

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a yellow pencil, shattering a blue surface. The impact point is on the left, with a large, jagged hole and a radial pattern of cracks spreading outwards. The pencil is positioned diagonally from the top right towards the center. The background is a solid blue color.

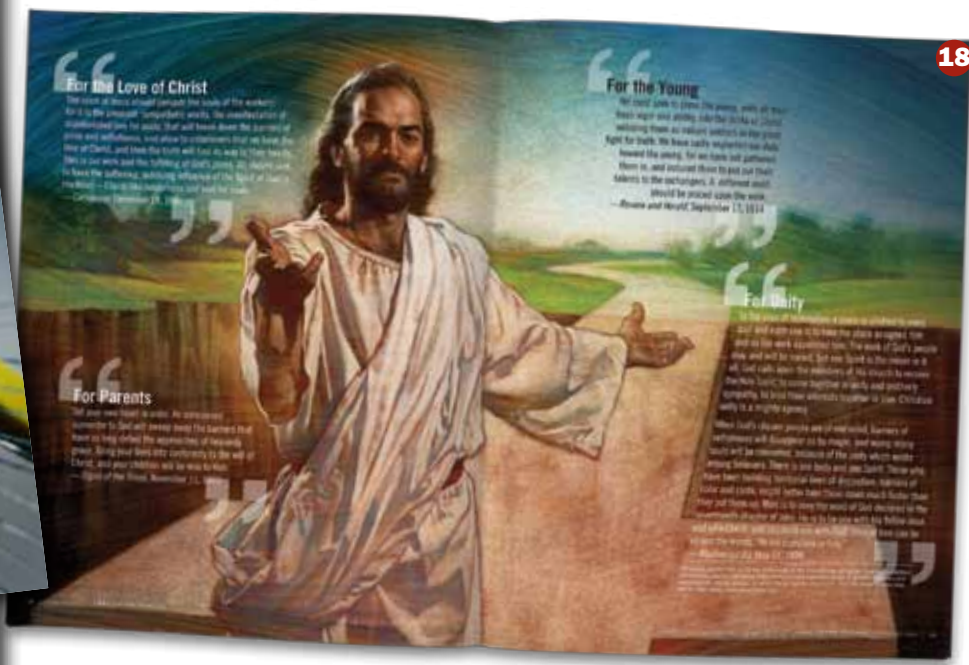
# *Lake Union* HERALD

FEBRUARY 2011

WINNING HEARTS *vs.*  
SHATTERING DREAMS  
Removing the Barriers

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

18



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## In this issue...

Christ's ministry was all about tactfully penetrating the barriers of prejudice and resistance with love and grace. Seekers not only felt welcomed and attracted to His inviting presence, they were also inspired to embrace His life and teachings. His messages of hope pointed them to the source of life and peace. In response, many had hope and freedom to turn from their lives of bondage to sin.

His was a ministry of inclusion. And the message of His gospel was the most radical, comprehensive and inclusive news of all.

  
Gary Burns, Editor



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## Go Lie Down

**T**he story of young Samuel is one of my favorite from the Old Testament. As the boy/temple-servant lay in bed one night, the Lord called his name, “Samuel, Samuel.” Thinking it was priest Eli, whom he served, Samuel dutifully ran to learn what Eli wanted of him.

Not understanding what was happening, and probably not fully awake himself, Eli directed Samuel to “Go lie down, I don’t have anything for you to do” (see 1 Samuel 3:5, *my version and emphasis added*). Three times Samuel got the message, “Go lie down, I don’t need you now.”

Do we ever discourage our youth from answering God’s call? Do we ever communicate, “Go lie down?” It might not be a situation where they audibly hear God’s voice. Their inquiring will more likely be a question: “What should I do with my life?”

“How can I deal with the huge issues life is throwing at me?”

“How can I know the voice of God?”

“What is God like?”

Or it could take the form of a young person simply hoping to contribute to the worship experience beyond the starter jobs of collecting the Lamb’s Offering or passing the offering plate.

At a recent Pathfinder camporee, I witnessed Pathfinders\* responding to a three-part invitation:

“Will you give your heart to God?” Nearly all of the 1,000-plus present stood.

“Will you dedicate your life now, and as an adult serve Him by contributing to the mission of the Church in whatever field you choose?” It appeared that most raised their hands.

“If God calls you to serve Him in full-time ministry as a pastor, teacher or financial manager, will you accept His invitation?” Between 175 and 200 Pathfinders, and some adults, stepped forward to indicate they were ready for full-time service if God calls.

You can help our youth respond to God’s call in their lives, even if you are not a speaker at a camporee. Be their friend. Show them you care about them as a person. Affirm that God has blessed them with gifts and talents that can be used in His service.

Ask them to help you. Seek to learn from their perspective. Be aware of how God is working in their lives and how He may be asking you to cooperate in His plan for them.

Did you notice that it took some time for Eli to understand what was going on in Samuel’s life? Pray for God to give you insights and spiritual discernment. Ask Him to lead you to say the right thing, in the right way and at the right time.

What a privilege it is to participate with God in developing workers for His service—especially among the young. And it’s not just the work of those in youth ministry, God uses the whole community. Seek to be filled with God’s Spirit so He can use you as His instrument to help a young person know the voice of God.

\*The Pathfinder organization is a ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for children and young people. See [www.pathfindersonline.org](http://www.pathfindersonline.org).



# A New Beginning

BY KAYLEEN BURT

**T**his past year has been a life-changing one. God blessed me tremendously in ways I can't even find the words to explain. I have made a multitude of mistakes, but I finally understand that He loves me anyway—and that is why I made the decision to be re-baptized.

I've been a Seventh-day Adventist my whole life. I was baptized when I was 12 or 13, like most of my church school friends. Although I didn't understand all the aspects of the decision I made at that time, I really did want to follow God. I find that when one makes decisions toward a deeper relationship with God, Satan steps up his game—which is exactly what he did in my life. Shortly after my baptism, I fell into abusive relationships and allowed myself to believe every negative thing I was told about myself. My self-esteem and any hope I had for a good future seemed to disintegrate. Then I got into a relationship where things started to look up—for awhile.

I married in December 2008 and had a baby girl in May 2009. Her arrival started the major turn of events in my life. I learned very quickly how selfish I had been as a teenager. Being a parent gave me not only a new perspective of the world around me, but also of my Heavenly Father—who is the ultimate parent.

Things really began changing in the spring of 2010 when I received some unexpected news and felt like my life was spiraling out of my control. I did not know what would become of my life. That's when I first heard the Still Small Voice, reminding me to trust my Heavenly Father.

That Voice of hope and encouragement followed me to the General Conference Session in Atlanta in June. My being there was a miracle by God's design. I was invited to attend the day before my in-laws were leaving. I had never been before and wasn't sure what to expect, but I made the split-second decision to go. I called the childcare center where my daughter, Kaila, attended, and they gave us a leave with no charge. When we arrived, my daughter and I were kind of alone in the mass of people from around the world. But we found a quiet haven that was a real godsend—

the prayer room in Building C. We ended up spending many hours there each day.

I was pouring my heart out to God in prayer when a gentleman came up who could not speak much English and said, "God hears your prayers, and He will take care of you." That was such an encouragement to me. Several other ladies who also spent time in the prayer room prayed with me and encouraged me often. It was a new experience for me—being loved and supported by people in the church without any hint of condemnation. It was very encouraging and an important part of my making the decision to reconnect with my church when I came back home.

Sometime while I was there—I can't really say when exactly—the tears and my fear and anxiety of the unknown future were replaced with an unfathomable peace. A peace that has not escaped me since.

Satan continues to attack me on all sides, but I know he has lost the battle for my life. Just days before my re-baptism, my daughter, Kaila, and I were in a terrible car accident. I know it is only by God's grace we were able to walk away from the wreck without even a scratch, and now I am even more convinced God has a cosmic plan—not only for my life, but for Kaila's life as well.

Life can be difficult and full of unexpected challenges, I have learned. But even though the storms crashed down around me this year, the seeds that were planted in my heart were able to grow. And now here I am, sharing with you the lifelong commitment I am making. I am choosing to trust God, for better or for worse, and for always.

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Kayleen Burt is a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church. She is a full-time nursing student at Lake Michigan College. Kayleen writes from her home in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She shared some of this message with those present for her baptism.

## I AM Who I Want You To Be

Because I am woman.  
I am strong.  
Because I am vulnerable.  
I am strong.  
At least,  
That's what I tell myself.  
But when I look in the mirror  
Only God  
Knows what I see.  
I don't see extraordinary.  
I just see plain.  
I see the old suffering  
And I see the pain.  
I put on a smile  
And it's not always fake  
But I still think to myself  
Is my life a mistake?  
My doubts rage and roar  
In confusion I whirl  
I think to myself  
You're no woman, you're just a girl.  
A girl who's had hardship  
A girl who's had pain  
What makes you think  
The future won't hold the same?  
What makes you so special?  
What makes you so strong?  
The crowd sings its misery  
You just sing along.  
No, I say to myself  
I will sing no more.  
I will rise to find  
What God has in store.  
I am a woman  
And therefore I'm strong  
Because my Creator  
Told me I belong.  
My doubts, go away!  
Confusion, be gone!  
God leads in my steps  
How could it be wrong?  
I will not be conquered  
I still will press on  
For Life is my future  
Where pain is all gone.

Kayleen Burt expressed her faith in a poem following her prayer room experience.





## You Visited Me in Prison

BY JUDITH YEOMAN

**T**wo years ago Justin Childers, pastor of the Cedar Ridge, Huntingburg and Tell City district, began visiting a church member weekly in the Perry County Jail in Cannelton, Indiana. Justin visited other inmates as well, and the jailed church member also reached out to other inmates. As a result of the combined efforts of the pastor and the jailed member, several inmates began Bible studies through the Tell City Church's Discover Bible School. Six faithful church members stay after church each Sabbath to grade the lessons.

Each week, Justin also knocked on the security cell door and asked if anyone in there desired prayer. The door was solid steel with just a slit to slide food through. There were no windows, and the security prisoners were isolated inside 23 hours a day. Although Justin couldn't see who he was talking with, after several weeks he heard a voice from behind the door say, "There's a fellow in here who says he wants you to pray for him."

That fellow was Dennis Bowles, an inmate who had been in security for more than two years at that time. When Justin first met Dennis, he was severely depressed and on suicide-watch within the facility. After praying and talking with the pastor for a few months, Dennis requested Bible studies. As he continued studying, he developed a better outlook on life. Dennis asked about the Sabbath and wanted to keep the seventh day holy in jail. Justin presented Dennis with the *God Cares* volumes. Dennis read them very quickly, so the pastor shared other books. Justin exclaimed, "I could not get enough reading material to him! He was eager to learn everything he could about the Lord."

Eventually, Dennis was transferred to another penitentiary. The pastor continued to visit him every week during summer 2010. Dennis' commitment to God increased, and Justin saw a positive change taking place. Dennis wanted to



*Justin Childers (right), Cedar Ridge, Huntingburg and Tell City pastor, developed a relationship with Dennis Bowles as he visited the prison each week for two years.*

be certain he kept the Sabbath holy, so asked if it was alright with God if he participated in recreational exercise at the prison if his turn happened to occur on the seventh day.

Dennis shared, "I once owned a legitimate vending machine business in which I made a tremendous amount of money. I had cars and houses, including one in the Philippines, but none of that made me happy." His face

brightened as he continued, "Even though I'm now in prison, I am truly happy now that I've found Jesus!"

As a result of Dennis' influence, five other inmates began Bible studies. During one of Justin's visits to the prison, Dennis asked to become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and asked where to send his tithe. On November 13, 2010, the Huntingburg Church voted Dennis into membership by profession of faith. That particular church was chosen because Dennis plans to live in that area when he is released.

Even though he is serving a 17-year sentence for his crime, Dennis continues to study the Bible and he is constantly witnessing to other offenders as he continues to grow in Christ each day.

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Judith Yeoman is the correspondent to the *Lake Union Herald* for the Indiana Conference.



# EXTREME GRACE

## Where There Are No Walls

BY DICK DUERKSEN

**W**alls are usually built with bricks made from fear—and mortared securely with a mud mixed from buckets of pride and the gravel of hate. Most often, such walls are designed to keep people out—though on occasion they are built to keep people in ... usually children.

During decades of their guerrilla war, many communities in the mountains of Colombia built both “Keep Out” and “Keep In” walls, attempting to keep the revolutionary guerrillas “out” and their own children “in.” Churches, especially, told their children to “Beware. Stay away from them. Don’t go over there,” and constantly reminded members that “those people are not safe!”



“In fact,” the revolutionary leaders continued, “our children are attending your schools; and we know that if we harass your churches, the schools will close. Your teachers give the best education available in Colombia, and so we have chosen to protect you rather than close you down.”

However, most of those walls were breached when guerrillas slipped through and promised fires, sickness and death to any villagers or churches who refused to support them. Life deteriorated to where people were afraid to travel, afraid to express opinions to their neighbors, afraid to be outside after dark, afraid for their lives.

