreciation to the bike run participants: "Future nurses will benefit from the generosity demonstrated by our community through this event."

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

Golf event raises more than \$100,000

La Grange Memorial Hospital Foundation raised more than \$100,000 for Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital at the organization's annual Golf Classic. The funds will be doubled with a matching grant from Community Memorial Foundation and will benefit the hospital's Patient Care Center.

The outing took place at La Grange Country Club and included both a live and silent auction. Bonny Chen, an emergency room physician who treats patients at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, and community member, Tom Gleitsman, served as co-chairs.

"We are so grateful to the community for their support of this event," said Beth Leuck, executive director of the La Grange Memorial Hospital Foundation. "In addition to raising financial resources to support our health services, we were able to increase awareness of the emergency department at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital."

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health



Tyler Hoag gives Karen Kruger, Midwest Christian Montessori Academy director, a donation for the Bolingbrook Hospital Foundation. Students and staff presented the gift to hospital representatives on Sept. 14.

Local school children donate money to hospital

The Midwest Christian Montessori Academy celebrated its Sept. 14 ribbon cutting and open house with a donation

of \$451.80 to the Bolingbrook Hospital Foundation.

"The Lord commanded us to spread His word and serve others, so we teach our children to have loving hearts and giving hands," said Karen Kruger, academy director. "We've been blessed in so many ways that we want to go out and spread His love."

The school, already in existence, became nonprofit in March. Each Friday the students, who range in age from three to 15, bring pocket change to the school's praise and worship time. When the donation jar is full, they find a recipient for the money, usually one that offers assistance to children.

For this event Kruger wanted the money to benefit a local organization, so the children could view firsthand how

their money is helping. "We wanted them to actually see someone accepting the money," Kruger said.

The students' donations will benefit women's and children's services at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital. Specifically, the funds will be used to purchase children's programming on the hospital's existing Skylight ACCESSTM Interactive Patient System, a TV-based communication and entertainment system.

"We really appreciate the donation from these generous children," said Derek Cazeau, executive director of the Bolingbrook Hospital Foundation. "It is this type of generosity that helps our hospital fulfill its mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ."

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health



Students who are educated in the exemplary Teacher Preparation Program at Andrews University graduate with confidence they are a product of a top-notch institution.

Andrews Teacher Prep Program best in Michigan

For the second year in a row, the Andrews University Teacher Preparation Program has been declared an exemplary program and achieved the distinction of being the only institution out of 32 in the state of Michigan to receive a perfect 70/70 score.

Each year, the State of Michigan develops a report card for all Teacher Preparation colleges and universities in Michigan. “We are thrilled to have such a high quality program that it has scored above other larger, more well-known institutions,” says Lee Davidson, chair of the Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum.

Aaron Koleda, who teaches at the Village Adventist Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Mich., says, “I had no doubt that it was a quality program, yet it brings me a new level of confidence knowing I am a product of a top-notch institution.”

Using seven measures, or data points, the Office of Professional

Preparation Services and the State Board of Education assess how each institution has performed in preparing elementary and secondary teachers to educate students. These conditions include the passing rate on the Michigan Test of Teacher Certification (MTTC); graduating teacher satisfaction level; employer satisfaction survey of graduates and diversity of graduates, to name a few.

Five points out of the 70 recognize Andrews as ethnically and racially diverse. Jim Jeffery, dean of the Andrews University School of Education, says, “Interestingly enough, that is recognized as one of the seven data points and makes us stand out from several higher education peers who have little to no minority representation.”

Andrews received 30 out of the total 70 points for the scores students received on the MTTC, a test on the content of the major. “The success of the high marks for the MTTC is the result of a joint effort between the School of Education and the College of Arts & Sciences at Andrews,” says Jeffery.

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

Enrollment reaches a new high

A record-setting 2009–2010 school year is underway at Andrews University with numbers at historic levels and rankings that would make any school proud. Once again, Andrews has been named one of the “Best National Universities” for 2009, as reported in *U.S. News & World Report’s* “America’s Best Colleges 2010” issue.

U.S. News & World Report ranks Andrews University as the eighth most racially diverse national university and seventh among national universities in its percentage of international students. Of the more than 4,500

institutions of higher education in the United States, only 262 are recognized as national universities—schools that provide graduate programs in addition to undergraduate degrees. Andrews is the only Seventh-day Adventist institution included as a national university and one of eight national universities in Michigan.

The final fall census reports that 2009–2010 enrollment numbers for Andrews University are up. Currently, 3,589 students are enrolled—an increase of 170 students or five percent more than the previous high-enrollment school year. The undergraduate program continues to flourish with an enrollment of 1,816 students—the highest undergraduate enrollment since 1984. This number includes 377 FTIAC (First-Time-In-Any-College) students and 483 freshmen overall (the highest in more than a decade).

This year, 190 Adventist high school, other private school, international school, public school and home school students are represented among the freshmen population.

“I think our mission statement really crystallizes how several things work together for students who choose Andrews,” says Stephen Payne, vice president for Enrollment Management. “The **Seek Knowledge** part is obvious: that’s what most universities and colleges set out to do. But as an Adventist university—a Christian university—the component that we should also **Affirm Faith** works hand-in-hand with the learning process. In the end, we seek to **Change the World**, not on our own necessarily because that’s a tall order. But as students learn and have their faith deepened, all on a culturally diverse and spiritually active campus, they leave here ready to be led by God to change the world for Him.”

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

[EDUCATION NEWS]



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the newly-refurbished Peterson-Warren Academy library.

PWA Alumni Weekend marked by blessings

Lake Region—Once again, Peterson-Warren Academy (PWA) celebrated a spectacular Alumni Weekend Sept. 19. The weekend theme was “Almost There.”

As registration began on Sabbath morning at the academy, it was wonderful to see alumni who came from as far away as Florida and Kentucky for a gathering of classmates and old friends that has expanded for more than 45 years. This year the classes of ‘69, ‘79, ‘89 and ‘09 were recognized and honored by the Alumni Association as they led Sabbath services. The Alumni Association officers were pleased to see that this year’s attendance had an abundance of younger alumni not only in the crowd but participating in several aspects of the weekend program.

The Sabbath morning began with current PWA faculty members dressed in black, wearing their LRC (Lake Region Conference) faculty dress shirts and acting as ushers and greeters. Highlighting the morning program was the “Legion’s Award,” which were given by the Alumni Association to Sam and Barbara Dent of Community Church, Kathryn Shepherd of Ecorse Church, Britt Campbell and faculty mem-

ber, Pamela Bertram, of City Temple Church, for their dedication, commitment and continual service to Christian education during a 30-year span.

Contributing to the Divine Worship service with music and praise was the Peterson-Warren concert choir along with Justin Davis, pastor, and his worship and praise team from Andrews University leading out with adoration. At the heart of the service was the soul-stirring message presented by Phillip Willis Jr., a Major in the United States Army, and a PWA alum. He challenged the listeners to follow the will of God even if he/she is the only person standing. The appeal given was for those who wanted a closer walk with Christ and for the re-dedication of their lives. It was heart touching to see young and old make their way to the altar for prayer and thanksgiving.

