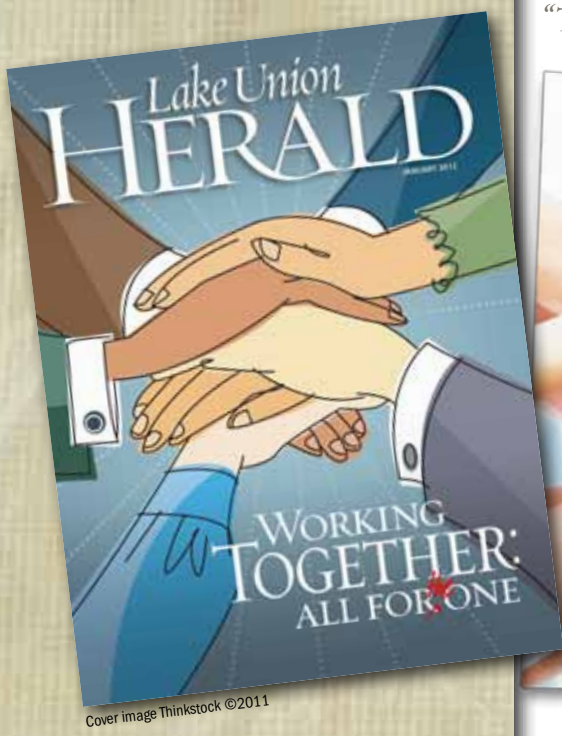


Lake Union HERALD

JANUARY 2012



WORKING
TOGETHER:
ALL FOR ^{the} ONE



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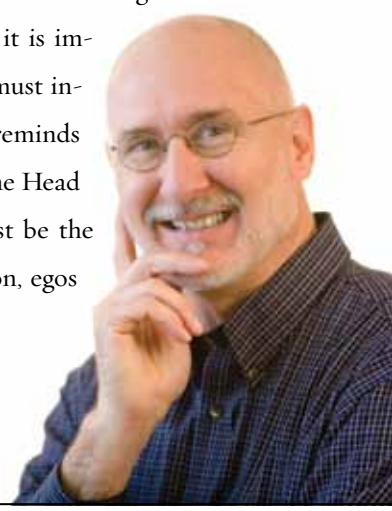
In every issue...

- 3 President's Perspective
- 4 From My Perspective
- 6 Family Ties
- 7 Healthy Choices
- 8 Present Truth
- 9 Conversations with God
- 10 Sharing our Hope
- 11 Conexiones
- 20 Telling God's Stories
- 22 AMH News
- 23 Andrews University News
- 24 News
- 33 Announcements
- 34 Mileposts
- 35 Classifieds
- 37 Partnership with God
- 38 One Voice
- 39 On the Edge

In this issue...

In the business of doing the work of the church, it's easy for us to forget the basic principle that governed Jesus' life: "I can of myself do nothing" (John 5:30 ASV). Especially, in roles of leadership, it is important to employ John the Baptist's attitude: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30 KJV). Paul reminds the Body of Christ that God appointed Jesus to be the Head over everything for the church. When we let Christ be the Head, members are released to serve at His direction, egos are subdued and unity prevails.


Gary Burns, Editor



Features...

- 13 *Who's in Charge?* by Ellen G. White
- 17 *Making a Difference in Motor City* by Kristina Penny

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A Cherry Bomb, a Bucket of Water and a Kitchen

Like many young boys, I had a fascination with fireworks. In those days, you could get real fireworks. I'd heard that a cherry bomb would explode in water. Just how would that work? In my mind, the cherry bomb would sink into the water and go off with a rather muted explosion, due to the shock-absorbing properties of the water.

There came a day when I had a cherry bomb and was home alone. I decided it was time to see how this small, round device would behave in water. I got a bucket, filled it about two-thirds full of water, and set it in the middle of the kitchen. I held the cherry bomb and matches out, ready to light that baby and see what would happen. Just before lighting the fuse, a rare thing happened in the mind of an adolescent boy. I thought, *This might not be a good idea!* Then a novel thing happened; I reflected on that new thought and altered my plans.

Picking up the bucket, I descended the stairs into the basement and then into the garage, which had a ten-foot ceiling. There I placed the bucket on the floor, lit the fuse and threw the cherry bomb into the water. As I stood looking directly down into the bucket, a different-than-expected outcome began to transpire. The cherry bomb did not sink as anticipated; it floated, its burning fuse bubbling in the water. This new reality brought a new realization: *This was not a good place to be.*

Fortunately, my young reflexes were quick enough to enable a hasty withdrawal. Just as I executed this retreat, there was a huge explosion! Water shot upward from the bucket, covered the ceiling and, hence, a lot of the garage! Although it was a very different outcome from my original vision, it was a wonderful experiment, especially since it took place in the benign location of the garage and not in the kitchen! I was very thankful for the latter fact.

Even as adults, our plans and outcomes can turn out differently than anticipated. When it comes to problem-solving, I can often come up with several approaches to dealing with the issue at hand. But experience has taught me that prayerful consideration, the counsel of godly colleagues, and the template of doing the right thing, in the right way, at the right time, and for the right reason is essential to seeking and finding God's plan for any problem at hand.

Proverbs 14:12 tells us, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (NASB). Simply put, human wisdom is faulty and often damaging. We now live in an interconnected global society that is increasingly more complex. The right answers become more difficult as societal values become blurred, and regard for the Word of God as authoritative is diminished. We have just opened another chapter of history that brings us closer to an eternity with God. Let's seek a closer relationship with Him through Scripture, prayer and service. Let us follow the example of Jesus and daily discover God's specific will for our lives, and thus sanctify His name before others. Proverbs is a great place to start.