One by one churches of old, established denominations closed down in response to the threats, and their carefully-constructed walls were left to crumble into mere hummocks in the underbrush.

Strangely, the guerrillas didn’t come for the Adventists, didn’t threaten them, didn’t close the churches or require support.

Several Adventist pastors and church leaders quietly asked, “Why?”

The answer was clear. “Though you do not support our cause, your members treat us with honor and value. You have not walled us out, but have let us in.”

The guerrillas’ strength has waned during the last several years, but the strength of Adventist education—and the Adventist Church—has remained strong. Visit Adventist congregations in the mountains of Colombia this weekend, and you will discover many children of the revolution have graduated and developed into strong church leaders.

Elias Redondo, president of the Adventist Church in the North Colombia Union, describes the value of “No Wall Christianity” rather colorfully. “Our schools are the tip of the Adventist evangelism spear! Here in Colombia we’ve learned that Adventism grows best when we are open and accepting, when we treat our neighbors as people of great personal value. Our schools? They are places without walls—where children of all backgrounds, economic situations and learning skills come together as equals to learn what it’s like to live together as children of God.”

Dick Duerksen is the “official storyteller” in words and pictures for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact the author at [dduerksen@maranatha.org](mailto:dduerksen@maranatha.org).



## Opening Doors

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

**T**he school district put in place an effective pregnancy prevention program, which was well-received by the students and parents. However, the teen pregnancy rate and school dropout rate stayed about the same because of teen pregnancies. In a school board meeting where board members considered what else they could do, an old rancher sat with his feet propped up on a chair. “I don’t know what to do. It seems like when I was a kid everyone in town knew us, called us by name, and sort of hooked into our lives. People were real back then, and these problems weren’t very common. Maybe we should get to know these kids.”

Others reminisced about their earlier days, and then someone came up with an idea: “Let’s hold a town meeting. That wouldn’t be hard. Let’s ask every adult in town to learn the names of every kid. Let’s greet them every time we see them and get to know them.” It seemed like an overwhelming idea, but they decided to give it a try. The town meeting was held, the idea presented, and the plan was put into place.

When Old Abe saw a kid at the store, he stopped for a second and asked their name: “Hey, I’ve seen you around but don’t know what to call you. What’s your name?”

“My name is Mike.”

“Nice to know you, Mike,” Abe responded. “Call me Abe.”

So after that it was, “Hi, Mike.”

“Hi, Abe.”

One afternoon Abe came out of the hardware store, and there stood Mike with a beer can in his hand. Abe said, “Hi, Mike.” Mike quickly put the beer can behind his back. He didn’t know why but he felt nervous holding a beer with Abe looking at him. Mike was uncomfortable, and Abe could tell. Something had happened. Just by learning Mike’s name a relationship had started. With that relationship came a little bit of commitment. Mike didn’t want to disappoint Abe—he seemed so nice. Abe didn’t call Mike on having a beer; he actually didn’t say a thing. He simply



smiled, as always, and went on with his business.

Several months after the town started their effort to learn the local kids’ names, another school board meeting was held. There was an enthusiastic buzz in the room. People couldn’t wait to tell their stories, and everyone in the room seemed to have one. People told of the relationships they had developed with the teens in town that started by just learning their names.

Our names, for whatever the reason our parents chose them, are important to us.

Babies tune in to the sound of their name by four-and-a-half months. This shouldn’t be too surprising, as it’s often the most frequent sound they hear. Researcher Hirsh-Pasek says, “In natural speech with children, we use the name as a wedge.” It’s much the same when you travel to a different country. You choose words that are wedges for you—you recognize the word and then figure out the words around it.

Learning the names of the children and youth in our lives can also be likened to a wedge, one that opens doors to relationships and ultimately marks a pathway to the Savior.

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Susan Murray is a professor emeritus of behavioral sciences at Andrews University, and she is a certified family life educator and a licensed marriage and family therapist.

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Note from author: Yes, eventually, there were fewer pregnancies and dropouts, and the numbers of arrests for drug use also decreased in that town. Thanks to Gary Hopkins, M.D., Dr.PH., for sharing this true story with me.



The body has its own sophisticated detox system.

## Body Cleansing and Detox

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Some detox programs may be unsafe.

**D**o you suffer from mood swings, depression, general fatigue, irritability, headaches, bad breath or a slow metabolism? Maybe your system needs a flush out. Dozens of books and Web sites suggest that our body needs a regular cleanse just as a car periodically requires an oil change. We are told that we need to experience detoxification, or “detox” for short, and periodically get a cleansing from accumulated poisons, parasites and environmental toxins. They claim that the body cannot, by itself, fully dispose of these waste products and toxins.

Our colon is described as the “sewer system” of the body; and as such, it requires regular cleaning. Compacted fecal material from eating too much processed and junk food, they say, needs to be removed by a detox diet. All manner of regimens or kits are available, such as Colonix, be-Cleansed Complete Detox Kit, etc. They say that the detox process will improve immune function, reduce allergies, eliminate toxins in the body and purify the blood. Testimonials abound claiming spiritual, physical and psychological health benefits from regular detox regimens. Even celebrities detox once a year!

A detox diet often emphasizes the use of raw, organic foods rich in fiber and water. Vitamins, specific herbs and antioxidant supplements are emphasized to help detoxify the liver. Drinking plenty of water is strongly recommended. Certain foods, such as açai, are promoted for optimal cleansing. In addition, laxatives may be used to help cleanse the colon. Juices are used to help flush out the kidneys. A master cleanse may involve a total fast.

Scientists and doctors dispute the value and need for detox regimens since the human body has its own sophisticated detox system. The gastrointestinal tract, the liver and kidneys do a great job eliminating toxins and cleansing the



blood and the bowel. There is no evidence that a detox diet augments the body’s own mechanisms. In addition, no surgeries or colonoscopies have ever discovered any evidence of compacted feces or other evidence to support the need for colon cleansing.

Detoxification often involves colon irrigation. This colonic cleansing may present some potential hazards. During the procedure, gastrointestinal perforation may result. Infections from poorly sterilized equipment may also occur. When repeated excessively, some colon cleansing regimes can lead to nutrient deficiencies. Excessive use of enemas have also been associated with cardiac problems related to electrolyte imbalances, and may lead to dependence on laxatives.

Since no scientific evidence supports the alleged benefits of colon cleansing, and there are potential dangers associated with the regimen, it is best to allow the body to perform its own cleansing. Certainly, a diet consisting largely of fresh fruits and vegetables for a few days, and daily drinking plenty of water, will assist the body to maintain optimal health. A short fast, on occasion, may also be beneficial, giving the body a period of rest from a complex and stimulating diet.

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



# Celebrating God

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

*I will extol the Lord at all times: his praise will always be on my lips.  
My soul boasts in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.  
Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together” (Psalm 34:1–3).*

Everyone loves a good celebration. And life gives us plenty of opportunities to celebrate. We celebrate Christmas, the new year, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, victories and more. But there is no better reason to celebrate than God.

To celebrate means “to honor or praise publicly.” God deserves honor and praise more than anyone or anything else. The great Scottish preacher Alexander Whyte used to counsel his hearers to “think magnificently of God.” People who think magnificently of God, calling to mind His greatness and goodness, cannot help but celebrate God and declare His praise.

We live in a society that delights to celebrate worth. We exalt Super Bowl heroes, we gush over favorite movie stars, and we glory in our nation’s victories. Not all of that is bad. But in the process of lifting up and extolling let’s not forget the One who is the source of all good things.

To celebrate God means at least three things:

First, it means *recognizing God for who He is*. God’s glory is His majestic splendor shining out so it can be seen and known. When we glorify God, we don’t give Him anything. We don’t add luster to Him. That’s as impossible as it is to add splendor to a sunset by viewing it. But we can gaze in wonder at a sunset, and similarly we can behold in awe the beauty and glory of the Lord.

Second, it means *loving God for who He is*. This means laying aside our concerns, our demands and our prayer lists to focus on God and to enjoy Him. Nothing does more to quell pride, self-centeredness and selfish desires than to focus beyond ourselves on God alone.

Third, celebrating God means *giving God the only thing we can offer Him*—our loving, praising hearts. He already has everything else. He is totally self-sufficient

and needs nothing from us. But God does ask us to give to Him our hearts, our love and our adoration. When we do, He is pleased and blessed.

Let’s start today by thinking “magnificently of God.” Everything else will follow.

## Reflect

How much do you enjoy God? Do you ever take personal time just to think about God and His goodness and to worship Him?

Think of some specific ways that you can celebrate God today.

## Pray

Praise God by telling Him five things you especially appreciate about Him.

Ask God to help you see His majestic splendor and to truly enjoy Him and love Him.

Thank God for revealing His glory and for giving you reason to boast about Him.

Confess if there has been little heartfelt praise for God in your life, and ask His forgiveness.

## Act

Set aside some time today to gaze on God. That may mean letting your mind dwell on several of God’s attributes—His love, His wisdom, His power and His grace. Reflect your thoughts and feelings back to God.

Alvin J. VanderGriend is co-founder of the Denominational Prayer Leaders Network and currently serves as evangelism associate for Harvest Prayer Ministries, in Terre Haute, Indiana. This article is an excerpt from his book, *Love to Pray*. Reprinted with permission.



## 2011: Año de Énfasis en el Crecimiento Espiritual

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*“Hemos de vivir una vida doble: una vida de pensamiento y de acción, de silenciosa oración y fervoroso trabajo. La fuerza recibida por medio de la comunión con Dios, unida con el esfuerzo diligente por educar la mente para que llegue a ser reflexiva y cuidadosa, nos prepara para desempeñar las obligaciones cotidianas y conserva al espíritu en paz en cualesquiera circunstancias por penosas que resulten” (Ministerio de Curación, p. 410).*

**E**l primer año que estudié en la Universidad Andrews fue para mí un tiempo de mucho crecimiento espiritual por dos razones. En primer lugar, ese año se destacó debido a un reavivamiento espiritual que estaba ocurriendo en nuestros colegios adventistas. Muchos jóvenes buscaban acercarse más a Dios por medio de la oración y el estudio de su Palabra. Recuerdo que en los internados de jóvenes me reunía con mis amigos para compartir lo que Dios había hecho por nosotros. En segundo lugar, ese año fue de crecimiento espiritual para mí porque me uní a un equipo de jóvenes que iba a las iglesias para cantar, predicar y luego salir a las comunidades para compartir las buenas nuevas de Jesús. Teníamos el deseo no solamente de acercarnos a Dios sino también de compartir y ayudar a otros a conocer a Jesús.

Este año la Unión del Lago desea ayudar a nuestros hermanos hispanos a lograr más que nunca un mayor acercamiento a Dios por medio de una variedad de talleres de entrenamiento que se llevarán a cabo en varios lugares de la Unión. Estos talleres de entrenamiento son los siguientes:



*Entrenamiento laico auspiciado por la Unión del Lago en el año 2009*

1. En la Universidad Andrews habrá un **Congreso de Música y Adoración que comenzará el jueves 24 de marzo y concluirá el sábado 26**. En este congreso se dará entrenamiento a los directores de música de cómo mejorar la calidad de la adoración en las iglesias. Por primera vez habrá instrucción en español para nuestros músicos hispanos, presentada por el pastor Andrés Flores. Para obtener más información pueden contactarse con él si le escriben a su dirección electrónica—jorge.jandres@gmail.com.

2. En tres ciudades de la Unión se ofrecerán *talleres de entrenamiento para laicos* en los cuales se hará énfasis en el aprendizaje de los principios de la oración, la evangelización y la iglesia saludable. La Unión está coordinando estos talleres en tres ciudades diferentes en vez de tenerlos en un solo lugar, para que una mayor cantidad de hermanos pueda aprovechar lo que se presenta. En cada evento se ofrecerán

excelentes predicaciones, seminarios y una variedad de recursos. Las ciudades y fechas son las siguientes: **Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1-2 de abril)**, **Indianapolis, Indiana (8-9 de abril)** y **Chicago, Illinois (8-9 de julio)**. Para obtener más información pueden hablar con el coordinador hispano de su asociación o con su pastor local.

3. En el mes de junio la Unión del Lago ofrecerá un taller de *entrenamiento especial para nuestros directores de jóvenes de las iglesias*. Habrá presentaciones por oradores excelentes, varios seminarios como también materiales que se pondrán en mano de los asistentes. Se invita a todos los directores de las sociedades de jóvenes y a los dirigentes de FEJAS a participar. Este entrenamiento se llevará a cabo en la Universidad Andrews los días 3 y 4 de junio. Para tener más información pueden contactar mi oficina en la Unión o escribirme a mi correo electrónico: vicepresidente@lucsd.org.

Es mi sincero deseo que los talleres de entrenamiento mencionados arriba resulten en nuestro crecimiento espiritual y en un gran reavivamiento en nuestras iglesias.

Carmelo Mercado es el vice presidente general de la Unión del Lago.