Also highlighting the service was the grand presentation made by the Peterson-Warren Academy Endowment Association (PWEA). Once again, the association presented the school with a \$50,000 gift for technology and capital improvement. The PWEA committee, which includes Roy Laues, Kristen Laues, Brandon Dent, Charita Kelly, Albert Rodgers and Steven Barber, were also in attendance for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony of the newly-

refurbished library with Jerome Davis, Lake Region Conference president, and the Alumni Association president, Alice Dent.

The conclusion of the evening was the dynamic concert with more than 700 people in attendance, presented by world-renowned Jay Moss and *Virtue*. Adding to the night’s performance were singers Kristyn Joseph, Justin Davis and the *Deliverance Mass Choir* from Andrews University.

A few weeks after the event, PWA received a letter from one of its alumni who was greatly moved by the weekend events and wanted to do something special for the academy. Since he was aware the academy and the Alumni Association were raising funds to purchase another Promethean Smart Board for the Science Department, the donor sent a check for \$3,000 to add to the collected funds for the purchase of this particular project. The school now has four white boards! Praise God! The Promethean Smart Boards (each costs about \$4,600) can best be described as interactive boards used to enhance lessons to allow teachers/students to manipulate objects appearing on the white board.

Though alumni weekend only comes once a year, it has proven to be the most exciting weekend of the year. God has really blessed Peterson-Warren Academy with outstanding alumni.

Juanita Martin, Ed.D, principal, Peterson-Warren Academy



Phillip Willis Jr. delivers an appeal to the alumni audience.

Students learn about God's wonders

Michigan—Ruth Murdoch Elementary School (RMES) has seen a change in the appearance of their fifth grade students this year. They come to school clean and ready to learn. They leave school filthy, but with smiles on their faces. What's going on? Joel Bennett, RMES fifth grade teacher, has all the answers.

"The fifth grade is working on a simulation in which they are digging for fossil replicas that I have placed in two sites on our grounds," says Bennett. "The students are watching for layers of soil as well as keeping records of what they find and how they find it."

This is a science project where the students really get their hands dirty and learn about our Earth and our Creator. The group has dug about 2.5 feet down, and they're not showing signs of stopping. It's a lot of hard work, but the lessons learned are so worth all of the effort that the entire group has put into this project. Science, creation, hard work, record keeping, interpersonal skills and teamwork are all being taught.

Bennett continues, "The students are using hand shovels, buckets and



Ruth Murdoch Elementary School fifth graders are learning about their Creator through a paleontology dig on their campus. Their teacher, Joel Bennett, started the project last summer.

their hands to remove the soil. We have a few brushes to dust away the soil from the fossils to see them more clearly. We have set up little flags that mark off a grid. When a fossil is found, the students do not remove the fossil until they log which grid the fossil was found in, how deep it was in the dig (with a Jacob's Staff and a yard stick). The fossil is then bagged and numbered for later." Bennett planted 43 "fossils," and he plans to keep the project going until each one is found.

"We all are working together and having a great time," said Kinley Reed, RMES fifth grader. "Our dig is really interesting to me because we are all so outgoing, trying our very best to work it all out. ... It doesn't matter who comes in

first or last. ... Even if you come in last, God would be like, 'Good job! You are very good!'"

Cheers of excitement ring through the air as new fossil replicas are found. One student shouted, "I found a new layer of soil!" and classmates rushed over to the "site" where he made his discovery. When this project is done, another teamwork project begins—filling in those holes!

What a creative way to teach his students about the wonders our God has made! This is truly an experience that these kids will remember for a lifetime.

Wendy Keough, principal's assistant, Ruth Murdoch Elementary School



Several Indiana Academy staff members and Cicero Church members walk together to the girls dorm to pray during the prayer walk.

Church members join Indiana Academy prayer walk

Indiana—Indiana Academy (IA) is blessed with a strong, supportive church nearby whose members are actively engaged with the students and

staff. The Cicero Church's Academy Relations Committee plans several activities each year to let students know they care, including the popular "Prayer Warrior" program.

On Sabbath afternoon, Aug. 22, church members met with the IA staff and selected students to pilot a new event, "Campus Prayer Walk." Small groups walked to each department where they stopped to pray for the specific needs of that area. Groups specifically prayed for staff members' requests, including: loving service to students and parents, purity on campus, wisdom to guide when correction is needed and courage to follow in Christ's example. After the prayer walk, the group met in the cafeteria for an informal potluck supper.

Bill Hicks, IA principal, said, "It is a real blessing to have committed church members pray for Indiana Academy's success. We have a great student body this year, and we can feel God's presence on campus."

Allan Smith, marketing and recruitment director, Indiana Academy



Students who participated in the prayer walk pause to pray at one of the designated areas on the Indiana Academy campus.

Association of Adventist Colleges & Universities names first VP for marketing

Rob Weaver has been named the first vice president for marketing for the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities (AACU), a coalition of North American Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities. The 15 accredited colleges and universities who make up the association enroll, collectively, nearly 25,000 undergraduate and graduate students each year throughout the United States and Canada.

Weaver began work in this new position on Oct. 1.

Funding for the position comes from the North American Division of



Rob Weaver

Seventh-day Adventists and a gift from an anonymous donor.

Andrea Luxton, newly-elected president of AACU and president of Canadian University College in La-

combe, Alberta, announced Weaver's appointment to the newly created role.

"We are excited about Rob taking on this significant opportunity for our organization to expand our reach among Seventh-day Adventist young people throughout North America, especially for those who might not currently attend Adventist secondary schools. We believe that we can improve these students' awareness of what Adventist higher education has to offer, and improve their opportunities to better understand and, whenever possible, choose our colleges and universities," says Luxton.

Weaver most recently served as vice president for enrollment and student financial services at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. Prior to joining

the administration of Union College in 2004, Weaver worked within the marketing industry, including work as a vice president of marketing for American Direct Marketing in Dallas. He has also served as an associate professor and instructor in business and marketing, as well as owning and operating his own marketing firm. Weaver holds an MBA with a marketing emphasis from the University of Arkansas.

The vice president for marketing position for AACU grew out of efforts by AACU to better understand the group of Adventist students who attend public and other private high schools, which make up between one third and one half of all Adventist high school-aged students in the United States (the remaining students in this group attend one of nearly 100 Seventh-day Adventist high schools throughout North America).

AACU appointed a Joint Marketing Committee in 2004 composed of members of the Adventist Enrollment Association, a collaborative network of enrollment management professionals for the 15 institutions. This marketing committee facilitated nationwide focus group and survey research among students—which showed that often Adventist students in public schools knew little about their options in Adventist higher education and simply felt that Adventist colleges and universities were not effectively reaching out to them and talking to them about the choices they had.

This research led to the introduction, in 2005, of an annual national direct communication and marketing campaign targeted at these high school students, as well as the development of a central Web site and online application, adventistcolleges.org, for the Adventist colleges and universities which make up AACU.

Weaver had just completed a term as chair of the marketing committee at the time he was appointed to this position.

"I've already discovered firsthand how incredibly important this work is through my involvement in the Joint Marketing Committee," says Weaver.