A Mid-Night Revelation

BY PATTI SABOURIJI

My nine-year-old body was spastically jostled left to right. I felt every bump in the road as the vibrantly-colored bus transported me through the heavy rainstorm and mountain fog. I sat respectfully beside a Buddhist monk. This was the first leg of my journey from Thailand to the United States for adoption.

Breaking, scraping and twisting of metal blurred around me.

“There’s one over here!” A rescuer’s voice called to a volunteer crew.

My body shook from the inside out. The adrenaline rush from the accident surged through me as rescuers helped me maneuver my way over the body of the monk and other victims who had been crushed in the metal of the twisted bus.

“She was in that?” I heard an on-looker question in Thai. “She isn’t even scratched.” I didn’t realize I was actually okay until I heard their comment.

I remember thinking, *Whoever God is, He must have a plan for my life.*

The conviction that there is a Greater Power and that He — whoever He might be — had something in mind specifically for me stuck with me through my young adult life.

I’d never really been to church, but I would see the picture of a cross and always felt curious. I wanted to know more.

A few years back, I drove, with my two young children, on a desolate California highway. Suddenly, I realized that



my gas gauge was on “E,” empty. I was panic-stricken. It was hot outside, and we were so far from a gas station.

I remember feeling the presence of angels guiding us. We drove far longer than we should have been able to go. Since then, I’ve felt the presence of an angel with me. Each time I get depressed, I look to “find” my angel. That trip was when my longing for a Bible began. Often, I turned to Christian channels on television to learn about it.

About five years ago, my curiosity about the Bible grew into a desire to explore the idea of church. I mus-

tered up the courage to ask hospital co-workers what they knew about the Bible, secretly hoping to get a church invitation.

A church visit with one of my associates was in the works when I transferred hospitals. Again, the questions to colleagues began.

“Can I go to church with you?”

“Sure, Patti. Have you ever been to Mass before?”

I was both timid and excited. I was finally going to church! I went, and voices echoed in there. I couldn’t

understand the meaning of what they said, so I stopped going.

I started talking to another girlfriend about church and asking questions about the Bible. She told me, “You can go to mine,” and the sequence of church hops began.

One night, I was awakened with the word “revelation” stuck in my head. *Revelation. Rev-el ... revival. Reveal. Rev ... rev ... revolution. Uhhhh... The act of revealing or disclosure. Something revealed not realized before!*

“Oh, I give up,” I said out loud. But I didn’t give up. I couldn’t.

“Mom,” I sobbed into the phone. “I can’t take this anymore! My heart is bleeding. I don’t know what to do. There’s one thing after another. I can’t take this situation any more, and I’ve always wanted a Bible.”

“That’s easy,” Mom coolly responded. “If a Bible’s what you want, go get one.”

“Oh, I guess I could do that,” I softly responded, dumbfounded by the simplicity and directness of her solution.

I hopped in my car, threw it in reverse, and paused at the end of the driveway.

“Okay, Lord. Show me where to get it.”

Driving through Lansing, Illinois, I saw a Goodwill store. The sign almost flashed at me.

I stood in several aisles of used books in the store, just looking around. I was rummaging through the stacks when I pushed back yet another misplaced book — a Joyce Meyer devotional. *Okay, I’ll take this. I don’t need a Bible,* I thought.

I moved my hand up the shelf to restack the books I had shuffled through. I saw a book with a Precious Moments cover. Then I read the gold inscription on its spine, *HOLY BIBLE. I got it!*

All giddy and excited, I went home and began to leaf through this Book I had desperately longed for and yet knew so little about.

I saw Revelation and realized that it wasn’t a word; it was a section of the Bible.

“Corinthians. Hebrews,” I heard a still, small voice say these words. Exploring my new Bible, I discovered that these words were also sections in it. I began to read.

I went to work where I told Joyce, a fellow nurse, how these words were impressed in my mind and what had happened.

“Oh, you should come to a program with me tonight!”

Joyce exclaimed. “We have a guest speaker, Eric Freking. He’s presenting on the book of Revelation.” Joyce handed me a brochure. “We should go together.”

I went to the meeting with Joyce at the Hammond Adventist Church. “I know exactly what he’s talking about. I’ve read about this,” I told Joyce. “Actually, God’s been working in my life in a lot of ways. He’s especially been helping me with some health issues.”

“That’s so neat! Yes, God can help us with anything,” Joyce told me. “Actually, tomorrow’s Revelation meeting is about health. Would you like to learn about it together?”

“Why not?” I again accepted Joyce’s invitation to the meetings. We attended the health lecture together and learned about clean and unclean meat.

I told Joyce, “I’m going to cook what God wants me to eat.”

I changed my diet; but, within a few hours of eating, I developed abdominal pain and vomiting. I wasn’t able to attend that night’s seminar. Joyce thought that it was the old devil trying to keep me from becoming part of God’s family.

I was well enough to attend the Hammond meetings the following two nights. After I learned about the Sabbath, Allen Shepherd, the Hammond Church pastor, showed me a list of the topics I had covered with them.

“Patti,” he said, “These are the things we’ve learned about in the meetings. Do you feel that the Holy Spirit is asking you to add these things to your life?”

“I do,” I told him. “But then, why is it that I can’t hear His voice all the time like before?”

“That’s because now you have the voice of God in the Bible,” Joyce offered an explanation.

My fascination for the Bible didn’t stop at the end of the meetings. I can’t stop reading it. I think my family thinks I’m crazy. I read at the table through dinner and on the couch while they’re watching the television.