# Is Jesus Enough?

A MESSAGE FOR LEAF PICKERS

BY LEE VENDEN

**I**t's the dead of winter and fall has long since past. The deciduous trees are bare—except I notice that there are some tenacious rusty brown pointy leaves still clinging to the oak trees at the edge of the woods. For some reason they are so attached they will not fall from the branches even through the sleet and snow and the wind's fierce frosty blasts. They continue to hang on. How silly it would be to go around to all the oak trees and pick the dead leaves from the branches when in just a few months the new life of spring will come from within and push them off naturally.

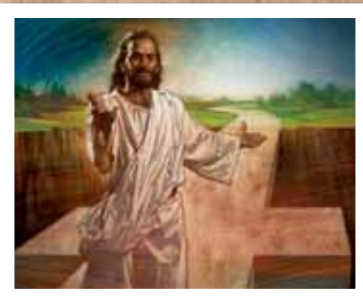
Long ago, in another time and another place, a couple walked into church after I had already started preaching. This couple didn't look like they..., well, let's just say you wouldn't have expected them to be in church just by the casual look at how they appeared. They looked like anything but church-going people. But here they were, walking into church. Can you think of a better place for someone to be, regardless of how they looked? I can't think of a better place for someone to be.

Not only did they clearly not look like they belonged in church to the rest of us, but when they walked into church they wreaked heavily of tobacco. They sat in about the third row and they listened.

When the service was over I was shaking hands outside when the couple came by. The fellow, with the long beard, long hair and the rough hands shook my hand. And as he did I noticed he had tears running down his cheeks.

"Would you come to my house and teach my wife and me how to know Jesus?" he asked.

I began coming to their house on Thursday nights. I remembered that he had asked me to teach them how to know Jesus and I thought to myself, *I'm going to do exactly what he asked. I'm not going to give him what we'd call "teller truth." I'm going to introduce him to Jesus; I'm going to give him the tools for finding Jesus on his own, day by day, morning by morning, without me at his house. I'm going to introduce him to*



*the three legs of the stool: Bible study for the purpose of knowing God, prayer for the purpose of communing with God and sharing with someone else what the Spirit is bringing to mind in scripture and prayer. I'm going to encourage him to keep looking in the direction of the uplifted Savior until the "click" happens—that moment when he will connect with the Spirit and spiritual things will become clear. That's what I'm going to do!*

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We began by going through the Gospel of John. Now he and his wife were chain smokers—literally chain smokers. They didn't even need matches or a lighter. And of course, I'm sitting between them in the middle of the kitchen table and I'm getting so much second-hand smoke, I'm smoking a pack or two myself.

But you know what happened? They experienced the "click." They began getting excited about a friendship with Jesus. They began reading His Word for their own souls. They couldn't put it down. They loved Jesus, and Jesus began transforming them.

And week by week, month by month, as they continued to come to church, all of us were witness to a decided transformation in the way they appeared, the way they acted, the things they seemed to talk about and wanted to talk about—we just watched it happen. It was just an amazing transformation until eventually when they walked into church, no one would have wondered if they came to the right place. They didn't look like that anymore.

And finally, I started getting a little nervous because I thought maybe some of my church members had been, you know, hammering on them—trying to be the convicting power of the Holy Spirit by telling them what they needed to do differently.

So one Thursday night while I was out at their house I said, “Hey, I have a question for you. Have there been some well-meaning members of our congregation telling you what you should or should not do if you’re going to be a part of our congregation?”

And the girl looked over at me and she said, “No. Why would you ask a question like that?”

I said, “Oh, never mind.”

“No, no,” she said. “Why would you ask a question like that? What do you mean?”

“Well,” I said, “there are a lot of things about you that aren’t the same as they used to be. I just wondered if maybe some of our church members have been telling you that you needed to change this and change that, and try harder to do this and stop doing that.”

She said, “Give me an example.”

“Okay,” I said, “for an example: You two used to smoke two or three packs of cigarettes every time we had a Bible study. There are no cigarettes. There are no ash trays. You’re not smoking. Nobody told you that you had to stop smoking to be a part of the Adventist Church?”

The girl looked over at the guy and she said to him, “When’s the last time you had a cigarette?”

“I-I-I don’t remember,” he said. “When’s the last time you had one?”

“I don’t know. I don’t remember either,” she said.

Then she turned to me and said, “We didn’t realize we stopped smoking. I guess God just took the desire away.”

Is Jesus enough? I could tell you all kinds of stories regarding that couple and changes they made in their lives spiritually as a result of simply being taught by God as they looked at Jesus’ life. Amazing things: tithing, Sabbath observance, on and on I could tell you.

I never shared any of those things with them. I just kept leading them closer and closer to Jesus, and then Jesus kept telling them, “Hey, what about this?” And, “Hey, did you know that?”

And they were going, “Whoa, I didn’t know that,” and “This is cool, too!” Amazing stuff happened. And it happened because God did it through His Spirit.

“There are many who try to correct the life of others by attacking what they consider are wrong habits. They go to those whom they think are in error, and point out their defects. They say, ‘You don’t dress as you should.’ They try to pick off the ornaments, or whatever seems offensive, but they do not seek to fasten the mind to the truth.

“Those who seek to correct others should present the attractions of Jesus. They should talk of his love and compassion, present his example and sacrifice, reveal his Spirit, and they need not touch the subject of dress at all. There is no need to make the dress question the main point of your religion. There is something richer to speak of. Talk of Christ; and when the heart is converted, everything that is out of harmony with the word of God will drop off. It is only labor in vain to pick leaves off a living tree. The leaves will reappear. The ax must be laid at the root of the tree, and then the leaves will fall off—never to return.

“In order to teach men and women the worthlessness of earthly things, you must lead them to the living Fountain, and get them to drink of Christ, until their hearts are filled with the love of God, and Christ is in them, a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Language cannot describe the peace and fullness of the joy of the true Christian. Let us seek to drink of the Fountain of life” (*Signs of the Times*, July 1, 1889).

“The Holy Spirit never leaves unassisted the soul who is looking unto Jesus. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them unto him. If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image. The pure element of love will expand the soul, giving it a capacity for higher attainments, for increased knowledge of heavenly things, so that it will not rest short of the fullness” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 302).

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will

be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 668).

Is Jesus enough?

Are you troubled and confused? He’s the Wonderful Counselor.

Are you tense? He’s the Prince of Peace.

Are you uncertain? He’s the Corner Stone and the Solid Rock.

Are you let down? He is Faithful.

Are you lonely? He’s the Friend who is closer.

Are you defenseless? He’s the Advocate.

Are you in the dark? He is the Light.

Are you surrounded by difficulties? He is the Deliverer.

Are you sin-ful? He is our Righteousness.

Are you helpless? He is Savior.

Are you bereaved? He is the Resurrection and the Life.

Are you hungry and thirsty? He is the Bread and the Day-spring.

Are you searching? He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Jesus is the First and the Last.

He is the Beginning and the End.

He is Alpha and the Omega.

He is the Keeper of Creation and the Creator of all.

He is the Architect of the universe and He’s the Manager of time.

He always was, He always is, and He always will be—unmoved, unchanged, undefeated, but never undone.

He is light, love, longevity and Lord.

He is goodness, gentleness, grace, guide, God.

He is holy, righteous, mighty, powerful, pure.

He is savior, sanctifier, redeemer, friend.

He is peace, He is joy, He is comfort.

He is hope, He is eternal, He is Ancient of Days.

He is Ruler of rulers, and King of kings.

The world can’t understand Him, armies can’t defeat Him.

The schools cannot explain Him, the leaders can’t ignore Him.

The pharisees couldn’t confuse Him, Herod couldn’t kill Him.

Nero couldn’t crush Him, Hitler couldn’t silence Him.

The New Age can’t replace Him, and Phil Donahue can’t explain Him away.

He will never leave you. He will never forsake you.

He will never mislead you, He will never overlook you. He will never forget you.

When you fall, He will lift you up; when you fail, He will forgive.

When you are weak, He is strong; when you are lost, He is the way.

When you are afraid, He is courage; when you are stumbling, He is steady.

When you are hurt, He will heal; when you are broken, He mends.

When you are blind, He leads; when you are hungry, He feeds.

When you face trials, He’s with you; when you face persecution, He’ll shield you.

When you face problems, He will comfort you; when you face loss, He will provide. When you face death, He is the Resurrection and He holds the keys to the grave.

He is everything for everybody, everywhere, every time, every way.

He is God, He is faithful, and He is enough!

Can you imagine anything more than that? Ever—in your entire life? No way! He’s enough! And here’s the most amazing thing about it—that person just described, all those descriptors, here’s the most amazing thing about it: He is personally interested in being friends with you! That Guy wants to be your friend! Go figure. You’d think we’d be banging on the door trying to be His friend, and He’s banging on the door trying to be ours.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound! He numbers the hairs on your head because He wants you to know that He is so personally, intimately interested in you that He cares about details of your life that you don’t even consider. That’s how much He cares about you.

So, what is the Adventist message? *Jesus only*. Paul confesses, “I count all things but loss except for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord,” (Philippians 3:8 KJV). Because He’s enough!

I just want to know Him. That’s it! That I may know Him. That I may know Him and that I may help other people to know Him, too.

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Lee Venden is a pastor, educator and presenter. He has authored three books and co-authored the internationally appreciated Web site, [www.moreaboutjesus.org](http://www.moreaboutjesus.org). Lee and his wife, Marji, currently work as a revivalist team for the Upper Columbia Conference where they conduct “All About Jesus” revival seminars.



# MORE of the SPIRIT of CHRIST

BY ELLEN WHITE

**M**uch has been lost through following the mistaken ideas of some of our good brethren. Their plans were narrow, and they lowered the work to their peculiar ways and ideas so that the higher classes were not reached. The appearance of the work impressed the minds of unbelievers as being of very little worth—some stray offshoot of religious theory entirely beneath their notice. Much also has been lost through want of wise methods of labour. Every effort should be made to give dignity and character to the work. Special efforts should be made to secure the goodwill of men in responsible positions, not by sacrificing even one principle of truth or righteousness, but by simply giving up our own ways and manner of approaching the people.

Much more would be effected if more tact and discretion were used in the presentation of the truth. Through the neglect of this many have a misconception of our faith and of our doctrine which they would not have if the very first impression made upon their minds had been more favourable.

It is our duty to get as close to the people as we can. This kind of labour will not have an influence to exclude the poorer and lower classes, but both high and low will have an opportunity to be benefited by the truths of the Bible; both will have a chance to become acquainted with you and to understand that the religion of the Bible never degrades the receiver. They will perceive the duties and responsibilities resting upon them to be representatives of Jesus Christ upon the earth.

The truth received in the heart is constantly elevating, refining, and ennobling the receiver. This is not a worldly wisdom, but a God-given wisdom, the ways and means of which the believers in the truth should study, so that the truth may reach those classes who can exert an influence in its favour, and who will sustain its advancement with their means. The duty we owe to our fellow men places us under moral obligation of putting out our talents to the exchangers so that we may double them by winning many souls to Jesus Christ,—souls who have influence, whom God has seen fit to entrust with large capacity for doing good.

The workers in this cause should not feel that the only way they can do is to go at the people pointedly, with all subjects of truth and doctrine as held by Seventh-day Adventists, for this would close their ears at the very onset. You will be inclined to do this, for it would please your inclination and be in harmony with your character. God would have you be as lambs among wolves, as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves. You cannot do this and follow your own ideas and your own plans. You must modify your method of labour. You need not feel that all the truth is to be spoken to unbelievers on any and every occasion. You should plan carefully what to say and what to leave unsaid. This is not practicing deception; it is working as Paul worked. He says, “Being crafty, I caught you with guile.” Your method of labour would not have that effect.

You must vary your labour, and not think there is only one way which must be followed at all times and in all places. Your ways may seem to you a success, but if you had used more tact, more of the heavenly wisdom, you would have seen much more good results from your work. Paul’s manner was not to approach the Jews in a way to stir up their worst prejudice and run the risk of making them his enemies by telling them the first thing that they must believe in Jesus of Nazareth. But he dwelt upon the prophecies of the Old Testament Scriptures that testified of Christ, of his mission, and of his work. Thus he led them along step by step, showing them the importance of honouring the law of God. He gave due honour to the ceremonial law, showing that Christ was the One who instituted the whole Jewish economy in sacrificial service. And after dwelling upon these things and showing that he had a clear understanding of these matters, then he brought them down to the first advent of Christ, and showed that in the crucified Jesus every specification had been fulfilled.

This is the wisdom Paul exercised. He approached the

Gentiles not by exalting the law, but by exalting Christ, and then showing the binding claims of the law. He plainly presented before them how the light reflected from the cross of Calvary gave significance and glory to the whole Jewish economy. Then he varied his manner of labour, always shaping his message to the circumstances under which he was placed. He was, after patient labour, successful to a large degree, yet many would not be convinced. Some there are who will not be convinced by any method of presenting truth that may be pursued; but the labourer for God is to study carefully the best method, that he may not raise prejudice nor stir up combativeness.