"And I believe that by pooling our resources and creating this new position, the accredited Adventist colleges and universities of North America and the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists can do the important work of helping all of these prospective students and their families best understand the significant benefits that Adventist higher education offers them—benefits that are summarized in our campaign's theme: 'Faith, Friends, Future.' I'm also excited about the opportunities I'll have to continue to work with my colleagues throughout AACU and AEA to create a comprehensive, strategic marketing plan and help increase the number of Adventist students in public high schools who choose our Adventist colleges and universities for their higher education."

Overall, more than 100 additional Adventist students have enrolled at the various colleges and universities that make up AACU as a direct result of this communication and marketing campaign.

David Smith, outgoing president and chair of AACU and president of Union College, notes that "while we'll miss Rob's significant contributions to the work of Union College in enrollment and student financial services, I join with the rest of the Adventist Association of Colleges and Universities in being excited about the potential to more widely tell others about the benefits that an Adventist college education offers, especially to our Adventist students who attend public schools and who, as a result, may not readily hear about us. Rob has brought great strategy and strength to his work here at Union, and I look forward to the expanded strategy and strength he'll bring to this position as he focuses on it as a full-time assignment."

Stephen Payne, VP Enrollment Management and Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University, and Vinita Sauder, VP Marketing & Enrollment Services, Southern Adventist University, co-chairs, AACU VP for Marketing Search Committee

Students raise funds for radios in Africa

Indiana—Last spring the third- and fourth-grade class at Cicero Adventist Elementary School studied the parable of the talents, and they discovered the Master commended those who wisely improved their talents. The Cicero Adventist Church loaned the students \$20 each to invest for Jesus. The class worked diligently to raise funds for Adventist World Radio (AWR).

AWR brings the gospel to many places where it is dangerous or impossible for missionaries to tell the good news of Jesus. People in rural areas can be found gathered around a hut where the solar-powered shortwave radio becomes the means of sharing the gospel. The “new congregation” eventually sends out a representative to find someone from the Adventist church to teach them more and baptize the new converts.

The students selected their own projects and worked hard to raise the money, with some donating their own cash as well. The class counted out the pennies, dimes, dollars and added in the checks. They felt deep satisfaction to be able to send \$499.91 to AWR. Brenna Taitano commented, “When we were done, there was a ton of money! Praise the Lord!”

Luke Fogg said, “For Adventist World Radio, I made cake. They were

strawberry cakes. They were really good. I made \$40.”

“What I did [for] AWR was to help my neighbor wash windows, and I got \$40 for doing it,” shared Maci Morgan.

“AWR was a really fun thing to raise money for. I donated my own money, and then I asked for some other money from people. I was so happy when I got it. I would like to listen to AWR sometime,” remarked Chad Trubey.

Cody Peterson said, “I raised \$40, and I sold candy bars and it was fun. I did it for Jesus and the people who need it.”

Taylor Uphus and her mother made pumpkin rolls to sell. “When we were making pumpkin rolls, we started to run out of icing that went inside the pumpkin rolls. My mom and I prayed that Jesus would let us have enough. And guess what—we had enough! When it was time to turn the money in, my mom and I had made 34 pumpkin rolls.”

“My class and I are very blessed. We worked hard and God blessed us!” exclaimed Kara Shepard.

The class received a personal response from AWR president, Ben Schoun. He wrote, “I thank you for all your hard work in raising money to provide radios to people in Africa.” The students hope to soon meet in Heaven an African who tells them that he first heard the good news of Jesus over a radio they helped fund.



Collene Kelly challenged her third- and fourth-grade students at Cicero Adventist Elementary School to use their talents to bless others. With a \$20 loan per child from the Cicero Adventist Church, the students worked diligently to raise funds for Adventist World Radio.

Julie Kelly stated, “We all helped a good cause, and so can you.” If you would like to contribute to AWR, or learn more about their work, you can contact them at awr.org, or call 301-680-6304.

Collene Kelly, third- and fourth-grade teacher, Cicero Adventist Elementary School

Teacher Bulletin: A handy resource becomes even handier

Targeting a worldwide audience of Christian teachers and students, the Atlantic Union *Teacher Bulletin* is a creative and technical collaboration of uniquely Adventist pre-school through 12th-grade curriculum support material produced yearly under the direction of the Atlantic Union Conference Office

of Education. The North American Division Office of Education financially supports its production.

Established 28 years ago under the guidance of then director, Paul Kilgore, the *Teacher Bulletin* has been making its way into the hands of educators ever since. Originally, it was a fat packet of ideas and copy-ready worksheets, stories and bulletin board ideas delivered monthly to mailboxes. Teachers, new and experienced, looked forward to exploring that packet each month in much the same way one looks forward to the

next issue of a favorite magazine or the next episode of a favorite TV show—except this was a resource teachers could use over and over again.

“In the past,” says three-year writer Rebecca Fraker, a veteran teacher from Frontneac, New York, “I spent many hours assembling interdisciplinary theme units for my classroom. I’ve always taught in one-room schools, so I often could not reuse the material. It has been a dream come true to be able to share these units with other teachers and help prevent ‘burnout.’”

As technology advanced, under the directorship of Rosemary Tyrrell, the *Teacher Bulletin* format evolved from the paper version to a compact disk, then a DVD. There is no stagnation for the *Teacher Bulletin*. For the past two years, with Astrid Thomassian as director, the resource has been accessible on the Internet (www.teacherbulletin.org).

Martha Ban, who came on board in the early paper-version years, is now the coordinator of the project, overseeing the several months of post-production as well as keeping the eight to ten writers on task and on deadline. She is the driving force behind the inclusion of technology in the units. This enables teachers to integrate technology in the school curriculum—even though it is sometimes a challenge for the unit writers. Now, instead of hand-drawing crossword puzzles and word searches, teachers are asked to create Podcasts, Webquests, PowerPoint presentations and videos to enhance the content of their “pack-up-and-go” units, many of which are also interdisciplinary.

What makes the *Teacher Bulletin* invaluable as a resource is all of the energy and passion that each teacher pours into his or her work. But few have the time to create one great new unit a year, let alone a dozen in a variety of subject and content areas. Making use of these project-oriented lessons enhances the already rigorous North American Division curriculum and provides substitute teachers with content-rich material far above what ordinarily serves as substitute lesson planning. Administrators, too, benefit from the material provided since there are classroom tips, stories, plays, forms, worship talks, multimedia presentations and Internet resources with an administrative slant included in each edition. Laura Mayne, Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School principal, says “The *Teacher Bulletin* helps to keep me informed. It also provides valuable resources for teachers without them having to reinvent the wheel.”

Teachers feel privileged to be part of the yearly project. “Words are very



Ena Richards, retired Jamaica school principal, and Karma Roberts, R.T. Hudson school teacher, work on an early childhood education unit for *Teacher Bulletin*.

Editor A.P. Davison

powerful, whether they are spoken or written,” muses Pauline Evans, teacher, Brooklyn Temple school. “I am honored to be a team member for *Teacher Bulletin*, where I get to use words to share my classroom experience and expertise with fellow teachers. *Teacher Bulletin* allows me to explore my desire to be a writer.” Other teachers, like Laura Smith Kryger from the Lincoln school in Lincoln, Rhode Island, find that working in a quiet room with colleagues is “a joy.” Karma Roberts, of the R.T. Hudson School in the Bronx, talked of the rewards of the hard work. “To know that teachers all over the country and world may be able to ease their teaching burden because of the work we did is priceless.”