I know God is working with me. Before, I became angry at work and irritated. Everything stressed me. Now, I don’t get anxious about the little things. I don’t know what tomorrow brings, but I know the Man upstairs is my heavenly Father. I know I have been adopted into His family, and I rest assured that He has a plan for my life.

Patti Sabourji is still studying with Allen Shepherd and continuing her journey with Jesus. This story was told to Kortnye V. Hurst, Indiana Conference communication secretary and correspondent to the *Lake Union Herald*.



Five Habits that Can Ruin Your Marriage

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

It takes wisdom to have a good family [marriage], and it takes understanding to make it strong. It takes knowledge to fill a home with rare and beautiful treasures. Wise people have great power, and those with knowledge have great strength. —Proverbs 24:3–5 NCV

Habits are those behaviors we acquire in life, some being intentional and many unintentional. They may not seem like a big deal in the great scheme of life, but some, even small ones, can wreak havoc on our relationships. Fortunately, we have some good habits, but we also have some bad habits!

Breaking bad habits isn't easy, especially if we have spent years honing them to perfection! The key to changing anything in our life that's not working is to first acknowledge that what we are doing isn't effective. Those closest to us can often be our best sources of information; unfortunately, all too often, they know they are putting their life on the line to tell us.

So, instead of waiting for your spouse to inform you of habits that are hurting your marriage, I invite you to consider if any of these might be long-held habits that describe your actions.

Forgetting the little gestures. In courtship, couples tend to spend a lot of time and energy doing things for their partner. Sweet gestures — like kissing her when she walks in the door, asking him if he needs something while you're up, touching his arm or leg when sitting next to him, or saying thank you when she does something for you no matter how big or small — lead toward intimacy and help keep romance alive.

Endlessly criticizing and nagging. Finding fault with others is so easy! When we are constantly criticized, our well-being and confidence suffers. While we can justify that a reminder, or several, is for the other's ultimate good, this behavior erodes a relationship. Think of it this way: If what you are doing isn't working, *it isn't working!* Avoid personal attacks and criticism on the person you promised to love and cherish. It's that simple!

Sweating the small stuff. Rich Carlson* has made a mint off his books about sweating the small stuff. His point is that



when we focus on the smaller annoyances in life, we miss out on so many big, wonderful opportunities. If you don't like dirty dishes in the sink, wash the dishes. If you don't like wrinkled underwear, fold them. If your partner doesn't take the garbage out, don't let it turn into a mountain (literally or figuratively), take it out.

Playing the victim game. Never being the one at fault is so tiresome to a spouse who isn't always to blame either. Playing the victim is a controlling behavior that reaps no positive rewards. When we play the victim, our partner feels punished, which eventually erodes our relationship, and they lose trust and respect for us.

Spending too much time and energy with others. Having interests aside from our partner is important, but not having our priorities straight eventually will be destructive to a relationship. Sometimes we use our friends, our jobs, our church responsibilities as a welcome distraction from home. If you are talking more with your girlfriends, mother, buddies at work or the gym, your kids or whomever else you can reach on your cell phone, this is a wake-up call!

Cultivating positive habits in a marriage unleashes great power for good! It's what God calls us to do!

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

*Rich Carlson has written more than 20 *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff* books; some co-authored with his wife, Kristine. They may be purchased at Amazon.com, and many can be found at local libraries.

Begin your search
for optimal health.

New Year's Health-Check

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Check your
health score.

Every day the average American is bombarded by about 250 marketing messages that encourage us to buy things we don't really need or eat things which are mostly unhealthy. With the beginning of a new year, now is a good time to take an inventory and see how many of the following ten health habits you can check off. And then, set out to practice all ten to achieve optimal health in 2012.

1. Nurture your spiritual life. Trust Jesus with your problems. Share His love with others. People who have a vibrant spiritual life enjoy better health. Commitment to God is associated with less anxiety and depression, healthier lifestyles, improved overall health and lower death rates.

2. Be proactive in preventing disease. Take personal responsibility for your healthcare. Nobody knows your body better than you do. Have regular medical and dental checkups. Overall, you will feel so much better when you are in control of your health.

3. Develop healthy relationships with the people around you. People with trustworthy friends and close family ties have stronger immune systems and experience better recovery when sick. Those who are involved with helping others experience improved mental health. Doing volunteer work on a regular basis can give you an emotional boost.

4. Maintain a healthy attitude. Cheerfulness, unselfishness and gratitude have marvelous, life-giving power. Hope, faith, sympathy and a caring attitude promote health and prolong life.

5. Manage stress effectively. Learn how to relax. Set realistic goals and new priorities. Stress increases your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, irritable bowel, depression, forgetfulness, headaches, insomnia, fatigue, allergies and irritability.

6. Take time for adequate rest and sleep. Don't spend excessive time on the Web, Facebook, Twitter, blogs or text



messaging. Chronic sleep deprivation can increase blood pressure, increase your risk of diabetes, impair memory, contribute to depression, and increase the risk of colds and infections. Avoid caffeinated beverages, which disturb your normal sleep patterns.

7. Eat a diet rich in fiber, including colorful fruits and vegetables, beans, nuts and whole grain products. During winter, it's important to eat plenty of fruits and vegetables to counterbalance some of the holiday foods. People who consume a plant-based diet, rich in antioxidants, enjoy better health.

8. Keep well-hydrated. An adequate water intake will help you concentrate better, and manage your winter infections. We need about 30 percent more water than our thirst tells us. Drinking adequate water does lower your risk of heart disease.

9. Exercise 30 minutes every day. This helps your cardiovascular fitness, improves your memory, and greatly diminishes anxiety and depression. During the winter months, keep up your exercise program; it boosts the immune system and reduces the risk of upper respiratory infections.