Here is where you have failed of reaching souls in the past. When you have followed your natural inclination, you have closed the door whereby you might, with a different method of labour, have found access to hearts, and through them to other hearts. The influence of our work through gaining one soul is far-reaching; the talent is put out to the exchangers and is constantly doubling.

Now it will be well, my brother, for you to carefully consider these things; and when you labour in your new field, do not feel that as an honest man you must tell all that you do believe at the very onset, for Christ did not do that way. Christ said to His disciples, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” And there were many things He did not say to them, because their education and ideas were of such a character that it would have confused their minds and raised questioning and unbelief that it would have been difficult to remove.

God’s workmen must be many-sided men; that is, they must have breadth of character, not be one-idea men, stereotyped in one manner of working, getting into a groove, and being unable to see and sense that their words and their advocacy of truth must vary with the class of people they are among, and the circumstances they have to meet. All should be constantly seeking to develop their minds evenly and to overcome ill-balanced characteristics. This must be your constant study if you make a useful, successful labourer. God would have you, old as you are, continually improving and learning how you can better reach the people...

A great and solemn work is before us—to reach the people where they are. Do not feel it your bounden duty the first thing to tell the people, “We are Seventh-day Adventists; we believe the seventh day is the Sabbath; we believe in the non-immortality of the soul,” and thus erect most formidable barriers between you and those you wish to reach. But



speak to them, as you may have opportunity, upon points of doctrine wherein you can agree, and dwell on practical godliness. Give them evidence that you are a Christian, desiring peace, and that you love their souls. Let them see that you are conscientious. Thus you will gain their confidence, and then there will be time enough for the doctrines. Let the hard iron heart be subdued, the soil prepared, and then lead them along cautiously, presenting in love the truth as it is in Jesus Christ.

It requires great wisdom to reach ministers and noblemen. Why should these be neglected or passed by, as they certainly have been by our people? These classes are responsible to God just in proportion to the capital of talents entrusted to them. Should there not be greater study and much more humble prayer for wisdom to reach these classes? Where much is given, much will be required. Then should there not be wisdom and tact used to gain these souls to Jesus Christ, who will be, if converted, polished instruments in the hands of the Lord to reach others? The Lord's help we must have to know how to undertake His work in a skillful manner. Self must not be prominent.

God has a work to be done that the workers have not yet fully comprehended. Their message is to go to ministers and to worldly-wise men, for these are to be tested with the light of truth. It is to be set forth before the learned ones of this world judiciously and in its native dignity...

Let families who engage in this missionary work come close to hearts. Let the Spirit of Jesus pervade the soul of the workers. Let there be no self-delusion in this part of the work, for it is the pleasant, sympathetic words spoken in love to each other, the manifestations of disinterested love for their souls, that will break down the barriers of pride and selfishness, and make manifest to unbelievers that we have the love of Christ, and then the truth will find its way to their hearts. This is, at any rate, our work and the fulfilling of God's plans. But the workers must divest themselves of selfishness and criticism.

All coarseness and roughness must be put aside and separated from our labour, and great wisdom must be exercised in approaching those who are not of our faith. You need to cherish courtesy, refinement, and Christian politeness. There will be need for you to guard against being abrupt and blunt. Do not consider these peculiarities as virtues, because God does not regard them thus. You should seek in all things not to offend those who do not believe as we do by making prominent the most objectionable features of

our faith when there is no call for it. You will only do injury by it...

We want more, much more, of the Spirit of Christ; and less, much less, of self and the peculiarities of character which build up a wall, keeping you apart from your fellow-labourers. We can do much to break down these barriers. We can do much by revealing the graces of Christ in our own lives...

We have the assurance of the presence of God; you have it—"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). God bless you.

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Ellen White was a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This message was originally printed in Letter 12, Stockholm, Sweden, June 25, 1887.





## For the Love of Christ

The spirit of Jesus should pervade the souls of the workers; for it is the pleasant, sympathetic words, the manifestation of disinterested love for souls, that will break down the barriers of pride and selfishness, and show to unbelievers that we have the love of Christ, and then the truth will find its way to their hearts. This is our work and the fulfilling of God's plans. All should seek to have the softening, subduing influence of the Spirit of God in the heart—Christ-like tenderness and love for souls.

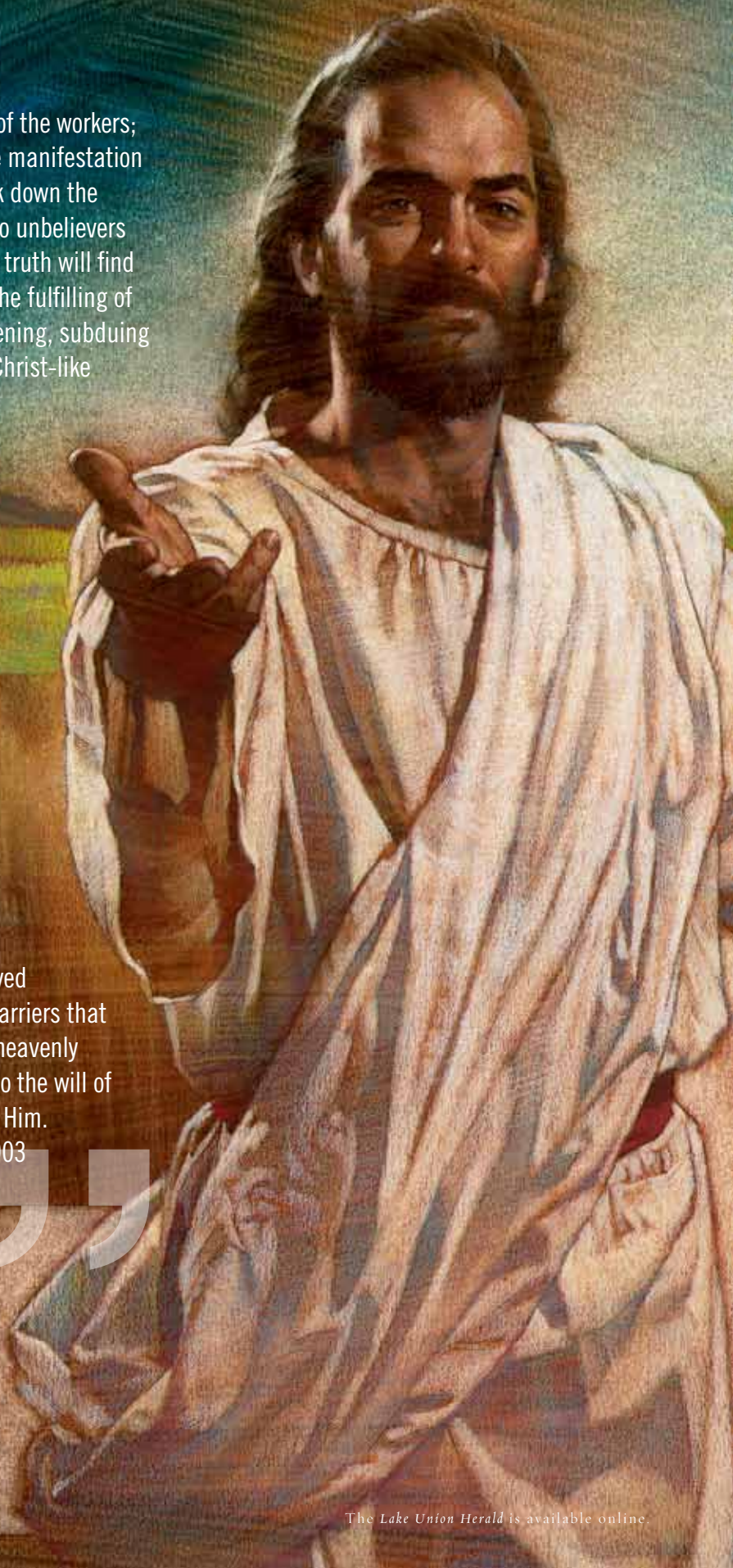
—*Canvasser*, December 18, 1890



## For Parents

Set your own heart in order. An unreserved surrender to God will sweep away the barriers that have so long defied the approaches of heavenly grace. Bring your lives into conformity to the will of Christ, and your children will be won to Him.

—*Signs of the Times*, November 11, 1903



A painting of a person lying on a path in a landscape. The person is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved garment and is lying on their side, facing right. The path is a light brown color and leads into the distance. The landscape is a mix of green and blue, suggesting a field or a body of water. The sky is a deep blue. The overall style is impressionistic.

## For the Young

We must seek to press the young, with all their fresh vigor and ability, into the ranks of Christ, enlisting them as valiant soldiers in the great fight for truth. We have sadly neglected our duty toward the young, for we have not gathered them in, and induced them to put out their talents to the exchangers. A different mold should be placed upon the work.

—*Review and Herald*, September 17, 1914

## For Unity

In the plan of redemption a place is allotted to every soul and each one is to take the place assigned him and do the work appointed him. The work of God's people may and will be varied, but one Spirit is the mover in it all. God calls upon the members of His church to receive the Holy Spirit, to come together in unity and brotherly sympathy, to bind their interests together in love. Christian unity is a mighty agency.

When God's chosen people are of one mind, barriers of selfishness will disappear as by magic, and many, many souls will be converted, because of the unity which exists among believers. There is one body and one Spirit. Those who have been building territorial lines of distinction, barriers of color and caste, might better take those down much faster than they put them up. Man is to obey the word of God declared in the seventeenth chapter of John. He is to be one with his fellow-man and with Christ, and in Christ one with God. Then of him can be spoken the words, "Ye are complete in him."

—*Manuscript 83*, May 17, 1899

All quotes are by Ellen G. White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In addition to numerous books she wrote, Ellen White shared many principles in letters, sermons and addresses to various groups, of which these quotes are a part. Visit the White Estate Web site to learn more: [www.whiteestate.org](http://www.whiteestate.org).



## Discovering Bible Truths

**A**fter our first visit to the Frederic Adventist Church in Wisconsin, we (Vern and Ellen White) just couldn't keep away. We learned so much! And it was all straight from the Bible! We always attended church faithfully on Sundays but became discouraged, feeling like we weren't learning anything. When my sister, Janice Petz, invited us to try the Adventist Church, we were open. As we learned about the Sabbath we thought, *Why haven't we heard about this before? It's right here in the Bible!*

Keeping the Sabbath has been very easy because if that is what God is asking us to do, then that's what we should do. After all, He's done so much for us! We had never heard the Bible teaching about what happens when a person dies, but it's all right there in the Bible. We learned so much we never knew before. It was and is so exciting! My husband Vern and I eagerly joined the Rice Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church on May 1, 2010.

I've been surprised at our friends. They are very kind, but they do not want to hear about what we've learned. I'm not sure if they are afraid or just not interested, but we keep



*As Vern and Ellen White studied with members of the Frederic Adventist Church, they say they learned so much straight from the Bible.*

praying for them and inviting them to come to church with us.

As a girl, I never liked my name, Ellen. It seemed so old fashioned. Now that I've learned about Ellen G. White, a prophet of God, I feel my name is a treasure! I'm interested in Ellen G. White, and enjoy learning about her. My grandmother's name was Ellen Gould;

and since she was from Maine, like Ellen Gould White, I've wondered if there could be a connection. It could be interesting to find out.

Ellen White is a member of the Rice Lake Church in Wisconsin. She shared this story with Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference.

## A Ministry of Kindness

**W**hat can a loaf of bread do? Just ask Phil Brewster, head deacon of the Anderson Church in Indiana. Phil made it a personal mission to reach out to local grocery store managers and ask for bread that might otherwise go to waste. During the past three or four years, God opened doors of opportunity and now Phil heads up a very active bread ministry in his local church and community.

The ministry became so large that now several members of the congregation also collect and distribute bread where it is needed. Phil's day starts by stopping at the local convenience store to purchase a collection of goodies for the different store managers. He then meets each one and gives them a little treat, and spends some time developing a relationship

before he collects the bread. Phil then distributes several loaves to church members, leaves a few at the church school, takes some to the local food pantries and neighbors in need, and shares some with people he sees around the church. On Sabbath morning one can usually find bread by the back door of the church to take as needed, or to share with neighbors.

Other church members picked up the vision, and a ministry of kindness has developed.

The vision spread to a sister Adventist church in Anderson—the Anderson Hispanic Church. Phil initially started sharing extra bread with members there on Sabbath mornings. When the prospect arose to obtain more bread, he asked members of the Hispanic church if they wanted to take over the new pickup. Those members ended up getting more bread than they needed, so they started giving it away as well.



Phil Brewster, a member of the Anderson Church, shares his bread ministry with many people each week.

Terry Nennich

A few months later, the Hispanic church used the bread as a basis to start a community food pantry, which now serves almost 50 families a week.

Phil enjoys the relationships that have developed through his bread ministry. He uses the opportunities that come to share about Jesus and the church. Phil has shared literature with several store managers, and even invited two of them to church—and it

all began with an extra loaf of bread.

Terry Nennich is the pastor of the Anderson Church.