Five of the ten committee members worked last summer under the guidance of Christine Byrne to produce the very first early childhood units to be published in the *Teacher Bulletin*. “For the first time in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a curriculum was developed for young children who have not yet entered the formal educational system,” says Byrne, coordinator for Early Childhood Education and Care in the Pacific Union Conference. “Because a child’s education begins at birth, the purpose of this early childhood curriculum is to introduce the young child to Jesus Christ using a Bible-based, research-backed, interdisciplinary set

of purposeful learning experiences. For more than 20 years, parents of young children, homeschooling families and Adventist early childhood professionals have dreamed of just such a curriculum. Now, the collaborative efforts of the Pacific Union Conference and the Atlantic Union Conference have made this dream a reality. And this is just the beginning!”

“Over the years,” says Ban, “the *Teacher Bulletin* has changed in appearance, but certainly not in quality. As the writers strive to keep current with education trends and include cutting-edge methods and technologies, the mission has stayed the same—‘Presenting classroom teachers with creative and resourceful ideas that integrate Christian principles.’”

Rondi Aastrup, principal, Greater Boston Academy, and member, *Teacher Bulletin* Committee

To inquire about the *Teacher Bulletin*, contact Martha Ban at mban@me.com.



Pauline Evans (left), Brooklyn Temple school teacher, and Laura Mayne, Brooklyn school principal, work on the monthly magazine.

Editor A.P. Davison



James Black, NAD youth and young adult ministries director, challenged each youth leader to “stop trying to think outside the box, because it is simply way too hard for some people to do that. Just open the lid so you can get exposed to new ideas.”

[YOUTH NEWS]

Youth leaders challenged at ‘Re-Charge’

Illinois and Lake Region—On Sept. 11 we remembered a tragedy that occurred eight years ago that shocked the world and ripped our nation. People were torn from their family and friends in a blink of an eye, and yet today we still feel the aftermath of these attacks. Sept. 11 will also be remembered as a date where the Lake Region and Illinois Conferences, under the leadership of their youth ministries directors, Ralph Shelton and Art Preuss, partnered with the North American Division (NAD) Youth and Young Adult Ministries’ Innovation Leadership Training to establish an event where youth leaders could network amongst themselves and learn from some of the best youth ministry specialists in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, in an event called “Re-Charge.”

The weekend began with a devotional from Manny Cruz, a pastor and the NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries associate youth direc-

tor. Cruz challenged each leader to remember to be joyful always, for we have a great God who will provide for all of our needs not just personally, but also in ministry. Following the devotional Pathfinder, Adventurer and youth leaders separated into their respective seminars where Charmaine Matthews (Lake Region Conference Adventurer coordinator) and Diane Baker (Lake Region Conference Pathfinder coordinator), Jason McCracken (admissions director from Oakwood University) and Steve Case (founder and coordinator of Involve Youth Ministries) presented tools and ideas for Adventurer, Pathfinder and youth ministries leaders, respectively.

Sabbath began with a season of prayer for the youth of our church and for the success in reaching our youth in future events to come. This was followed by more workshops. James Black, NAD youth and young adult ministries director, challenged each youth leader to “stop trying to think outside the box, because it is simply way too hard for some people to do that. Just open the lid so you can get exposed to new ideas.”

The afternoon program was kicked off with a question and answer time

where each youth leader was given the opportunity to ask questions to a panel of youth ministries professionals—Black, Cruz, Case, Preuss and José Bourget, Illinois Conference associate youth director for young adult ministries. Questions varied from “How do I react around my peers since I’m young and yet be their leader?” to “How do I get my youth interested in the writings of Ellen White?” This session proved to be a highlight of the weekend. Two more workshop sessions followed the question and answer time.

At the conclusion of the program, Black challenged everyone to go back to their local church and make a stronger impact on their young people by putting into practice what they had seen.

With more than 200 youth leaders in attendance from Kentucky, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Georgia, the weekend will be remembered for the inspiring and encouraging event that took place at Hinsdale Adventist Academy.

Glenn Hill, communication director, Illinois Conference, as shared by Artur Preuss, youth ministries director, Illinois Conference



Charmaine Matthews, Lake Region Conference Adventurer coordinator, trains Adventurer leaders at the conference.



Manny Cruz gives prizes to participants at the youth ministries training event, “Re-Charge.”



WV Yearbook Staff

The Student Association at Wisconsin Academy hosted an American Red Cross blood drive on campus in September. Amy Miller was among the students and community members who donated 41 units of blood to give life to others.

Students give blood, give life

Wisconsin—On Sept. 15, the Wisconsin Academy Student Association hosted the American Red Cross blood drive. Students who were at least 16 years old were able to donate, and many were eager to become involved. “I gave blood because it’s a good way to help people, and I like helping people,” said Evan Ross.

People came from the local church, some as new donors and others as repeat donors. Posters went up around the city of Columbus inviting the public to come and participate in the blood drive. There were people who came on campus for this event who had never visited the campus before.

Student leaders greeted and registered all participants. Others provided water and assisted during the donation process. A canteen was hosted by other student leaders who provided nourishment and support for donors who had just offered a gift of life to unknown recipients. Naomi Hatcher exclaimed, “I wanted the opportunity to help save lives. I made a difference!”

Throughout the day 41 units of blood were given. Because each donation can help up to three individuals, these pints of blood represent 123 people who were given the gift of life. “I had to try giving. I’d do it again!” remarked Kyle Thompson.

“Even though it hurts a little, it is worth it because you can help so many people,” stated Angelina Serna.

Many of the donors gave blood for the first time. All believed they were offering a gift of life to someone unknown to them. “I wanted to be the hero and save lives!” recalled Jenine Maquera.

Matthew 7:12 says, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” Jesus instructed us to think of others. The students at Wisconsin Academy want to do good things for others. This is the first donation for this year. On Feb. 8 we will celebrate Valentine’s Day a little early and again give the gift of love and life.

Lois Bowers, director of development,
Wisconsin Academy.

To donate blood in your area, please visit the Red Cross Web site, giveblood.givelife.org. To contact Wisconsin Academy, visit www.wiscacad.org or call 920-623-3300.

[WOMEN’S NEWS]

God pieced together the puzzle ahead of time

Indiana—Jane Brackett hadn’t been to church all summer. One day she received a card in the mail from a dear member of the Lewis Church saying that she was missed. It got Brackett to thinking about how she missed church, and it inspired her to pay a visit to one of her friends from the church who she hadn’t talked with in awhile. They had a good visit and talked about many things, including the upcoming women’s ministries retreat. The friend asked Brackett if she was planning to attend. Brackett responded, “No, I don’t have any money.”

The friend left the room and returned with a check for \$300, saying, “I can’t go with you, but find a friend and go!”