10. Keep a regular schedule. Habits of regularity are associated with improved health and memory, and a better disposition. An irregular schedule in your life has an effect on the body and mind similar to that of jet lag.

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



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

Living, Active and Relevant

In Don Livesay’s editorial on page three of this issue, he reminds us, “We now live in an interconnected global society that is increasingly more complex. The right answers become more difficult as societal values become blurred and regard for the Word of God as authoritative is diminished.”

We have sensed a call to return to our roots in the Adventist movement where the “Little Flock” sought truth for their time by gathering together around their Bibles in prayer. We affirm our belief in the authority of the Bible as God’s Word for all people of all ages. It is our desire that all may know experientially that the Bible is living, active and relevant to the issues of life today.

This column will provide an opportunity to demonstrate some of that relevancy as we hear from contributors who have wrestled with current issues in prayerful study of God’s Word.

The Present Truth was actually a paper printed by James White in 1849. It provided an opportunity to share the encouraging insights God gave his wife, Ellen. In the September 1, 1849, issue, Ellen wrote words of encouragement that are as relevant today as they were then: “In this time of trial, we need to be encouraged, and comforted by each other. The temptations of Satan are greater now, than ever before.” That is a present need and a present truth.

One of the clarion voices addressing current issues from a biblical perspective is our own Raymond Holmes, retired seminary professor and current pastor in Bessemer, Michigan. In his newly-released book, *The Road I Travel*, he states: “All teaching and practice in the church must be tested against the Bible. Also, all Christian experience must be so tested. Human experience and human claims do not test



Bible truth. Neither the inner life nor Christian experience are the ground, or source, of truth. However, genuine Christian experience does authenticate and demonstrate biblical truth in the life.”¹

The premise of Raymond’s book “is that salvation comes from the experience of faith in the living Word, Jesus Christ, and in the written Word, the Bible.” This faith he calls “believing faith. The Source of that faith is God, who reveals Himself to us in His Word and comes to us in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the central truth of that

faith. Saving faith is based not on human reason or experience but on the promises of God’s Word. However, it is not possible to talk about spirituality without talking about the experience of faith, about the relationship between objective truth and the subjective experience of that truth.”²

It is in this context of balanced biblical perspectives that we plan to bring relevant issues to our readers in the hope that it will encourage all of us to prayerfully search the Scriptures in community, as did the Bereans who “searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11 NKJV). You can help guide us in our choices for this column by emailing your comments and questions to: familyforum@luc.adventist.org. —*The editors*

1. Holmes, Raymond C., “Preface,” *The Road I Travel*, Review & Herald Publishing Association. Hagerstown, Md. (2011), p. 12.

2. *ibid.*

Living Prayerfully

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

Pray continually. —1 Thessalonians 5:17

Praying continually does not mean we are to do nothing but pray. It means that we live all of our hours and days so conscious of God that we are actually, at one level or another, keeping company with Him always.

It means *walking and talking with God*. When Enoch, an Old Testament hero of faith, “walked with God,” it meant that God was his conscious companion in all of his daily activities (see Genesis 5:22). When you travel with a friend, there’s a lot to talk about: sights to see, experiences to share and decisions to make. When you travel through life with God, there’s just as much to talk about. And although you cannot physically see or touch God, He is really with you — a thinking, feeling, willing, communicating, listening person.

Praying continually means making it a habit to talk to God about our everyday *experiences*. Repeated activities can become triggers for God-consciousness. The famous American general, Stonewall Jackson, once commented, “I have so fixed the habit in my mind that I never raise a glass of water to my lips without asking God’s blessing, never seal a letter without putting a word of prayer under the seal, never take a letter to the post without a brief sending of my thoughts heavenward, never change my classes in the lecture room without a minute’s petition for the cadets who go out and for those who come in.”

You probably already have some prayer triggers in your life: rising in the morning, sitting to eat a meal, or lying down to sleep. A friend of mine prays every time he gets behind the wheel of his car. Others have learned to pray for every person they meet, every needful situation that comes on the news, every time they enter their place of work, every time the phone rings, every time they hear a fire siren or see an accident or every time they pass a church.

Praying continually means sharing our *thoughts* with God. Our minds never lie dormant. No matter what we are doing from morning ‘til night, our minds are always working. The morning news, breakfast on the fly, traffic on the way to work, challenges on the job, dealing with

children, connecting with a spouse, relaxing in front of the TV — all engage us mentally in some way. God wants to be in on our thoughts.

Praying continually also means sharing our *feelings* with God. Feelings are spontaneous inner reactions to things we are experiencing in life. God wants to be in on our feelings. That’s why the Spirit prompted James to write, “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise” (James 5:13 NIV).

Try to develop the habit of filling your day with little prayers. Every fresh prayer will bring a sweet inflowing from God.

Reflect

What “prayer triggers” are already present in your life? What triggers will you try to add today?

Do you dare to believe that God really wants to keep company with you? It’s true! How does that make you feel?

Pray

Praise God as the personal God who enjoys your company and gives you His joy.

Confess the bad habit of leaving God out of your thoughts, feelings and experiences.

Ask God for His help to pray continually. This is not something you can do naturally.

Intercede for family members, friends and neighbors, that they may have an increased consciousness of God and a desire to walk and talk with Him.

Act

Try to add at least one new prayer trigger each day during the next week.

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.



90 Seconds to Plant a Seed

BY GLENN PAUL HILL

Perhaps it was some sort of midlife crisis. Or, perhaps, it was just an exciting way to get fit and stay fit. About a year ago, I discovered competitive stair climb races. In the process of competing in a few of these races, I noticed that there is a special bond, almost a brotherhood, between the top climbers. An idea formed and began to grow. There must be a way to connect with these people and make a spiritual difference.