## Angels in White

The Thumb of Michigan was experiencing a blizzard. After the third day, I (Rocky Aldrich) decided to walk a mile to the small grocery store in Cass City. The wind was at my back and the snow was blowing hard. I got to the store, purchased a few necessities and headed for home. As I was walking, I thought of the experience 24 years ago with a man in Georgia...

It was 6:40 p.m., and I was still at the academy. Two other teachers and I had just finished burning lines on our football field. The cool air showed the first signs of autumn, and I looked forward to the drive home.

On I-285, I noticed a man carrying a gas can. Although it had been more than 11 years since I'd picked up anyone alongside a road, I surprised myself by pulling over and offering him a ride. "Could you use some help?" I asked as he got in. But he didn't say anything. He just sat and stared at me.

I was glad the next exit was near, because I felt uncomfortable under my passenger's intense gaze. As we got off the exit I was relieved to see a gas station. "Will this do?" I asked, turning to him. This time I noticed tears on his face. He was still staring at me. I pulled into the gas station, and he opened the door and began to step out. I couldn't restrain myself any longer. "Is something wrong?" I asked.

"I guess I should explain," he said. "Today was one of the worst I've had in a long time; and to top it off, I ran out of gas. I'm not a religious man, but back on the highway I prayed, 'God,' I said, 'if You're really out there and You care about me, send an angel in white.'" He turned and left, and I continued down I-285.



Rocky Aldrich received a recent reminder of how God cares for him.

Kim Aldrich

Several exits later, I realized why the man had stared at me. I hadn't changed since I finished working at the school—I still had on my white shirt, white shorts, white socks and white tennis shoes. Tears rolled down my face as I remembered his prayer, "God, if You care, send an angel in white."

Now, walking back home from the store, the wind was biting and the snow was hitting

my face. It was dark, and I felt I was in the middle of nowhere. Looking up I prayed out loud, "If you really care about me, send an angel in white."

I turned the corner by the hospital and a Ford Ranger passed me; I noticed the brake lights come on. The driver backed up and stopped. The automatic window came down and the lady asked, "Would you like a ride?" I could feel the warmth of tears swelling up in my eyes. The lady was wearing a white winter coat with a fur collar. The Ford Ranger was white!

Does God care? Twenty-four years later I got another reminder.

Rocky Aldrich is the superintendent for Ubyly Community Schools. He and his wife, Kim, attend the Kalkaska Church in Michigan.



Bruce Powell

Kurt Martz, right, plant operations manager at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, accepts a Pillar award from Alan Schneider, the hospital's chief patient services officer.

## Adventist Hinsdale Hospital employee receives Pillar award

For Kurt Martz, there truly is no place like home—when that home is Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.

When Martz was hired to work as a hospital custodian while he was in high school, he never dreamed it would be the foundation for a satisfying career. Now the plant operations manager with a team of 19 employees, Martz has earned a reputation for providing professional, timely support to his employees, colleagues and the entire organization.

“Kurt has a true servant’s heart and positive attitude,” said Alan Schneider, chief patient services officer at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. “He responds to countless mini-emergencies in the hospital—24 hours a day, seven days a week. Through it all, Kurt is always upbeat and committed to the hospital’s mission.”

For his commitment to Adventist Midwest Health’s mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ, Martz was one of five Adventist Midwest Health leaders to receive the organization’s Pillar award at the quarterly leadership development institute in October 2010.

Martz came to Adventist Hinsdale Hospital in 1989, following in the footsteps of his father. Larry Martz, a carpenter by trade, worked on the hospital’s construction team from 1983 until his retirement in 2005. Although father and son never worked side by side, Kurt said his father’s actions influenced him in his own career.

“In my father, I was able to witness a man with a great work ethic and a person who was very dedicated to Adventist Hinsdale Hospital,” Martz said.

In 1992, Martz transferred from the environmental services department to patient registration, where he could more easily schedule his hours around the time he’d be in class.

He left to pursue his education full-time at College of DuPage and Coyne Technical Institute. In 1996, after receiving his tech school diploma, Martz applied to the hospital’s maintenance department and was hired as a journeyman and specialized in heating and cooling. Within eight years, Martz was a supervisor.

In 2009, Martz became a certified healthcare facilities manager and completed the ECRI Healthcare Environmental Manager Certification. Today he oversees all of the maintenance and stationary engineering of the buildings

on the Adventist Hinsdale Hospital campus. He takes on additional responsibilities integral to the hospital’s \$75 million construction project—the most ambitious undertaking in the hospital’s 106-year history. The hospital is building a new patient pavilion with private patient suites, modern workstations, and separate corridors for patients and visitors.

“On a day-to-day basis, our team is taking care of punch list items throughout the hospital, everything from corrective maintenance to regulatory projects that have to be completed in a timely manner,” Martz said.

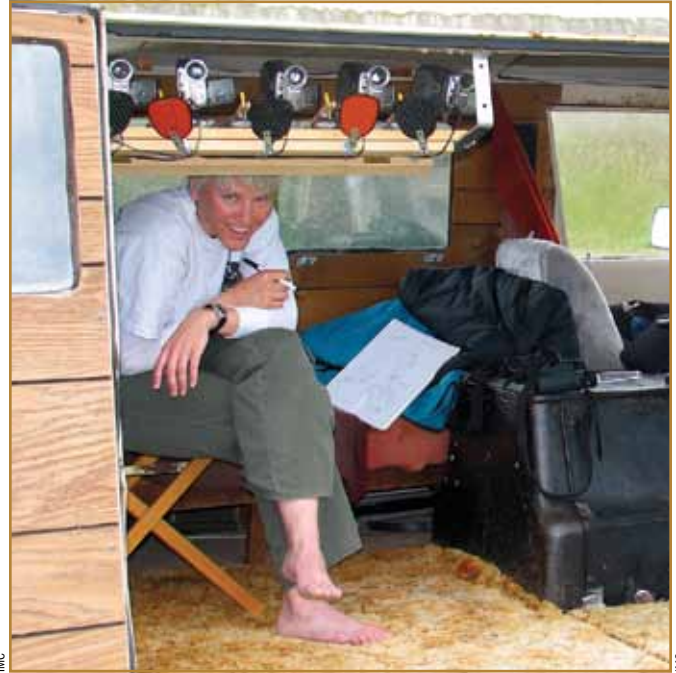
Toward the end of the day, Martz catches up on e-mail. Often, he does that at home after his children, ages 4 and 8, have gone to bed. The hours fly past, but Martz insists they are fun.

Working at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital has not only molded his work experience, but also positively shaped his roles at home and in his faith community, Hinsdale Fil-Am Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“Every day, I’m reminded that there is Someone much greater than all of us directing our outcomes and our paths,” he said. “I recently came across Proverbs 4:11–12 and it’s stuck out in my mind over the past few weeks: ‘I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths when you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble.’”

Pillar award nominations are solicited from Adventist Midwest Health’s senior leadership team. To be eligible, nominees must demonstrate commitment to the organization’s “S.H.A.R.E.” standards of behavior: Sense, Help, Acknowledge, Respect and Explain. They must also demonstrate measurable results on the quarterly goals set for their departments. These goals are organized under the seven categories, or pillars, of spiritual life, people, clinical, service, community, growth and stewardship.

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist,  
Adventist Midwest Health



Jim Hayward sports clothing and head gear donned for protection against the colony's persistent "white rain" and kamikaze gulls.

Shandelle Henson pauses from collecting data in the converted van the team calls its "mobile blind."

## Hayward and Henson secure NSF grant for \$350,000

Shandelle Henson, professor of mathematics, and James Hayward, research professor of biology, are the principal investigators on a three-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for \$350,000. The funds will be used for the salaries, equipment, supplies and travel necessary to study ovulation synchrony in colonial seabirds, a discovery made during 2006 and 2007. In addition to faculty involvement, six to eight undergraduate and graduate students per year will participate in the project.

Since 2002, Henson and Hayward have been the lead researchers for the Seabird Ecology Team, an interdisciplinary group of biologists and mathematicians from Andrews University, the University of Arizona and Walla Walla University. The team spends their summers at Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Wash., observing the

behavior of the Glaucous-winged Gulls that nest there in a large colony.

In a pilot study, Henson and Hayward discovered that female gulls in dense parts of the colony lay their eggs synchronously on an every-other-day schedule. Before this discovery, "ovulation synchrony," recognized as menstrual synchrony in women who live or work together, was known to occur only in humans and rats. The occurrence of this phenomenon in both birds and mammals suggests the existence of a fundamental physiological process common to diverse organisms.

Following the discovery of ovulation synchrony, Henson and Hayward posed a mathematical model of egg-laying based on the hypothesis that every-other-day surges of ovulation hormones in individual gulls synchronize through social stimulation. Model predictions have been consistent with observations. The new grant will allow further model testing and an attempt to identify the synchronizing signal in gulls.

It is hoped this research will increase our understanding of the basic

biology of hormone systems as they relate to reproductive behavior. In addition to gaining a better knowledge of bird hormones and reproduction, practical applications of this research in the future may address things like the effects of hormone cycles on group behavior patterns in humans and human reproductive medicine.

This is the third NSF grant secured by Henson and Hayward. The first, received in 2003, totaled \$304,000. The researchers shared their second grant of \$300,000 with Walla Walla University. Along with additional assistance from Andrews University Faculty Grants, this funding has allowed them to mentor more than 30 research students, publish 15 technical papers—most with student coauthors, present talks at numerous research conferences and teach three interdisciplinary classes for undergraduate students.

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, with additional reporting by Samantha Snively, student news writer, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Ariene Leavitt

The GLAA Concert Choir has accepted opportunities to sing in area churches of other faiths and at the area ministerial association.

## GLAA students extend a hand in nearby communities

Michigan—Reaching out to the local community is one of Great Lakes Adventist Academy's (GLAA) specific goals. Using their diverse talents, the student body enjoys the opportunity to make an impact in the surrounding towns in different ways.

Three years ago Marguerite Samuel, GLAA's choral director, received an invitation for the choir to sing for the Edmore United Methodist Church's Good Friday service. The enthusiastic response created several more invitations and anticipation of additional performances. The Chamber Singers were invited to sing at the funeral of one of the church members who had enjoyed their Good Friday service about one year previously. Subsequently, the choir has performed for the Lakeview Ministerial Association and several more times for the United Methodist church.

In November 2010, when Robert Benson (pastor of the Edmore, Lakeview and Big Rapids Seventh-day Adventist Churches) sent out an e-mail to the local ministerial association asking if anyone would like the Aerokhanas to perform the Passion Play at their church in December, he received an almost immediate reply from the

pastor of the Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Edmore. He indicated his church would be delighted to host the students. The play was well received by the congregation, with one lady commenting that the Passion Play was so powerful it moved her to tears. Afterward, the church members provided cookies and punch.

Also, in December, all the GLAA touring groups, including the Aerokhanas gymnastics team (under the direction of Tedd Webster, coach), the Encore! string ensemble and the Concert Choir, and the Wind Symphony and Bell Choir (under the direction of Byron Graves) were invited to perform in the Williams Auditorium at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich. Radio announcements went out for a week prior to the event, and posters were put up in various locations. A caravan of buses and vans full of students unloaded Saturday night at Ferris State University, and they provided a full program to an appreciative audience of more than 500 people.

Another important outreach each November is the annual Leaf Rake Day organized by GLAA's Student Association. This is always a positive interaction with the surrounding community. With nearly all staff and students participating, the community receives a warm helping hand to clear the yards of those unable to do so for themselves. Community leaf raking was initiated



Ariene Leavitt

GLAA students rake the yard of an elderly man during the annual Leaf Rake Day.

30 years ago, and people have come to rely on the students for this assistance.

Every two weeks, 30 to 40 community children rush excitedly into the gymnasium ready for another action-packed session of learning at GLAA. Gymnastics After School Program (GASP) was started in 2009, the idea of Ashley Noonan (GLAA '11). First and foremost, the children learn about Christ through worship talks presented by GLAA students. They are eager with



Ariene Leavitt

The Aerokhanas gymnastics team performs at Ferris State University.



Ariene Leavitt

The Aerokhanas gymnastics team performs the Passion Play at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Edmore.



a desire for friendship, and connect almost instantly to the students. After worship, the children enjoy learning several different aspects of gymnastics. Residents in the surrounding communities of Cedar Lake and Edmore didn't really have a full picture of what GLAA was about. But after watching the students interact with their children, the parents gained huge respect for them. Some of the parents eventually decided to take up Bible studies with individuals from the Cedar Lake Church. One of the families who attended the gymnastics program enrolled their three younger children in the elementary school, and their high school-aged son at GLAA.

When the Cedar Lake Church

started a Revelation Seminar in October 2010, about 30 people from the surrounding community decided to make the long-term commitment to attend the programs which concluded the end of December 2010. Seven members of the Witnessing Class at GLAA participated in the seminars. They took turns preaching, ushering and providing free childcare during the meetings. "The seminars have been a good solidifier of what Seventh-day Adventists believe for new members in the church. Current members have also been blessed by the meetings as they have experienced a strengthening of their faith," says Mickey Mallory, pastor. Through the seminars, one individual made a decision for baptism.