Brackett works at a nursing home and is off only one weekend a month,



Linda Reece

From left: Jane Brackett and Nancy Klump, members of the Lewis Church, believe it wasn’t a coincidence they were available to attend the Indiana Conference women’s ministries retreat. They are thankful God worked out all the details ahead of time.

and she must request the weekend she wants off a full month in advance. Brackett checked her calendar; the weekend in September she had chosen to be off was the very same weekend as the Indiana Conference women’s ministries fall retreat, so Brackett was free to go. Right away, she phoned Nancy Klump, a friend who hadn’t been to church in a very long time, and invited her to go to the retreat, too. Klump also works weekends; but she, too, “happened” to have that weekend off.

While still at the retreat, Brackett wrote a note to the Lord, thanking Him for making the weekend possible for her and her friend. She believed that God put all the pieces of the puzzle together and that He worked it all out ahead of time.

Brackett says the weekend retreat was such a blessing to her and her friend. Now, each payday she plans to put a little money in an envelope for next year’s retreat. Brackett’s goal is to not only have enough saved for her own registration fee, but also some extra to make it possible for someone else to go and be blessed. Brackett is also starting to reach out to other absent members to let them know they are missed. One member reported what an inspiration Brackett has been. Who knows what will eventually happen as a result? Only God knows, as He puts the pieces together in yet another puzzle.

Judith Yeoman, correspondent, Indiana Conference, as shared by Linda Reece, women’s ministries committee member; Jane Brackett, member, Lewis Church; and Tammy Begley, women’s ministries director

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



Zbigniew Makarewicz, pastor, who serves as the secretary of the Eastern Polish Conference, was the speaker for recent meetings at the Polish Church in Chicago. His series entitled, "The DaVinci Code," was attended by 35 community guests.

Polish congregation reaches out to Chicago

Illinois—As part of their participation in the Year of Evangelism, the Polish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chicago decided to approach the Polish-speaking population of the Windy City in a new way. In response to the recent release of the movie,

"Angels and Demons," based on Dan Brown's novel, the church conducted a series of evangelistic lectures entitled "The DaVinci Code." The lectures, conducted May 17–22, were attended by 35 community guests.

The success of the series inspired the Polish Church members to organize four additional lectures dealing with biblical prophecy. The second series was entitled "The Bible's Prophetic Code." Both programs were attended

by more than 45 people. Presenting both series was Zbigniew Makarewicz, pastor, who serves as the secretary of the Eastern Polish Conference.

The Polish Church in Chicago is the only Polish-speaking congregation in North America. Its 60 members are highly enthusiastic about reaching out to the greatest Polish population outside of Poland. The programs presented by Makarewicz were among many conducted in recent years by the church. The church is pastored by Arek Bojko, who is employed by the Illinois Conference.

Arkadiusz Bojkosz Bojko, member, Polish Church-Chicago



The recent programs presented by Zbigniew Makarewicz were among many conducted in recent years by the church to reach their community.

Photos by Arkadiusz Bojko

[NAD NEWS]

Pacific Press launches site for 50+ age group

With the final issue of *Renewed & Ready* in the mail in September, Pacific Press® announced the launch of www.RenewedAndReady.com, a new Web site targeted to engage the 50+ age group.

For the past two-and-a-half years, *Renewed & Ready* enjoyed a readership that included 20,000 households across North America. With industry trends moving away from print to electronic formatting, Pacific Press® recognized the need to explore new options in its endeavor to remain connected to its customers in a rapidly changing world where electronic communication is becoming increasingly important.

Ginger Mostert Church, *Renewed & Ready* editor, will continue as editor of RenewedAndReady.com. "Winston Churchill said, 'Change is the essence of life.' I like that!" Church commented. "It's a call to experience life as an adventure. A call to grasp the opportunity to stretch and grow; to learn and share something new with others."

RenewedAndReady.com features many of the same columns that were a favorite part of the *Renewed & Ready* print magazine. In addition, the Web site gives visitors the chance to add content and provides forums for discussion.

"One of our aims in developing RenewedAndReady.com," said Dale Galusha, Pacific Press® president, "is to meet our readers wherever they are. By creating an online community where friends and fellow believers can get together to strengthen and encourage one another, we hope to establish

and maintain a dynamic connecting point with an important segment of our constituency."

If you are ready for a new experience, we invite you to pursue the adventure, join the conversation and find community. Visit us at www.RenewedAndReady.com.

Karen Pearson, director of publicity, Pacific Press Publishing Association





Tim Pitt

A total of 140 Seventh-day Adventist communicators converged in Newport Beach, Calif., in October, to exchange ideas, celebrate successes and brainstorm strategies for improvement.

Adventist communicators celebrate a year of excellence

Collaboration. Creativity. Inspiration. This year's Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) Convention delivered all of this and more. Newport Beach, Calif., proved to be an inspiring backdrop for the 20th annual conference. A total of 140 communicators from across the country joined together to exchange ideas, celebrate successes and brainstorm strategies for improvement.

After mingling with welcomed newcomers and longstanding veterans at the open reception, attendees gathered for the Thursday night program. The Communications Showcase featured exciting new projects, highlighting the Voice of Prophecy and the Hope Channel. The business meeting covered numerous agenda items, including the nomination and voting of new board members and SAC president. Steve Vistaunet, assistant to the president for the North Pacific Union Conference, will be replacing Celeste Ryan Blyden, assistant to the Columbia Union Conference president and *Visitor*

editor, who dutifully served as SAC president for the past two years.

The evening closed with the SON-screen Film Screening, highlighting young adults who effectively use film and video to encourage social consciousness, inspire action and celebrate creative entertainment.

Keynote speaker Ryan Bell, pastor of the Hollywood (Calif.) Church, and young adults from his congregation blessed Friday morning attendees by sharing their inspirational—and artistic—approach to ministry. The morning address opened minds to the importance of artists, filmmakers, writers and actors serving the Lord.

The remainder of the day was spent in breakout sessions addressing the diverse needs faced by communicators. Award-winning filmmaker Martin Doblmeier closed the evening with a moving presentation of his film, "The Power of Forgiveness." Clips of his upcoming film, "The Adventists," was also shown. The production focuses on Seventh-day Adventist's unique approach to the interconnected relationship between faith and science and is scheduled for release December 2009.

Blessings continued pouring Sabbath morning with a touching testimonial from Christian Jordan, associate

pastor of the Campus Hill Church in Loma Linda, Calif. Campus Hill senior pastor, Hyveth Williams, DMin, presented the morning's sermon. Her prolific rendering reinvigorated and charged the congregation as she urged worshippers to serve and praise the Lord "excellently."

The evening's award banquet and farewell was drenched in humor by the program's guest emcee, Jimmy Phillips, including the surprising performance of *The Three Waiters*. However, the heart of the evening was focused on celebrating efforts of high-reaching and high-achieving individuals and teams. Roland Scalliet from Southern Adventist University won the Student Award; Jessica Lozano from Southwestern Adventist University won the Young Professional Award; the 2008 Offering Campaign for Adventist World Radio was awarded the Excellence Award; the Southeastern California Conference Web site redesign was awarded the Reger Smith Jr. Cutting Edge Award; Daniel "Don" A. Roth received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Communicators left rejuvenated, inspired and revved to fulfill this year's theme: "Ride the Wave of Communication Excellence." Save this future information: Oct. 14–16, 2010, Rochester, N.Y., for the next SAC convention. For more information about SAC, visit adventistcommunicator.org.