Through God's power and a lot of intense training, I did well enough in the races to be among the fastest climbers. Opportunities came to get acquainted with some of them. This is an interesting group of athletes. Unlike marathon running, stair climb races do not offer prize money to participants. Instead, the races are fundraising events for various charities. As a result, the racers tend to be fairly altruistic.

Not wanting to race beside nameless faces, I looked up the names of the top racers and contacted a few of them by phone and email. At races, I addressed them by name and engaged them in conversation. Then came summer and the end of stair climb races for a number of months.

Suddenly, out of the blue, a phone call came from Mark in California. He wanted me to join him with team members at a restaurant in Chicago the night before the Willis Tower Race. Mark is known as the "glue" that holds the top climbers together. In earlier phone conversations, Mark mentioned he was a Christian. He seeks to positively influence non-Christians in the sport. I joined Mark and the others — nearly 100 of them — for the last hour of their meeting. Mark gave me two T-shirts with the team logo (one was for



Glenn Hill and his nine-year-old son, Jason, are competitive stair climb racers. Recently, they participated in the Willis Tower Race in Chicago. Glenn has discovered opportunities to connect spiritually with other racers.

my nine-year-old son, Jason, who was also in the race).

The next morning, after the race, I met Mark at the top of the building. He said, "I used to be Russian Orthodox. Years later, I was in a room where a Baptist was speaking. He asked, 'How many of you are going to hell?' I raised my hand. He asked, 'How many of you would like to not go to hell?' Again, I raised my hand. After that, he gave a simple presentation of how Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. We could be saved by trusting in Jesus."

Suddenly, Mark turned to me and asked, "Is this what Seventh-day Adventists believe?" I could sense this was a kind of defining question for Mark. It was evident that he wanted a "yes" or

"no" answer. But I gave a "yes-plus" answer. In about 90 seconds, I explained that Jesus' gift to us goes even beyond forgiveness. He also seeks to make us new. We will become more like Him the longer we seek to be a part of His kingdom.

Only a few words were spoken. But these heartfelt words left both of us with a sense of brotherhood, and a sense that we had something special we needed to share with others.

Glenn Hill is pastor of the Elmhurst Church in Illinois and communication director of the Illinois Conference.



Conectándose con Cristo en Conéctate 2012

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Mucho más fuerte que su enemigo es Aquel que en este mundo, y en forma humana, hizo frente y venció a Satanás, resistiendo toda tentación que hoy día sobreviene a los jóvenes. Él es su Hermano Mayor. Siente hacia ellos profundo y tierno interés. Los vigila constantemente, y se regocija cuando tratan de agradecerle. ...Fortalecidos con su poder, son hechos aptos para alcanzar los elevados ideales que tiene adelante. El sacrificio hecho en el Calvario es la prenda de su victoria.” —Mensajes para los jóvenes, p. 93, 94.

Recuerdo muy bien la primera vez que asistí a una iglesia adventista. Tenía apenas quince años de edad y para decir la verdad, fui originalmente a la iglesia sólo para complacer a mi madre. Me acuerdo que la primera persona que me saludó era un joven llamado David. David me presentó a otros jóvenes de la iglesia. Al conocerlos noté que estos jóvenes eran tan diferentes a los jóvenes que yo había conocido antes. Con el tiempo llegué a comprender la razón de esa diferencia —estos jóvenes amaban a Jesús.

Con el fin que nuestros jóvenes profundicen su amor hacia nuestro Salvador, la Unión del Lago auspiciará el segundo congreso bilingüe de jóvenes *Conéctate 2012*. En el año 2010 se llevó a cabo *Conéctate 2010* al cual asistieron más de 800 jóvenes. Dios bendijo en gran manera ese evento que culminó en el bautismo de veinte jóvenes. Al final del evento se hizo una encuesta y el resultado fue que la mayoría de los participantes deseaba que se repitiera el congreso en el futuro.

Conéctate 2012 se llevará a cabo del **8 al 10 de junio** en la **Universidad Andrews**. En esta ocasión tendremos como oradora principal a Elizabeth Talbot, quien, además de ser oradora asociada del programa radial en inglés *The Voice of Prophecy* es una oradora muy conocida que ha predicado en iglesias y congresos de jóvenes en muchas partes del mundo. El precio de la inscripción temprana para el evento es \$65. Después del 30 de marzo el precio será \$75. Este costo de inscripción cubre la asistencia a las reuniones, la comida y una variedad de recursos. El costo de alojamiento en los



Los jóvenes de las cinco asociaciones encargados de organizar *Conéctate 2012*.

dormitorios es aparte; se puede hacer reservaciones llamando al teléfono número 269-471-3295. Siendo que el énfasis en este congreso será cómo desarrollar una amistad con Jesús por medio del estudio de la Biblia, cada participante que se inscriba antes del 1 de mayo tendrá la opción de recibir como regalo la nueva Biblia en inglés *The Andrews Study Bible* o una Biblia

bilingüe. Para obtener más información y para inscribirse diríjase al sitio web www.jovenul.org.

Sabiendo que los jóvenes tienen un gran potencial para ganar a otros jóvenes para Cristo, les animamos a que inviten a sus amigos a que participen en una gran celebración bautismal en la iglesia de la universidad.

Al ver cómo Dios obró en *Conéctate 2010* no tengo la menor duda que Dios bendecirá aún más este evento. Pido sus oraciones para que este congreso resulte en un gran reavivamiento en las iglesias de nuestra Unión.

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



Who's in Charge?