Barriers of prejudice are being broken down, and community members are eager for more interaction with the young people at GLAA. Because of the goodwill their outreach has created in the community, some of the area pastors and people are beginning to attend the academy's religious and secular programs at the Cedar Lake Church and at the academy chapel. It is GLAA's desire to extend a hand to their community, knock on doors and open the hearts of those surrounding the school to be receptive to hearing the good news of the gospel.

Arlene Leavitt, assistant director for development/alumni/recruiting, Great Lakes Adventist Academy



Vlade Divac is surrounded by Hinsdale Adventist Academy's basketball players from the school's junior high and high school teams.

## NBA legend and humanitarian visits Hinsdale Adventist Academy

Illinois—Vlade Divac, NBA legend and humanitarian, delighted Hinsdale Adventist Academy basketball team members with a visit on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010. In town to attend a fundraising

event for one of his charities, Humanitarian Organization Divac, Divac stopped by the school to talk to the basketball team members about how everyone can make a difference on and off the court.

After a diverse career spanning 16 years, Divac retired from basketball. He has since spent his time working with the three charities he founded, Divac's Children Foundation, You Can Too and Humanitarian Organization Divac.

All of his charitable organizations aid refugees in his home country of Yugoslavia (torn apart by internal conflicts that divided the nation along ethnic lines) and in other parts of the world, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ethiopia, Indonesia, China and the U.S. following Hurricane Katrina. "We are trying to help people rebuild their lives." He challenged Hinsdale Adventist Academy students to look around, and when they

see someone who needs help to step in and help. “Everyone can do something,” Divac said.

At 7’1” tall, Divac is an impressive man. Hinsdale resident Miguel Martinez, the 6’6” center on the Hinsdale Hurricanes varsity basketball team, stood next to Divac and laughed, “He makes me feel small!” His stories of life both on the basketball court and off entertained and inspired the audience, which included the players, parents and guests from the Chicago Yugoslavian Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Divac answered many questions from the audience, including how he felt about playing the Bulls in the 1991 NBA finals. “I was very happy when we beat them the first game,” he told the crowd, “but very sad when they won the next four!” Divac was also philosophical about the decision of the Lakers to trade him to the Hornets, in exchange

for a high-school kid (Kobe Bryant). He admitted he was “very upset” when he was traded, but decided to use the trade as a learning experience and offered this advice, “Whatever doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger.”

Divac’s visit to the school was organized by local businessman, Alex Bokich, father of children who attend Hinsdale Adventist Academy and one of the organizers of the Humanitarian Organization Divac event at the Topaz Cafe. Before Divac left the school, George Babcock, administrative principal, presented him with a check for his organization and stated, “Of all the great things you accomplished on the basketball court, it is your work off the court that will have the greatest impact on our world. For that, we are all very grateful.”

Rebecca Garrett, marketing director, Hinsdale Adventist Academy



George Babcock, administrative principal, presents a check to Vlade Divac for his charitable organization, Humanitarian Organization Divac, during a recent visit to Hinsdale Adventist Academy.

## Peterson-Warren Academy students walk for juvenile diabetes cure

Lake Region—Stephen Wallace, a freshman at Peterson-Warren Academy, in Inkster, Mich., stood bravely before his peers in grades 6–12 at a chapel program where he spoke concerning his lifelong battle with Type 1 diabetes. Stephen was born on Feb. 3, 1996, as a healthy baby boy. Later, his mom noticed her two-year-old drinking two to three cups of water in a row and losing so much weight she thought he looked like a skeleton. Other symptoms were noticed as well. Upon taking Stephen to his pediatrician where numerous tests were performed, his parents learned the diagnosis. At the tender age of two-and-a-half years, Stephen had Type 1 diabetes. His parents were devastated, but say they had trust and faith in the Lord.

Stephen explained how at a very early age he was taught by his doctors

and parents how to control his disease and why he needed to be careful with his insulin injections. When he became older, Stephen learned how to give himself the required insulin shots so his mother would no longer have to give them. He told stories of how his mother had to chase him around the house each time he was to receive a shot of insulin. Stephen relayed to the students that though he now has to do the injections himself, and the constant sticking is still painful, he has become used to the routine.

At the beginning, Stephen found himself needing four to six insulin injections daily. He shared his anxieties concerning the numerous finger pokes that he must perform daily to check his blood sugar level. As he spoke, some students rubbed their fingers on their laps to soothe the hurt they imagined. And though Stephen said he sometimes wondered why God allowed this to happen to him, he knows God loves him and that there is a reason he carries such a burden.

Stephen also expressed his struggles

in school and how hard it was when he was young to make friends. He said that out of ignorance of the disease some classmates felt that if they sat next to him they could become a diabetic, too. Tears flowed from his eyes as well as the eyes of the student body and faculty members as he recalled his many stays at the hospital for diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)—a potentially life-threatening complication in patients with diabetes mellitus. “It happens predominantly in those with Type 1 diabetes,” he said, “but it can occur in those with Type 2 diabetes under certain circumstances.”

Students learned that DKA results from a shortage of insulin; in response, the body switches to burning fatty acids and producing acidic ketone bodies that cause most of the symptoms and complications. Stephen stated that being in the hospital wasn’t that bad because he liked the food; however, he also stated that he missed his family and sleeping in his own bed. This made his long stays in the hospital very difficult and trying.

Stephen explained how lucky the



Some of the walk-a-thon participants included students, teachers, parents and other supporters. Together they raised approximately \$2,700 to help fund research for the cure of juvenile diabetes on behalf of Stephen Wallace.

students are to be able to eat what they want and when they want; while he, on the other hand, must painstakingly monitor the carbs he eats at every meal. "Eating grapes and a banana is nothing to those who have normal blood levels, but to a diabetic these fruits, if not monitored, can cause havoc in our bodies," Stephen relayed to them. So, he told how he must daily count the carbs in order to give himself the proper dosage of insulin, and is always aware of the dangers that may occur if he misses his insulin injection.

He also discussed the emotional turmoil his family has gone through when they see him giving himself insulin injections or being hospitalized due to complications. He shared how his parents and siblings are very supportive and helpful with coordinating his special diabetic diet. They, too, give up certain foods so their meals will be the same as Stephen's. They also want him to be independent of them to ensure he will be able to care for himself at home, school and socially, as well.

After addressing many of the questions the students had about diabetes

(many thought that it was an old person's disease), the students wanted to do something to support Stephen's medical situation. They wanted to raise money to support research for a cure for juvenile diabetes. With the help of faculty, staff and the school's Home and School Association, it was decided the school would host a walk-a-thon. However, the question was presented: How much could the students actually raise? Was it possible to raise more than \$1,000? Contact was made with the local Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and the desire shared to host a Kids Walk for a Cure event. The foundation was very thrilled and helped make sure the walk was a success.

On Nov. 14, 2010, more than 60 walkers arrived at the school at 10:00 a.m. and began the five-mile walk around the blocks surrounding Peterson-Warren Academy. When the first count was made, students were surprised to learn they had collected more than a \$1,000. When the second count was made, the amount had risen to more than \$2,000. As of this writ-

ing, Peterson-Warren Academy was blessed to raise \$2,700 in the fight to stomp out juvenile diabetes. Many have the faith to believe that somewhere there is another \$300 to be collected so the final count will be \$3,000.

Though Stephen still has diabetes, the students have faith God will watch over him and help him to remember to watch his diet and take his insulin. They also have faith that the funds they helped raise will be blessed and used to help facilitate a cure for their friend and classmate, Stephen.

Sharone Wallace, event coordinator, Kids Walk for a Cure, and Juanita Martin, Ed.D., principal, Peterson-Warren Academy



Peterson-Warren Academy students and parents, led by Stephen Wallace, walk for a juvenile diabetes cure.

## Hinsdale Adventist Academy's youngest students learn the joy of helping others

Illinois—When the Hinsdale Adventist Academy kindergarten class heard of a family in need, they jumped into action. Knowing that Thanksgiving was coming, the students decided to start a campaign to collect food to provide a complete Thanksgiving meal for the family. Not only did the 24 students in Fawn Scherencel's class collect the food items needed for Thanksgiv-



The Hinsdale Adventist Academy kindergarten students conducted their second annual Thanksgiving food drive to help a local family in need.

ing, but they went above and beyond with non-perishable items that the family can use for future meals. In just

a couple of weeks, they were able to collect a turkey and all the trimmings, much to the delight and thankfulness of the family.

According to Scherencel, "It's never too early to teach our students about the joy of giving and helping others. My students were very excited about helping someone in need."

Hinsdale Adventist Academy's mission statement includes strengthening students for lives of purpose, service and leadership, and kindergarten is a great place to start!

Rebecca Garrett, marketing director,  
Hinsdale Adventist Academy

### [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

## MIDWEST Bible study program graduates more students

Wisconsin—Dec. 4, 2010, was a special Sabbath afternoon for seven individuals. It was on this day they were recognized for their achievement after completing the Bible Worker/Medical Missionary program offered by MIDWEST (Midwestern Intensive Discipleship & Winsome Evangelistic Training Program). Marley Grant of Minnesota, Joshua Guerrero of Stevens Point, Bart Khulman of Wausau, Joyce Miller of Stevens Point, Toshiko Miller of Tokyo, Japan, David Negron of Philadelphia, Penn., and Frank Johnson of Stevens Point, say they thoroughly enjoyed the time spent completing the course.

Now in its second term, MIDWEST is an innovative Bible worker certification curriculum created by the Stevens Point District pastor, David Guerrero, with the help of district Bible workers, Joshua Jeresek and Jasper St. Bernard. The three-and-a-half month curriculum provides an opportunity for those interested to get the training they need to feel confident and competent in leading individuals to



Seven individuals from various places here and abroad recently were recognized for their achievement after completing MIDWEST's Bible Worker/Medical Missionary program. From left: Frank Johnson, Joshua Guerrero, Marly Grant, Joyce Miller, Bart Khulman, Toshiko Miller and David Negron

Christ, as well as utilize their giftedness in ministry to impact kingdom growth.

RTFM (Rekindle the Flame Ministries) partners with LIGHT (Lay Institute for Global Health Evangelism) to present a recurring, three-and-a-half-month MIDWEST Center of Evangelism program, a supporting ministry of the Wisconsin Conference. See [www.rekindletheflameministries.org](http://www.rekindletheflameministries.org).

Grant, a nurse, says she "found" the MIDWEST program through Divine

guidance. For some time she wanted to train as a Bible worker, but didn't know where to go. Grant wanted to stay fairly close to home. One night she dreamed God told her to go to a training school in Wisconsin. Grant looked for such a school on the Internet, but couldn't find it. She then felt impressed to attend the Wisconsin Camp Meeting. While there, Grant shared her story with some of the leadership in Wisconsin who then joyfully introduced her to

David Guerrero. Grant is now a graduate of the fall program.

The students attended classes from Sept. 1 to Dec. 4, 2010, where they learned to receive and give Bible studies, preach, defend their faith as well as apply Bible-based health, stewardship and relationship principles to be effective workers in ministry. Their hands-on field work was accomplished in the Stevens Point district as they accompanied (shadowed) David Guerrero and the Bible workers in ministry, engaged in door-to-door ministry, then gave their own Bible studies under the training of Jeresek and St. Bernard.



David Guerrero

The MIDWEST graduates enjoyed the celebration planned for them after completing the training.

The district churches embraced this new concept and are already seeing nice results with increased visitors to the churches, new small groups started and a number of people who have been or

are preparing for a baptism scheduled in the near future as a result of these efforts. The curriculum is open to anyone interested in learning effective evangelism and outreach skills with the hope of becoming a Bible worker/medical missionary.

To learn more about the program, contact Joshua Jeresek, Jasper St. Bernard or David Guerrero at 715-344-4337 or 715-310-2196.

Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference, as shared by David Guerrero, pastor, Stevens Point District



Joyce Allen Allison

Church and community children gathered for the many activities planned for them at the Maywood Community Church.

## Church discovers work to reach neighbors is just beginning

Lake Region—On Aug. 21, 2010, the Maywood Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Maywood, Ill., sponsored a healthy living day under the direction of its pastor, Harold Allison Jr. The Health Ministries Department partnered with every department of the church to minister to the community. Church members basically held church outdoors. They turned themselves inside out to expose themselves to their neighbors in the community.

On Sabbath, at 10:00 a.m., the streets around the church were blocked off by the police and fire departments. A large 20' x 40' tent was erected the day before. On the morning of the healthy living day, personal yard cano-

pies were erected and lined the perimeter of the church. The community received invitations and fliers in the days leading up to the special event.

The church's volunteer force was supplemented by two Lake Region Conference directors: Ralph Shelton, a pastor and youth director; Pam Daly, children's ministries director. Many others from local Chicagoland churches assisted. Children's ministries presented a musical with Veggie Tales puppets, and taught animal balloon classes and arts and crafts during the morning hours. At the same time, seminars were provided at a sound stage, as well as praise and worship, choirs, singers and many other wonderful things. A financial seminar, "How to Pay Your Bills and Tithing," was conducted by church elder, Anthony Tyson, in the basement of the church. This seminar was well attended.