Julie Zaiback, communications specialist,
Adventist Health System



Gerry Chudleigh

The awards banquet focused on celebrating efforts of high-reaching and high-achieving individuals and teams. Winners included (from left): Don A. Roth (Lifetime Achievement Award), Jessica Lozano (Young Professional Award), Shelley Noland Freesland (Excellence Award), Jocelyn Fay and Enno Müller (Reger Smith Jr. Cutting Edge Award)

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



Marian and John Mendel celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 27, 2009, by an open house with family and friends at their home in Berrien Springs, Mich. There was also a special re-dedication service at the Chikaming Church in Sawyer, Mich. They have been members of the Chickaming Church for 20 years.

John Mendel and Marian Spohr were married Sept. 25, 1949, in Western Springs, Ill., by Pastor Halvard J. Thomsen. John has been a teacher in high school and elementary schools in Mich., Pa., Tenn. and Ind. He is retired from teaching and currently does health care at home with three clients. Marian has been a secretary and is presently administrative assistant for the Gilead Elder Care adult foster care homes.

The Mendel family includes Michelle and Winston Nwoke of Berrien Springs; Leanne and Micheal Sauers of Indianapolis, Ind.; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

CASE, Beulah E. (Campbell), age 85; born Apr. 10, 1924, in Alma, Mich.; died Sept. 21, 2009, in Alma. She was a member of the Twin Cities Church, Alma.

Survivors include her husband, Walter; sons, Gary, Dennis and Michael; daughter, Nancy Smith; sister, Zelma Kress; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Oscar Montes, and interment was in Chapel Garden Cemetery, Seville Twp., Mich.

CLARK, Gary C., age 67; born Nov. 23, 1941, in Saginaw, Mich.; died June 9, 2009, in Birch Run, Mich. He was a member of the Center Road-Saginaw Church.

Survivors include his wife, Donna M.

(Dyer); son, Craig; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Robert C. Quillin, and interment was in Cook Cemetery, Birch Run.

CLAUSEN, Eunice E. (Nicholas), age 88; born Jan. 5, 1921, in Gladstone, Mich.; died Apr. 6, 2009, in Eastpointe, Mich. She was a member of the Riverside Church, Rapid River, Mich.

Survivors include her sons, Leon, Loren and Dennis; daughters, Judith Anderson and Polly Osborne; brother, Robert Nicholas; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Brandon Korter and Nathan Stearman, and interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Rapid River.

FLOYD, Charlie F., age 82; born Jan. 6, 1927, in Owen Cty., Ky.; died Aug. 1, 2009, in Louisville, Ky. He was a member of the Madison (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret L. (Meleen); son, James E.; stepsons, Kenneth and Charles Lee; daughter, Susan Watson; foster child, Andrew Shavers; brothers, Russell C. and Earl E.; sisters, Susie M. Ethington and Jeanette L. Trusty; nine grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and 10 step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors David Wright and Lin Powell, and interment was in Grandview Cemetery, Madison.

GUSTAFSON, Arthur, age 84; born Nov. 15, 1924, in Muskegon, Mich.; died May 9, 2009, in Muskegon. He was a member of the Muskegon Church.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia (Smith) Pettit; sons, Glenn and Bruce; daughters, Mary Schlattman and Kay LeMieux; brother, Floyd; sisters, Audrey Gustafson and Katherine Andree; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ryan Counsell, and interment was in Sullivan (Mich.) Cemetery.

HARE, Leonard N., age 87; born Dec. 5, 1921, in Rangoon, Burma; died July 25, 2009, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs. Leonard was professor in the Biology department of Andrews University from 1961 to 1986.

Survivors include his wife, Esther (Borrowdale); and daughter, Penny Tkachuck.

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

HEIDTKE, Dorothy E. (Cushing), age 87; born Nov. 25, 1921, in Boston, Mass.; died Aug. 29, 2009, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her husband, Harold; brother, Arthur A. Cushing; and sisters, Nell MacDougal and Carol Hekowczyk.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Dwight K. Nelson, Esther Knott and Arne Swanson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

HINES, Paul, age 77; born Nov. 24, 1930, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died June 11, 2008, in Indianapolis. He was a member of the Indianapolis Southside Church.

Survivors include his wife, Freda L. (Whitlow); son, John A.; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Brian Yensho, and interment was in Cadiz (Ind.) Cemetery.

HOFFMAN, Arnold, age 92; born Mar. 9, 1917, in Foster Cty., N.D.; died Aug. 6, 2009, in Stewardson, Ill. He was a member of the Mattoon (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mabel C. (Lehmann); sons, Norman and Kimber; daughter, Babara Figgins; sister, Emma Hegney; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Steve Nelson and Elder Joe Arner, with private inurnment.

MICHALENKO, Don J., age 63; born Nov. 4, 1943, in Marshfield, Wis.; died June 11, 2007, in Hendersonville, Tenn. He was a member of the Bethel (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn L. (Johnson); son, Kevin E.; daughter, Tamara R. Terry; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Lynn Schlisner, and interment was in Hendersonville Memory Gardens & Funeral Home Cemetery.

MOLL, Harold, age 95; born Apr. 2, 1914, in Wayne Cty., Mich.; died Sept. 7, 2009, in Midland, Mich. He was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include his wife, Grethel (Dunlap); sons, Norman and David; daughter, Nancy Larmer; brother, James; sister, Gladys Benfield; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Darryl Bentley, and interment was in Homer Twp. (Mich.) Cemetery.

MOTLEY, Claudine, age 81; born Sept. 7, 1927, in Chicago Heights, Ill.; died Aug. 24, 2009, in Milwaukee, Wis. She was a member of the Sharon Church, Milwaukee.

Survivors include her son, Claudiare; daughters, Starlette Tucker, Patricia Latiker, Carlotta Jagers and Charissia Smith; brother, Jesse Rankin; 14 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Paul Foster, and interment was in Graceland Cemetery, Milwaukee.

NOODEL, Adin C., age 78; born May 8, 1931, in West Bloomfield, Mich.; died Aug. 26, 2009, in Dade City, Mich. He was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Joan A. (Riggs); son, Paul; daughters, Sandra Noodel and Shelley Betts; father, Howard; mother, Ruth (Bailey); brothers, Paul and Earl; sisters, Phyllis Rumph and Esther Noodel; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

No services were held, with private inurnment.

SQUIRE, Leonard G., age 90; born June 19, 1919, in Burke, Wis.; died Sept. 4, 2009, in Madison, Wis. He was a member of the Madison Church.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn (Young); sons, Stanley, Rodney, Timothy and Roy; brother, Don; sister, Bertha Duckert; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor William J. Ochs, and interment was in Roselawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Madison.

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$32 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$43 per insertion for all others. A form is available at www.LakeUnionHerald.org for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at www.LakeUnionHerald.org.