RADICAL PRINCIPLES
FOR A HEALTHY CHURCH

BY ELLEN G. WHITE

God has given to “every man his work.” He has not left the spiritual interests of the church wholly in the hands of the minister. It is not for the good of the minister, nor for the good of the individual members of the church, that the minister should undertake exclusive charge of the Lord’s heritage. Each member of the church has a part to act in order that the body may be preserved in a healthful condition. We are all members of the same body, and each member must act a part for the benefit of all the others. All members have not the same office. As the members of our natural body are directed by the head, so as members of the spiritual body, we should submit ourselves to the direction of Christ, the living head of the church. We are as branches of a common vine. Christ speaks of us as branches that have been grafted into himself, the True Vine. If we are true believers, living in daily, hourly connection with Christ, we shall be sanctified through the truth, and shall act our part in blessed union with the other branches of the True Vine.

The minister and the church members are to unite as one person in laboring for the up-building and prosperity of the church. Every one who is a true soldier in the army of the Lord will be an earnest, sincere, efficient worker, laboring to advance the interests of Christ’s kingdom. Let no one presume to say to a brother who is walking circumspectly, “You are not to do the work of the Lord; leave it for the minister.”

Many members of the church have been deprived of the experience which they should have had because the sentiment has prevailed that the minister should do all the work and bear all the burdens. Either the burdens have been crowded upon the minister, or he has assumed those duties that should have been performed by the members of the church. Ministers should take the officers and members of the church into their

confidence, and teach them how to labor for the Master. Thus the minister will not have to perform all the labor himself, and at the same time the church will receive greater benefit than if he endeavored to do all the work, and release the members of the church from acting the part which the Lord designed that they should.

All through our ranks, individual talent has been sadly neglected. A few persons have been selected as spiritual burden-bearers, and the talent of other members has remained undeveloped. Many have grown weaker since their union with the church, because they have been practically prohibited from exercising their talents. The burden of church work should be distributed among its individual members, so that each one may become an intelligent laborer for God. There is altogether too much unused force in our churches. There are a few who devise, plan, and work, but the great mass of the people do not lift their hands to do anything for fear of being repulsed, for fear that others will regard them as out of their place. Many have willing hands and hearts, but they are discouraged from putting their energies into the work. They are criticized if they try to do anything, and finally allow their talents to lie dormant for fear of criticism, when if they were encouraged to use them, the work would be advanced, and workers would be added to the force of missionaries. The wisdom to adapt ourselves to peculiar situations, the strength to act in time of emergency, are acquired by putting to use the talents the Lord has given us, and by gaining an experience through personal work. A few are selected to hold responsible positions, and the work is divided up among these brethren. Many more who ought to have an opportunity to develop into efficient workers for the Lord are left in the shadow. Many of those who stand in places of trust, cherish a spirit of caution, a fear that some move may be made which is not in perfect harmony with their own methods of labor. They require that every plan should reflect their own personality. They fear to trust another's methods. And why are they not to be trusted? Because they have not been educated; because their leaders have not drilled them as soldiers should be drilled. Scores of men should be prepared to spring

into action at a moment's warning, should an emergency occur which demanded their help. Instead of this, the people go to church, listen to the sermon, pay their tithes, make their offerings, and do very little else. And why? Because the ministers do not open their plans to the people, soliciting the benefit of their advice and counsel in planning and their help in executing the plans that they have had a part in forming.

There are to be no secret societies in our churches. "All ye are brethren." The minister's work is the lay member's work as well. Heart should be bound to heart. Let all press forward, shoulder to shoulder. Is not every true follower of Christ open to receive his teachings? And should not all have an opportunity to learn of Christ's methods by practical experience? Why not put them to work visiting the sick and assisting in other ways, and thus keep the church in a workable condition? All would thus be kept in close touch with the minister's plans, so that he could call for their assistance at any moment, and they would be able to labor intelligently with him. All should be laborers together with God, and then the minister can feel that he has helpers in whom it is safe to trust. The minister can hasten this desirable end by showing that he has confidence in the workers by setting them to work.

Who is to blame for the deficiency in the churches? Who is to be censured because willing hands and zealous hearts have not been educated to labor in a humble way for the Master? There is much undeveloped talent among us. Many individuals might be laboring in towns and cities, visiting from house to house, becoming acquainted with families, entering into their social life, dining at their tables, entering into conversation by their firesides, dropping the precious seeds of truth all along the line. As they exercise their talents, Christ will give them wisdom, and many believers will be found rejoicing in the knowledge of the truth as a result of their labors. Thousands might be getting a practical education in the work by this personal labor.

Neither Conference officer nor minister has a call from God to indulge distrust of God's power to use every individual who is considered a worthy member of the church.



Each member of the church has a part to act in order that the body may be preserved in a healthful condition.

This cautiousness, so-called, is retarding almost every line of the Lord's work. God can and will use those who have not had a thorough education in the schools of men. A doubt of his power to do this is manifest unbelief; it is limiting the Omnipotent power of the One with whom nothing is impossible. O for less of this unsanctified, distrustful caution! It leaves so many forces of the church unused; it closes up the way so that the Holy Spirit cannot use men; it keeps in idleness those who are willing and anxious to labor in Christ's lines; it discourages many from entering the work who would become efficient laborers together with God if they were given a fair chance. Those who would be laborers, who see the great necessity for consecrated workers in the church and in the world, should seek strength in the secret places of prayer. They should go forth to labor, and God will bless them, and make them a blessing to others. Such members would give strength and stability to the church. It is the lack of spiritual exercise that makes church members so weak and inefficient; but again I would ask, Who is to blame for the state of things that now exists?