At the end of the street was a Noah's Ark Petting Zoo, where city children experienced the wonders of God's animal creation. On the opposite end of the grounds, health screening was organized and conducted by Renada Tyson, one of the church's health ministers. This was well attended with psychologists, nurse practitioners, nurses, therapists, dentists and physicians available for screening and consultation.

The Community Services Department's canopy provided shelter for the clothes and food giveaway. Many

community neighbors were affected a few weeks earlier by a devastating flood. And others also expressed they lost their jobs and were in need of help.

The church's Personal Ministries Department provided a reading booth, and volunteers shared hundreds of books on the life of Christ and information about living according to Christ's example as found in the Bible. Next to the reading booth a prayer canopy was hosted by Philip Willis Sr. and his wife, Edith Willis.

This ministry was a source of great comfort to many neighbors.

Healthy food samples were distributed, allowing community guests to taste wonderful fruits, vegetables and grain dishes prepared inexpensively.

Comments heard after the event included: "The Spirit of the Lord is here," "We have walked in the feet of Jesus," and "I wish our church reached out to the community like this." The blessings from this day are too many to number. The church members have affirmed that their work in this community for their neighbors is just beginning.

Joyce Allen Allison, M.D., director of health ministries, Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Maywood Community Seventh-day Adventist Church





Some of the Lake Union ASI members receive warm words of thanks from the local pastor, Henry Mainhard (right).

## Lake Union ASI members discover a gold mine in Chile

No, this story is not about the San Jose Mine and its world famous miners miraculously rescued in Copiapo. It is about another rescue in which Lake Union ASI (Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries) members, and Lake Union ASI representative, Carmelo Mercado, participated in at about the same time in history. Within the small town of San Clemente, with a population of about 2,000, near the epicenter of last February's 8.8 magnitude earthquake, a group of believers carefully planned an evangelistic series which was part of the South American Division's ongoing effort.

These meetings were a follow-up from last year's church building mission trip, which included ASI members, the 2009 Wisconsin Academy seniors and Maranatha Volunteer International's volunteers. This building, constructed by faithful hands and cared for by a powerful Redeemer, withstood the quake without damage.

When the small mission group returned in October 2010, they were able to witness the Spirit of the Lord at work in the church members. Music, testimonies, warm embraces and the Word of God filled the church. This

structure is not only beautifully finished inside and out, but replete with brothers and sisters lovingly laboring for Jesus. A nearby church has *all* of its members active giving Bible studies. One elder visited 30 families each week to prepare them for baptism, prior to the ASI group's arrival.

This mission effort lasted seven days. It included basic English classes at the Talca Adventist Elementary School and health lectures at the church and in three surrounding communities. By the last Sabbath, seven precious individuals, from eight to 88 years old, committed to a life with Jesus through baptism. Many others decided to start baptismal classes.

Reg Mattson, Lake Union ASI president, providentially stumbled upon one of the hotel chefs some others met during the church construction term in 2009. The earthquake had displaced the chef from his previous job, and the group had lost touch with him. The chef was invited to the campaign that night. Despite living almost an hour away from the event, the Spirit brought him in and some of his family members accompanied him. Mattson said, "I had tears in my eyes when reflecting on the wonderful Lord we serve that would bring people from more than 7,000 miles away to help rescue one of His lost 'sheep.'"

Mercado visited a former member

who stopped attending church after his wife's demise about five years ago. His children, active in the church, were saddened by his unspoken resentment. This non-attending member promised to visit the church "in the future..." The group praised God when he walked into the church that very night and again the next day, on Sabbath. He recommitted his life to the Savior he loved in his youth and is going through the healing process with Jesus. The local pastor, Henry Mainhard, has a full schedule helping members rebuild their homes and businesses, offering creative counseling and procuring governmental and church assistance. However, by doing so, he attracts other people to the Lord.

For the Lake Union ASI members, the trip was another learning experience. It is their desire to invite every member of the Lake Union Conference to become active in local and distant evangelism. They believe natural disasters will increase, lost members will return, new individuals will be reached, the Holy Spirit will work miracles in conversions and lives will be changed until Jesus returns for His sheep. A gold mine awaits the faithful worker. Never forget that!

Manuel Alva, ASI member and health lecture presenter for the mission trip, Lake Union Conference

## CYE celebrates 30th anniversary

“Youth ministry leaders are beginning to realize that it’s not only about doing church activities and events—it’s about transforming young adults,” said Denis Fortin, dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and vice chair of the Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE) Board. Fortin was one of several key speakers who participated in the CYE 30th Anniversary Celebration held Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010, in the Seminary Chapel at Andrews University. The service reflected on the history of the Center while also highlighting its current impact and future goals.

Established in 1979 as the Youth Resource Center at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, it became the first such center at any Adventist college or university in the world, specializing in the training of students and congregation youth ministry leaders for various forms of youth evangelism. It has steadily grown throughout the years and was renamed in 1996 as the Center for Youth Evangelism.

Today, the CYE is home to more than a dozen ministries specifically focused on youth evangelism, including Cruise with a Mission, International Pathfinder Camporee, an annual Music & Worship Conference, and more.

Erin McLean, mathematics and English major at Andrews University, is just one of many youth leaders who have been inspired by the CYE’s evangelistic efforts. “I have been involved in the past two Pathfinder Camporees,” said McLean. “The CYE is the most dedicated professional organization that I’ve ever been involved in. I honestly think the CYE is the best organization of its kind in the Adventist church. ... They incorporate so many cutting-edge ideas and revitalize the way the church thinks about youth.”

At the 30th Anniversary Celebration, other youth leaders shared their experience working with the CYE.



Following the CYE 30th Anniversary Celebration, a reception was held in the Center for Youth Evangelism’s office suite in the Seminary.

Japhet de Oliveira, CYE director, began the service with opening remarks and prayer. Thoughts from former Youth Resource Center directors Des Cummings Jr. (1979–1985), Steve Case (1985–1991) and Randal Wisbey (1991–1996) were also shared. The speakers told of their evangelistic experiences and how inspiring it was to work with young people.

Case, president of Involve Youth, explained the growing number of students who were interested in youth ministry during his experience as director. “The Youth Resource Center was the lab for what we were learning in class,” he said. “It put me into the field instead of just going off of my own experience from the past. ... We sometimes say ‘my’ ministry,” Case explained, “but we need to keep putting ministry into the hands of God.”

Ron Whitehead, who currently serves as executive director of CYE, also spoke. He reflected on the excitement of having a new seminary completed in 2001 and shared his hopes for further Center improvements. “I believe the future for the CYE is very exciting,” he said, commenting on the development of new technology, research methods and media communication. “I believe the Center is at

the right university—Andrews University—where we prepare students to change the world. I’m happy to celebrate a Center that has much to do with the future.”

Gilbert Cangy, director, General Conference Youth Department; Manny Cruz, associate director, North American Division Youth Department; Roger Dudley, director, Institute of Church Ministry; Don Livesay, president, Lake Union Conference and member of CYE Board; and Niels-Erik Andreasen, president, Andrews University and chair of the CYE Board, also shared thoughts at the event.

The ceremony ended with remarks and closing prayer by José Bourget, assistant director of the CYE. A reception with light refreshments was held in the CYE offices following the event.

Concurrent with the CYE 30th Anniversary Celebration, the Church of Refuge (COR) Advisory, 180° Symposium and a Youth Leadership Development Summit were also held on the campus of Andrews University. To learn more about the Center and its ministries, visit [www.adventistyouth.org](http://www.adventistyouth.org).

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

# 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* Web site at [www.LakeUnionHerald.org](http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org) and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at [www.LakeUnionHerald.org](http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org).

## Andrews University

The following events will be held at the Howard Performing Arts Center on the Andrews University campus. For more event information, call HPAC at 269-471-3560.

**Feb. 4:** Departments of English and Music Vespers, 7:00 p.m.

**Feb. 5:** Sinfonietta Winter Concert, 8:00 p.m.

**Feb. 12:** Wind Symphony Pops Concert, 8:00 p.m.

**Feb. 13:** Second Sunday Concert: Chi Yong Yun, piano, 4:00 p.m.

### Quinquennial Meeting of the Members:

Please take notice that a quinquennial meeting of the members of the Andrews University Corporation (commonly known as a "constituency meeting") will take place on **Tues., Mar. 1, 2011**, beginning at 1:00 p.m., in the Seminary Chapel of Tan Hall on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. At the meeting, the members will receive reports from Andrews University administration, elect a portion of the Andrews University Board of Trustees and consider minor amendments to the bylaws.

Brent G.T. Geraty

Secretary of the Corporation

### Registration Open for Adventist Engaged

**Encounter.** Adventist Engaged Encounter (AEE) is an enrichment weekend for engaged and recently married couples. This powerful event is held every spring and fall. The next AEE weekend is **Mar. 4-6**. To register, contact the Undergraduate Leadership Program at [aee@andrews.edu](mailto:aee@andrews.edu) or call 269-471-6636.

### Andrews University Music and Worship

**Conference:** Hosted on the campus of Andrews University, **Mar. 24-26**, this conference is a training event for pastors, worship leaders, church musicians and lay leaders involved in worship ministry. Come and be inspired to honor God more fully in your worship. Be equipped to minister more effec-

tively through worship and worship music. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to grow in your ministry! To register or to find out more, please visit [auworshipconference.org](http://auworshipconference.org) or call 269-471-8352.

## Illinois

**Broadview Academy Alumni Association** encourages all alumni to attend Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend on **Apr. 29 and 30**. Mark your calendars. Call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes are: 1951, '61, '71, '81, '86, '91 and 2001. The weekend includes Fri. night Vespers, Sabbath school and church. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes **we need your e-mail addresses—postage is too expensive**. Send it to Ed Gutierrez at [edjule1@att.net](mailto:edjule1@att.net), or call 630-232-9034. More information to come. Don't miss it!

## Indiana

**Youth Rally, Feb. 18-19:** Hundreds of young people from all across Indiana unite for this annual event beginning at 7:30 Fri. evening, at Indiana Academy in Cicero. To reserve a Fri. night dorm room and Sabbath morning breakfast, call IA at 317-984-3575. The Sabbath program begins at 10:00 a.m. at Indianapolis Junior Academy, 2910 E. 62nd St., Indianapolis. The guest speaker is Manny Cruz, associate youth director for the North American Division. Following lunch, 15 different breakout sessions will be offered. The Gym Masters from Southern Adventist University will perform at 7:15 p.m. For additional infor-

mation, go to [www.trcamp.org](http://www.trcamp.org), or call Trisha Thompson at the Indiana Conference at 317-844-6201.

**Bible Summit:** Today most of us aren't content simply owning a Bible. We want to understand it, be able to share its message, and have Bible study be the most meaningful thing we do. During Bible Summit, **Mar. 25-26** at Indiana Academy, you will see the Word come alive through study and sharing. For more information, visit [www.biblesummit.org](http://www.biblesummit.org).

**Music Festival, Mar. 31-Apr. 2:** This event is open to all Indiana Adventist young people in grades 5-10 who are interested in praising the Lord through song or instrument. To register or for additional Music Festival information, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/indianamusicfest2011/>.

**Sabbath Celebration, Apr. 2:** Join your Indiana friends and fellow believers at this annual one-day event. Gene Hall, pastor of the Holland Church in Mich., will speak Sabbath morning in the Indiana Academy gymnasium in Cicero. At 2:30 p.m., the music festival young people will join together in a mass choir. There will be band and chime performances as well.

## Lake Union

### Offerings

**Feb. 5** Local Church Budget

**Feb. 12** Adventist Television Ministries

**Feb. 19** Local Church Budget

**Feb. 26** Local Conference Advance

### Special Days

**Feb. 5-26** Black History Month

**Feb. 6-12** Christian Home and Marriage Week

**Feb. 19** Health Ministries Sabbath

## Michigan

**Marriage Commitment Retreat, Mar. 11-**

**13:** Commit to do something great for your marriage and attend the next Marriage Commitment weekend at beautiful Camp Au Sable. There are seminars designed to help strengthen your marriage, time for fun and fellowship, a beautiful natural setting to enjoy, and special activities for the two of you. Pastor Dwight and Karen Nelson from Pioneer Memorial Church are the guest speakers. For more information or to register, call Alyce at 517-316-1543 or e-mail [ablackmer@misda.org](mailto:ablackmer@misda.org). Applications are available at [www.misda.org](http://www.misda.org).

## North American Division

**Los Angeles Adventist Academy** will honor the alumni from the classes of 1941, '51, '61, '71, '81, '91 and 2011 at its 3rd Annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend on **Mar. 11-13**. This event will take place on the campus of LAAA located at 846 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90059. For more information, call us at 323-321-2585, ext. 229, e-mail us at [alumnilaaa@gmail.com](mailto:alumnilaaa@gmail.com), or visit our Web site at [www.alumnilaaa.com](http://www.alumnilaaa.com).