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Employment

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a qualified individual to join the faculty of our Communication department. Must have a broad spectrum of communication skills with a minimum of a master's in communication or related degree. Two years teaching experience preferred. Interested candidates ap-

ply at http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a new Provost. The preferred candidate should hold an earned doctoral degree and have experience in mobilizing and leading a diverse structure to demonstrated levels of achievement. The successful candidate will have significant academic/management experience in diverse institutions of higher learning. This candidate will also possess academic vision, problem solving skills, collaborative style, strong interpersonal skills and an ability to champion positive change. Andrews University encourages applicants with diverse backgrounds to apply at http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

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WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is seeking a Dean of the School of Business to serve as strategic academic leader with a zeal for enriching the lives of students academically and spiritually. Terminal degree required. Previous teaching experience strongly preferred. To learn more about this opportunity and to apply, visit our Web site at <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

UNION COLLEGE seeks a professor of European history, effective Fall 2010. Preferred applicants hold or expect to complete a doctorate in some aspect of European historical studies or a closely related discipline. For more information, contact Michelle Velazquez Mesnard, Humanities Division Chair, at mimesnard@ucollege.edu.

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School Notes

BY KARA KERBS

In academy, Coach Reichert attempted to teach us to play all the major sports, including football. The day he explained the rules of football, they were all Greek to me. I developed my survival tactic—run among the crowd and when I see the ball coming, run the other way fast!

My plan worked! For a few days... Then one day there was a problem. We were all running around when suddenly I saw the ball coming straight toward me. There wasn't time to run away! I had no choice but to catch the ball! I wanted to get out of that mess, so I threw the ball to the next person I saw on my team.

Suddenly, both teams stopped running and everyone stood still! I didn't know what happened. Slowly, Coach Reichert walked near me

and smiled as he kindly said, "I've never seen anyone do that before!" After a few moments the game went on, but my problem was miraculously solved—no one ever threw the football to me again!

Sometimes we play by our own rules or are ignorant of the rules, which makes life pretty confusing. I never did really understand the flag football rules, but I learned more important rules for life while in academy and from my family—rules like, "I am here to serve others and help them find Jesus and the truth in the Bible" and "Having a personal relationship with Jesus is the most important thing."

Kara Kerbs graduated from Andrews Academy in 1995. She is the girls dean at Indiana Academy in Cicero, Indiana.

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Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World.



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. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at www.LakeUnionHerald.org.

Andrews University

Howard Performing Arts Center Events:

For more information about these events, call 269-471-3560.

Sat., Jan. 30, 2010: Jaci Velasquez

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

Sat., Mar. 6, 2010: Chi YoungYun, piano

Indiana

Teen Caving Weekend '09: Join with other teens to enjoy a weekend of spelunking/exploring the wonderful world underneath southern Indiana! For details on this **Dec. 11-13** event, go to www.trcamp.org, or call Trisha Thompson at the Indiana Conference youth department: 317-844-6201.

Concert of Carols: Dec. 12 is your opportunity to hear the beautiful music of the Christmas season at the Indiana Academy music department's annual Christmas concert. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Indiana Academy chapel in Cicero.

Prayer Conference/Retreat with guest speaker Dan Augsburger is **Jan. 8-9, 2010**, at Timber Ridge Camp. Attendees will come away with a comprehensive understanding of what is possible through prayer. In addition to speaking around the world, Augsburger teaches The History of Biblical Spirituality at Andrews University Theological Seminary. To register, contact Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201.

Winter Ski Fest: Enjoy two days of great skiing plus a special Sabbath filled with spiritual activities, good food and praise music. It all takes place **Jan. 21-24, 2010**. Go to www.trcamp.org to see the complete schedule and to download your registration and consent forms. Or you may call Trisha Thompson at the Indiana Conference youth department: 317-844-6201.

Glendale Youth Sports: Every Sunday morning from 10:30 to noon during the months of **January and February 2010**, children are invited to participate in a program designed to teach not only basketball but sportsmanship, team work and encouragement as well. At the beginning of each session, a devotional thought will be presented. Following prayer, the young people will be instructed on the rules and techniques of basketball and then divided into teams to play a full court game. Multiple dads will help out each week. At the end of the season, trophies and T-shirts will be given to the participants. For details, e-mail or phone Greg Taylor, Glendale youth pastor: gregtaylor9@gmail.com or 317-225-5021.

Coronary Health Improvement Project

(CHIP) Coming to South Bend beginning

Feb. 7 and meeting three evenings each week **until Mar. 11, 2010**. The seminar will be held at the South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1936 E. Altgeld. Please call the church office at 574-234-3044 for more information or if you would like to schedule a FREE one-hour information session for your group or organization. The *CHIP* program is designed to substantially lower high levels of blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, heartburn, angina and lessen depression. This world-class program has been conducted in hospitals, corporations and churches throughout North America. Thousands have been helped. You can be one of them because *CHIP* is coming to your community!

Lake Union

Offerings

Dec 5 Local Church Budget

Dec 12 Inner City

Dec 19 Local Church Budget

Dec 26 Local Conference Advance

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

Dec 26 South Pacific Division

Special Days

Dec 5 Bible Sabbath

North American Division

Third Annual Adventist Health Systems

CEO Reunion, Jan. 29-30, 2010, in Avon Park, Fla. For more information, contact Bill Sager at 863-452-2593 or e-mail wcsager@tnni.net; Tom Amos at 863-452-1979 or e-mail damos@gmail.com; or Jim Culpepper at 615-415-1925.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Conference Men's Conference

will be held **Jan. 15-17, 2010**, at Camp Wakonda in Westfield, Wis. Guest speaker will be Lee Venden. Early Bird rate is \$70; after Dec. 31, rate is \$90. For more information, call 920-484-6555, ext. 303, or e-mail cdriver@wi.adventist.org.



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Sunset Calendar

	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25	Jan 1	Jan 8
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:15	5:14	5:16	5:19	5:24	5:31
Chicago, Ill.	4:20	4:20	4:21	4:25	4:29	4:35
Detroit, Mich.	5:01	5:00	5:01	5:04	5:09	5:16
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:20	5:20	5:22	5:25	5:30	5:36
La Crosse, Wis.	4:28	4:28	4:29	4:32	4:37	4:44
Lansing, Mich.	5:05	5:04	5:06	5:09	5:14	5:20
Madison, Wis.	4:23	4:23	4:24	4:27	4:32	4:38
Springfield, Ill.	4:34	4:34	4:35	4:39	4:44	4:50

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ONE VOICE
Step Up to the Microphone

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

A Place for Giftedness

BY GARY BURNS



I have been reading through the Old Testament again and am impressed with how God gifted His people to accomplish His purpose. Read Exodus 31 and 35 where God says He chose Bezalel, filled him with the Spirit of God and gave him skill to make artistic designs for the building of the temple. Or read the list of names of the musicians in 1 Chronicles 6 whom David put in charge of the music in the house of the Lord.

I find it interesting that in 1 Chronicles 9:33 it says that the musicians were full-time employees and lived in rooms of the temple. In 1 Chronicles 25, David set apart musicians for the ministry of prophesying. In 2 Chronicles 23, the singers were the leaders in the service of praise. During the reform of Ezra and Nehemiah, one of the first things that was done after rebuilding was to employ the singers who are specifically mentioned 21 times.