God has given "to every man his work." Why is it that ministers and Conference officers do not recognize this fact? Why do they not manifest their appreciation of the help that individual members of the church could give? Let church members awake. Let them take hold and help to stay up the hands of the ministers and the workers, pushing forward the interests of the cause. There must be no measuring of talent by comparison. If a man exercises faith, and walks humbly with his God, he may have little education, he may be accounted a weak man, yet he can fill his appointed place as well as the man who has the finest education. He who yields himself most unreservedly to the influence of the Holy Spirit is best qualified to do acceptable service for the Master. God will inspire men who do not occupy responsible positions to work for him. If ministers and men in positions of authority will get out of the way, and let the Holy Spirit move upon the minds of the lay brethren, God will direct them what to do for the honor of his name. Let men have freedom to carry out that which the Holy Spirit indicates. Do not put the shackles

upon humble men whom God would use. If those who now occupy positions of responsibility had been kept at one class of work year after year, their talents would not have developed, and they would not have been qualified for the positions they hold; and yet they make no special effort to test and develop the talents of those newly come into the faith.

Women who are willing to consecrate some of their time to the service of the Lord should be appointed to visit the sick, look after the young, and minister to the necessities of the poor. They should be set apart to this work by prayer and laying on of hands. In some cases they will need to counsel with the church officers or the minister; but if they are devoted women, maintaining a vital connection with God, they will be a power for good in the church. This is another means of strengthening and building up the church. We need to branch out more in our methods of labor. Not a hand should be bound, not a soul discouraged, not a voice should be hushed; let every individual labor, privately or publicly, to help forward this grand work. Place the burdens upon men and women of the church, that they may grow by reason of the exercise, and thus become effective agents in the hand of the Lord for the enlightenment of those who sit in darkness.

There is a world to be warned. Let not humanity presume to stand in the way, but rather let every man stand aside, and let God work by his Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of the redemption of his purchased possession. Some of these new workers may make mistakes, but let the older ones counsel with them and instruct them how to correct their methods. They should be encouraged to surrender themselves wholly to the Lord, and go to work in a humble way. Such service is acceptable to the Master, and he will supplement their efforts by the power of his Holy Spirit, and many souls will be converted.

Let every church awake out of sleep; let the members unite themselves together in the love of Jesus and in sympathy for perishing souls, and go forth to their neighbors, pointing them to the way of salvation. Our Leader has all power in heaven and in earth. He will use men as agents for the accomplishment of his purposes whom some of the brethren

Those who would be laborers, who see the great necessity for consecrated workers in the church and in the world, should seek strength in the secret places of prayer.

would reject as unfit to engage in the work. Heavenly intelligences are combined with human instrumentalities in carrying forward the Lord's work. Angels have their places assigned them in connection with the human agents on earth. They will work through every person who will submit himself to labor in Heaven's ways; therefore, not one human being should be cast aside or left with no part to act.

The members of our large churches are not in the most favorable situation for spiritual growth or for development of efficient methods of labor. They are inclined to let others bear the burdens that the Lord designs all should have a part in carrying. Perhaps there may be a number of good workers, and these take up the work so spiritedly that the weaker ones do not see where they can get hold, so they settle down in idleness. It is a mistake for our people to crowd together in large numbers. It is not in harmony with God's plans. It is his will that the knowledge which we receive of the truth should be communicated to others; that the light which shines upon us should be reflected upon the pathway of those walking in darkness, so that we may lead others to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. But where a large number are congregated together in one church, this work in a large measure is neglected, and the light of truth is often only reflected back and forth upon the church members; the world is left in darkness, the alarm is not sounded, the warning message from Heaven is not given.

The Lord has given "to every man his work," and he must have space to work. If one is ignorant of ways and means of carrying on the work, the Lord has provided a Teacher. Jesus said, "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." There is altogether too little said concerning the sufficiency that God has provided for every soul that accepts the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Eternal Father, the unchangeable one, gave His only begotten Son, tore from his bosom Him who was made in the express image of his person, and sent him down to earth to reveal how greatly he loved mankind. He is willing to do

more, "more than we can ask or think." An inspired writer asks a question which should sink deep into every heart: "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Shall not every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ say, "Since God has done so much for us, how shall we not, for Christ's sake, show our love to him by obedience to his commandments, by being doers of his word, by unreservedly consecrating ourselves to his service?"

Where is the faith of those who claim to be the people of God? Shall they also be included among that number of whom Christ questioned, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Jesus died to redeem us from the curse of sin and from sin itself, and shall we render him only a feeble half of those powers which He has paid such an infinite price to ransom from the hands of the enemy of our souls?

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." He in whom "dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily," descended to our world, humiliated himself by clothing His divinity with humanity, that through humanity he might reach the human family. While he embraces the human race with his human arm, he grasps the throne of God with his divine arm, thus uniting humanity to divinity. The Majesty of heaven, the King of glory, descended the path of humiliation step by step until he reached the lowest point possible for humanity to experience; and why? That he might be able to reach even the lowest of mankind, sunken in the very depths of degradation though they be, that he might be able to elevate them to the heights of heaven. He has promised, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Wonder of wonders! Man, a creature of the earth; dust, elevated to the throne of the King of the universe! Marvelous love! inexpressible, incomprehensible love!

Ellen White was a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This article was originally published in the July 9, 1895, issue of the *Review and Herald* under the title "The Duty of the Minister and the People."

As the members of our natural body are directed by the head, so as members of the spiritual body, we should submit ourselves to the direction of Christ, the living head of the church.



Making a Difference in Motor City

BY KRISTINA PENNY

Once a month, a group of Motor City area elders meets together to pray for their churches, their pastors and each other, and to continue their plans for action.

It began in early 2008, when 20 elders from the Metro Detroit area met to discuss some common concerns affecting their congregations.