**Valley Grande Adventist Academy Alumni Association (Weslaco, Texas)** invites all former faculty, staff and students to our annual Alumni Weekend, **Mar. 25-27**. All honor class years end in "1" or "6" (2001, 2006, etc.). For more information, visit our Web site at [www.vgaa.org](http://www.vgaa.org), or contact Suzanna Facundo at [sfacundo@hotmail.com](mailto:sfacundo@hotmail.com).

**Union College Homecoming:** Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming, **Apr. 7-10**. Honor classes are: 1941, '51, '56, '61, '71, '81, '86, '91 and 2001. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25	Mar 4	Mar 11
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:02	6:11	6:19	6:28	6:40	6:47
Chicago, Ill.	5:07	5:16	5:25	5:34	5:45	5:53
Detroit, Mich.	5:47	5:56	6:05	6:14	6:26	6:34
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:05	6:14	6:22	6:30	6:40	6:47
La Crosse, Wis.	5:17	5:26	5:36	5:46	5:58	6:07
Lansing, Mich.	5:53	6:02	6:11	6:20	6:32	6:40
Madison, Wis.	5:11	5:20	5:30	5:39	5:51	5:59
Springfield, Ill.	5:19	5:28	5:36	5:44	5:54	6:02



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

## Anniversaries



**Ralph and Ann Jaramio** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 5, 2010, by a reception at the Bloomington (Ind.) Church. They have been members of the Bloomington Church for six years.

Ralph D. Jaramio and Ann Thomas were married Nov. 5, 1960, in Ft. Worth, Texas, by Pastor William May. Ralph retired from the Veterans Administration, working in Special Processing and Delivery in the Denver V.A. Hospital. Ann retired from being an academy English teacher and vice principal.

The Jaramio family includes Stephanie and Daniel Young of Denver, Colo.; Patricia and Garry Trefl of Westmont, Ill.; and 10 grandchildren.



**Herbert and Phyllis Wrate** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 1, 2010, at an open house given by their children and renewal of vows at the Cory (Ind.) Zion Church. They have been members of the Lewis (Ind.) Church for 10 years.

Herbert Wrate and Phyllis Keller were married Apr. 17, 1960, in Terre Haute, Ind., by Pastor William Ward. Herbert has been superintendent of education, retiring in 2000. Phyllis has been a homemaker.

The Wrate family includes Sonia and Steven Keller of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Colleen and Ron Kelly of Arcadia, Ind.; and six grandchildren.

## Obituaries

**BOUVIER, Jean F.**, age 82; born Feb. 6, 1928, in LeHavre, France; died Aug. 25,

2010, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his son, Thierry; daughter, Yolande Robertson; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Jacques Doukhan and Arne Swanson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

**BRIDGEFORTH, Alice (Huggins)**, age 69; born Nov. 3, 1940, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died Oct. 8, 2010, in Indianapolis. She was a member of the Glendale Church, Indianapolis.

Survivors include her husband, Ronald L.; son, Derrick Jones; stepson, Donald Bridgeforth; daughter, Cynthia Bobbitt; stepdaughter, Lillita Bridgeforth; brothers, Lee and Larry Huggins; sisters, Geraldine Dunlop, Helen Smith, and Michell, Karen and Roslyn Huggins; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Paul Yeoman, and interment was in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis.

**CLAWSON, Patricia L. (Hall) Harwood**, age 74; born Aug. 20, 1936, in Bluffton, Ind.; died Sept. 14, 2010, in Marion, Ind. She was a member of the Marion Church.

Survivors include her sons, William Clawson, and Brett and Travis Harwood; daughter, Marita Gallaway; brother, Albert Hall; sister, Coleen Ayala; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Javier Quiles, and interment was in Grant Memorial Park Cemetery, Marion.

**COLE, Ruby J. (Current)**, age 91; born Oct. 28, 1918, in Brant, Mich.; died Oct. 9, 2010, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Arthur D.; daughters, Lorna Wise, Beverly Cole and Sharyl Fleming; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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

**FUTCHER, Wilfred G.A.**, age 86; born Dec. 4, 1923, in Southampton, England; died Sept. 22, 2010, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Rowena (Bird); daughter, Beverly Futcher; brother, Cyril; and three grandchildren.

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

**GERARD, June A. (Nelson)**, age 91; born Dec. 14, 1918, in Quincy, Mass.; died Aug. 19, 2010, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her sons, Geoffrey, Gregory and Garland; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dwight K. Nelson, and interment was in South Portage (Mich.) Cemetery.

**GRIFFIN, Dane J.**, age 56; born Aug. 11, 1954, in Hagerstown, Md.; died Oct. 10, 2010, in Lansing, Mich. He was a member of the Lansing Church.

Survivors include his wife, Vicki (Bianco); son, Anthony; daughter, Gina Stearman; father, Robert; mother, Darlene (Ness); brothers, Douglas, David and Darrell; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Jay Gallimore, and interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek, Mich.

**HOOVER, Betty L. (Hunt)**, age 76; born Dec. 12, 1933, in Gobles, Mich.; died Aug. 20, 2010, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Jim; sons, Dennis, Michael and Richard; brothers, Donald and Gerald Graham; sisters, Julie Miller, Donna Gray, Jean Hicks and Jane Dilday; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Arne Swanson, and interment was in Union Cemetery, Berrien Center, Mich.

**OWENS, Velma (Hackleman)**, age 102; born Dec. 28, 1907, in Madison Cty., Ind.; died Sept. 13, 2010, in Greenfield, Ind. She was a member of the Greenfield Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Joan Buswell; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Terry Nennich, and interment was in Huntsville (Ind.) Cemetery.

**PINE, Florence M. (Sanders)**, age 90; born May 10, 1920, in Conlogue, Ill.; died Sept. 6, 2010, in Paris, Ill. She was a member of the Paris Church.

Survivors include her son, Jack; daughters, Evelyn Wilson and Martha Haddix; brother, Lawrence Sanders; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Jerry Lastine, and interment was in Grandview (Ill.) Cemetery.

**WHITE, Lynette I. (Innoncent)**, age 49; born Mar. 8, 1961, in Takoma Park, Md.; died Aug. 24, 2010, in Lansing, Mich. She was a member of the Lansing Church.

Survivors include her husband, Douglas E.; sons, Ryan and Jared; father, Kenneth Innoncent; mother, Arnetta (Zachary) Innoncent; brothers, Larry and Lyle Innoncent; and sister, Lori Holden.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Jim Micheff, with private inurnment.

**ZUEHLKE, Joy (Carlson)**, age 77; born Mar. 24, 1933, in Cadillac, Mich.; died Oct. 9, 2010, in Columbus, Wis. She was an attending member of the Beloit, Ft. Atkinson, Oakland and East Madison Churches in Wis.

Survivors include her sons, Rick and Terry Zuehlke, and Chip Cotton; daughter, Nancy Zuehlke; brother, Jim Carlson; stepbrother, Leo Mathewson; sisters, Geraldine Jensen, Ethel Hammon, Lucille Klingaman and Jan South; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Steve Aust, and interment was in Windsor Twp. (Wis.) Cemetery.

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perience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. For more information, contact Dr. Ron Mitchell at 817-202-6230 or [mitchell@swau.edu](mailto:mitchell@swau.edu).

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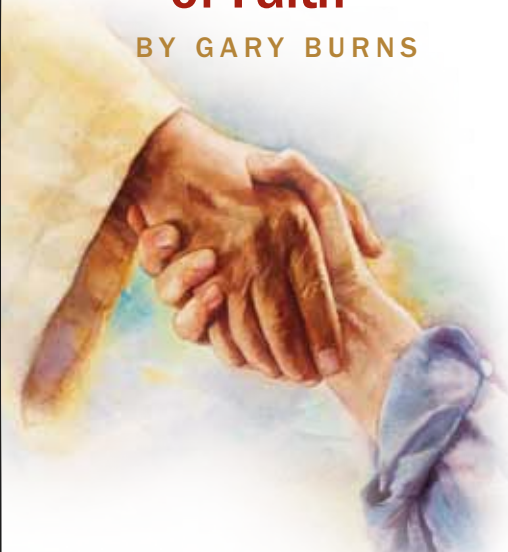
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## PARTNERSHIP with GOD

### Young and Full of Faith

BY GARY BURNS



Now that I'm a parent of adult children, the reality of my own choices at their age has finally sunk in. I married at the age of 20 after only two years of college, no job and no apartment to live in! And I didn't see a problem with that? What was I thinking!

In response to prayer, God provided a house to sit for a month, and then a contracting job that turned out to be a great opportunity and learning experience for me. It provided enough money for an apartment and my next college term. Some may think I was young and foolish with a run of good luck, but I prefer to think of it as being young and trusting, full of faith in a God who provides for His children.

I had seen my parents step out in faith and watched God provide for our family time after time. I was young enough to believe that's how it worked—that God would provide for our needs as a natural part of our relationship with Him—a relationship that put Him first and included long hours in summer heat with a pickax and shovel.

I'm reminded that in my maturity and sophistication I may have drifted from that kind of partnership with Him. "Unless you change and become like little children (trusting God for everything with simple, child-like faith), you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3 NIV, *parentheses supplied*).

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

## Bare Necessities

BY JENNIFER CALHOUN

From the comforts of my West Virginia home, signing up for a mission trip to Fiji sounded like a fantastic idea. Visions of palm trees, coconuts and crystal clear water floated through my mind as I imagined myself sunning on a postcard perfect beach of pristine white sand. Of course, the sunbathing would come after I had put in three or four hours of hard labor in the morning—this was a mission trip, after all.

Somehow during my pre-trip planning, I missed the memo that listed “becoming a jungle woman” as one of the possible outcomes. The next two weeks served as a crash course on the finer points of life in the Fijian jungle. The experience also redefined my concept of mission work and taught me that “service” and “adventure” can be synonyms. Here are a few of the lessons I brought home.

To survive life in the Fijian jungle you must know how to:

**Wield a machete.** There are many practical uses for this tool; it is sharp enough to fell banana trees, crack open coconuts and clear jungle brush, yet delicate enough to be used as a kitchen utensil.


**Build a raft.** Banana trees and jungle vines work quite nicely; however, in the likely event that your raft should disassemble itself mid-stream, ripe coconuts can be used as flotation devices.

**Mix cement.** Combine one bag of cement powder, five shovelfuls of sand plus eight-and-a-half bottles of water in a wheelbarrow. Mix thoroughly, dump and repeat as necessary.

**Treat medical emergencies.** Machete wounds, skin infections, foot

fungi, fish bites, jellyfish stings, wild boar attacks, and the occasional baby delivery or open heart surgery are all possibilities. Keep a first aid kit handy and know how to turn banana leaves into bandages.

**Stand firm.** Little did I know, as I sat at home dreaming of beaches and palm trees, that this mission trip would find me digging six-foot holes with coffee cans, cutting rebar with a file, holding Vacation Bible School in a village with a witch doctor, working in a primitive medical clinic without electricity, following a blood trail on a jungle hike, dodging poison frogs at night, wading across rivers and climbing up steep mud banks, and becoming so ill I could not stand up. But no matter the obstacles, God always provides the strength to accomplish His work: “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV).



Jennifer Calhoun is a freshman nursing major at Andrews University. Her interests include travel, missions and writing. Jennifer looks forward to “Christ’s Second Coming when we won’t need nurses or missionaries anymore!” Photo reprinted with permission of Andrews University.

## Serving for Life

BY GARY BURNS

**S**urekha Ninala has put her faith into action as a community volunteer since she was 12. Now a 16-year-old junior at Berrien Springs High School, Surekha has volunteered at a number of community service organizations in Benton Harbor, Berrien Center, Stevensville, Edwardsburg and Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Surekha Ninala

Her experience as a regular volunteer at the Safe Shelter in Benton Harbor helping children who are victims of domestic violence and child abuse has equipped her with resources and skills that makes her a person her peers at school often turn to in times of personal crisis. "Serving others feels good. You know that you are doing something important; and seeing other people happy makes me happy," Surekha says.

People have observed in Surekha a balance of tender-hearted strength and maturity which makes her a good advocate for the disenfranchised and marginalized members of her community. She does what she can to influence her peers to be more sensitive and caring of others.

With all her involvement in so many projects, Surekha believes God is leading her into a life of service. This summer she plans to go to India to work at an orphanage operated by Let's Get Involved, an Aids awareness organization established by her grandfather, K.V. Rathnam. Surekha attributes her interest in service to the example of her family. "My grandpa does so much for the orphaned kids that he doesn't even know. He does all he can to help them." Surekha is also inspired by her mother who is a social worker and her grandma who is a nurse in a psychiatric unit at a facility from which her grandfather also recently retired.

At 16, she already has a sense of what to do with her life. She plans to be either a counselor for teens or a pediatrician. "I believe the real work God wants me to do is to teach kids, and most of all to show them love—to help them learn about life and the truth about God's love for them."

Surekha is a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University where she also volunteers as needed in the children's division.

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

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