Art, music and design played a very important role in the Hebrew community and were an integral part of the worship experience. Much attention was given to it, many people were employed for its service, and many resources were allocated for its production. I wonder how important it was for these full-time artists to be excellent in their service to God.

Arguably, one of the best guitarists in the world is Phil Keaggy. Following a presentation he made at a conference I attended, he gave my son, Tyler, one of his picks. Printed on the pick was "PS 33:3." I looked it up—"play skillfully."

If you are an artist or a musician, develop your skill to its fullest potential in service to the Lord. For the rest of us, let's partner with God to employ His servants in ministry. I think that was His plan.

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

My Refining Fire

BY ADAM SAWYER

Gunshots fired! Music blasting! Words cannot express the deepest feelings of anxiety and stress that a young child must endure. A broken home, a busted family—the trials seemed to be insurmountable, and my mental state slowly began to break down. My mother’s mental collapse led to my adoption by my grandmother; and when life seemed as if it had lashed out every unimaginable tribulation, my father passed away. Life was slowly starting to devour me; and as the world would joke, my life seemed to be the punch line.

Being adopted saved my life. I am almost sure I would never have become a Christian. Due to the violence and insubordination taught me by the inner city streets, I am almost certain that I would have become someone who would have been no benefit to society. The turn of events that were to come presented even more struggles.

Racism! Growing up in the Michigan countryside was very difficult when you are the only minority. Life seemed to get better with fresh air and green grass, but racism was so heavily accepted as the norm that no one thought wrong of its perversion. Besides racism, there were other problems in public schools. The greatest issues were Sabbath conflicts—from sports to tests, and the worst was music! I participated in band, choir, piano and music theory classes. The many missed recitals, rehearsals and performances led to the termination of my opportunity to pursue musical classes at school. This saddened me greatly.

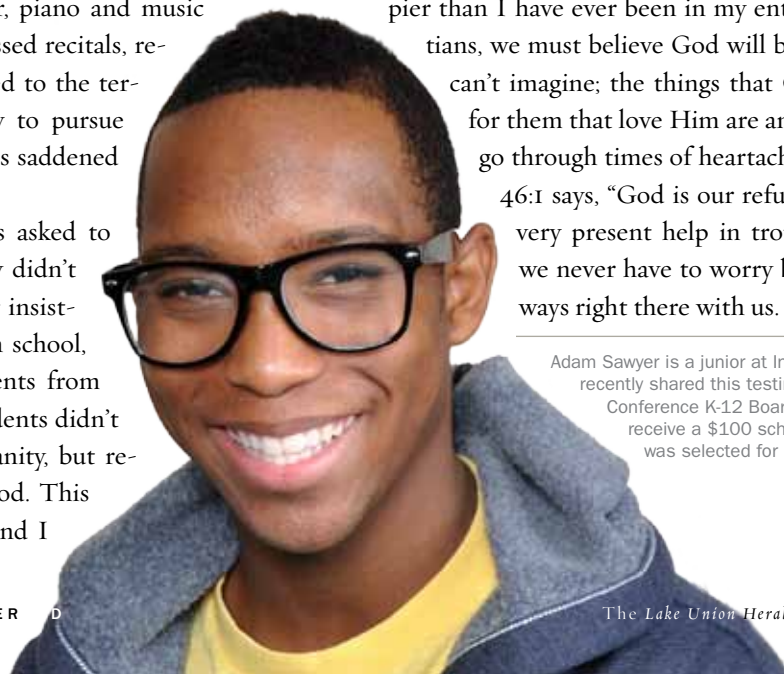
In February 2009, I was asked to give a youth sermon. I really didn’t want to go. My grandmother insisted, and I agreed. At Sabbath school, I met two remarkable students from Indiana Academy. These students didn’t care about materialism or vanity, but really cared about living for God. This astonished me to disbelief, and I

deliberated whether I should attend their school.

In April, my grandmother asked whether I was still interested in going to Indiana Academy. I said, “Most definitely.” My grandmother looked into the school, and it was very expensive. I feared I couldn’t attend and worried myself greatly before I even thought to pray. When the thought entered my mind, I immediately knelt down and spoke with God. Afterward, I realized I didn’t have to worry because God always provides for His children and gives what He knows will be beneficial to us.

God provided, and I currently attend Indiana Academy where I can further my relationship with God while receiving a great education. God is awesome! I am happier than I have ever been in my entire life. As Christians, we must believe God will bless us in ways we can’t imagine; the things that God has prepared for them that love Him are amazing. When you go through times of heartache and pain, Psalm 46:1 says, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Remember, we never have to worry because God is always right there with us.

Adam Sawyer is a junior at Indiana Academy. He recently shared this testimony with the Indiana Conference K-12 Board of Education. He will receive a \$100 scholarship since his story was selected for publication.



Allen Smith

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Brittany S. King, 16, is the daughter of Lorna and Colin King. She lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and is a member of the Ypsilanti Church and a junior at Washtenaw Christian Academy.



Brittany King

While at Washtenaw Christian Academy, Brittany has been active in cheerleading, basketball and volleyball, and has given chapel presentations. Her favorite class is Psychology, because she enjoys learning about the mind and what influences behavior. Although her school is a Christian school, she still witnesses to friends, sharing the unique Adventist beliefs.

Brittany is described by church leaders as energetic and outgoing. She is a greeter, junior deacon, Pathfinder, a member of the Praise Team and the elite drama club. She especially loves being a greeter, because she likes to meet new people and sees the role as good experience to learn how to respond to people. Brittany's Sabbath school teacher, Catherine Wright, finds her to be goal-oriented and eager to know more about what it means to have a relationship with Jesus. Youth pastor Michael Bellamy says, "Brittany is very smart and a vital member of our prayer café team and tutoring program, helping the kids in our community."

Brittany wants to be a psychiatrist and plans to attend a Seventh-day Adventist college.



Dexter Matthews

Dexter A. Matthews, 17, is a senior at Morgan Park High School in Chicago, Illinois. He is in the prestigious International Baccalaureate Program. It is not unusual to see him carry a Bible at Morgan Park or pray for a sick friend.

A Hyde Park Church member, Dexter has many opportunities to share his love for Jesus with others. He has acted in, directed and written plays in a youth drama club, which were presented in churches of various denominations and secular universities. Dexter shows Christ's love through fellowship and good sportsmanship with young men his age, many of whom are not Adventists, as a member of the church's basketball team.

In Pathfinders, Dexter participates in mission trips and shows Christ-like love by meeting the needs of others. In Virginia, the club provided fellowship and assistance to developmentally delayed children. In Michigan, they helped a senior citizen clean her home. In Illinois, they painted a house. Under his direction, the four-person Fancy Drill Team won a first place award at the 2009 Courage to Stand International Camporee.

Those who know and work with Dexter describe him as kind, energetic, involved, loving and fun. These characteristics allow him to reach others for the Lord whether he is carrying a Bible, a paint brush or a basketball.

Dexter plans to attend college and major in biology in preparation for veterinary school.

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