“When it first began, Malcolm Jessup and Kevin Jones came together and wanted to do something very specific to equip and train the elders in the area,” said Kenneth Alexander, elder at Warren Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“They said, ‘Let’s just talk; let’s pray together; let’s figure out a way to make a difference within the areas in which we worship and serve,’” said Doris Gothard, women’s ministries director for Lake Region Conference and a member of the Council.

The group talked about their concerns for “a lack of spirituality and reverence for the sanctuary, lack of evangelistic thrust in the community, and a lack of member nurturing and growth,” stated the council’s official background statement.

Feeling a need to play a greater role in assisting pastoral leadership, they formed the Motor City Elders Council to

foster projects that help tackle these concerns. The Council now has more than 70 members.

“Our Council serves as a resource to the area pastors for help with evangelism, also to assist each other in training, as well as to nurture spiritual growth in our members,” said Timothy Gardner, elder for eight years at Burns SDA Church.

New to the Detroit area and the SDA church as a whole, the idea for the Council is a non-traditional approach to lay leadership, and serves as an experiment to find out what can be gained by local area elders stepping up to fulfill the needs they see prevalent.

“Pastors are often tied up in the internal affairs and big issues of the church, while areas of evangelism and outreach are pushed down on the priority list,” said Timothy. “We, at the Elders Council, felt a need to get back to spreading the Three Angels’ Messages in our communities.”

As a result, the Council has tapped into two key outcomes:



We're trying to think out of the box, trying to do some new and different things to direct some attention to Adventism, and let people know that Jesus is coming soon. —Malcolm Jessup

the power of collaboration among many churches, and increased individual responsibility to do God's work through personal projects.

"Many times we are so isolated in our local churches, and we operate as local church entities even though we are in close proximity to other brothers and sisters," said Doris. "This was a shift in how we normally did things."

One of the Council's collaborative projects has been a training session for area elders, a practice recommended by the SDA church, but one that individual churches are not always able to perform. Elder and pastor Carney Bradford, formerly a lay pastor at Mt. Clemens Cornelius First SDA Church, led the session participants through duties and principles from the SDA *Elder's Handbook, Study Guide and Church Manual*.

"He did a nine-week training course where the first week was an introduction on just how great God is. He said if you realize who God is, then you realize how important it is to do it right when we're serving Him," said Malcolm.

The Council encouraged new elders to come learn fundamentals, while experienced elders were able to review. The result was diverse group learning and exchanging experiences together. The Council will hold a second training session in the spring.

The training culminated with a first-ever graduation ceremony on Saturday night, December 3, 2011, at Community Fellowship SDA Church.

"This was the first time we had ever gone through a formal, organized training session in the Motor City area. We wanted to make the graduation special, unique, so that people would want to embrace eldership in a very serious and spiritual way," said Malcolm.

Many elders who are part of the Council not only embrace collaboration, but also undertake individual projects to help the church further the Gospel message.

Kenneth is helping to develop a Council website with additional training materials and information. He takes seriously a belief that he should be personally involved in spreading the Three Angels' Messages.

"There is no greater message given to mankind," he said, referring to Ellen White's counsel in *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 9, page 19. "It's the same message for every individual member. From the General Conference all the way down, everyone should be working."

Kenneth planned to launch the website in late December. Larry Keys, Council chaplain, envisions a website where people can log on for Bible studies and submit prayer requests online, and have someone call them back to pray with them.

"Our website will be a constantly evolving resource to take care of the needs of the elders," said Kenneth.

Another project by a Council member and embraced by them is the "Countdown to Eternity" presentation developed by Timothy to aid elders and pastors in putting on evangelistic series.

"The purpose is to present the Three Angels' Messages with clarity and simplicity, focusing on ten topics relevant to our end-time period and to our churches," said Timothy.

Each one-hour presentation is given on ten consecutive nights. So far, Council elders have put on the program eight times at six Detroit area churches, critiquing and improving the presentation each time.

"This past time, at Burns SDA Church, we signed up 30 people for Bible studies, and we have a team of elders who go out and conduct them," said Timothy.

A future Council goal is to plan an area-wide event. The "Countdown to Eternity" presentation makes it possible

to put the series on at ten churches simultaneously for ten nights, involving each church's members in getting friends and family to come.

"Often, people expect the pastor to do all the preaching, teaching and evangelism, but they need to remember that we are all part of a chosen priesthood of active believers, called to get involved in finishing the spreading of the Gospel," said Timothy.

Other Council members are developing outreach projects for their own local churches. Larry started an after-school tutoring program at Community Fellowship SDA Church.

"The tutoring program is specifically designed to reach at-risk students — students who come from low-income homes and/or single-parent homes — to help strengthen them in reading," said Larry.

The program ran from April to December 2009, involving ten volunteers and serving 35 students, before funding ran out. Larry has secured more funding for the reading software, and planned to begin again on January 1.

"If we can teach kids how to read and increase their reading scores, as well as teach adults how to read," said Larry, "then we can introduce them to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and give them Bible studies. And this has worked perfectly."

The Council has gotten involved with the outreach initiative at the Burns SDA Church started by Doris. For nine years, she has put together an ice cream social.

"Many people in the community have no idea who the Seventh-day Adventists are, or what we really stand for," said Doris. Members of the community get to come by and meet the elders, take a tour of the church, sign up for Vacation Bible School or Bible studies, and take home literature. "I think it's one of the tools that has enabled us to build bridges of friendship, extending our hearts and hands to the community."

"Doris and Kevin Jones brought that idea to the Elders Council, and we snatched it! We're all using it in our churches now," said Malcolm. "We share things that work evangelistically in our churches."

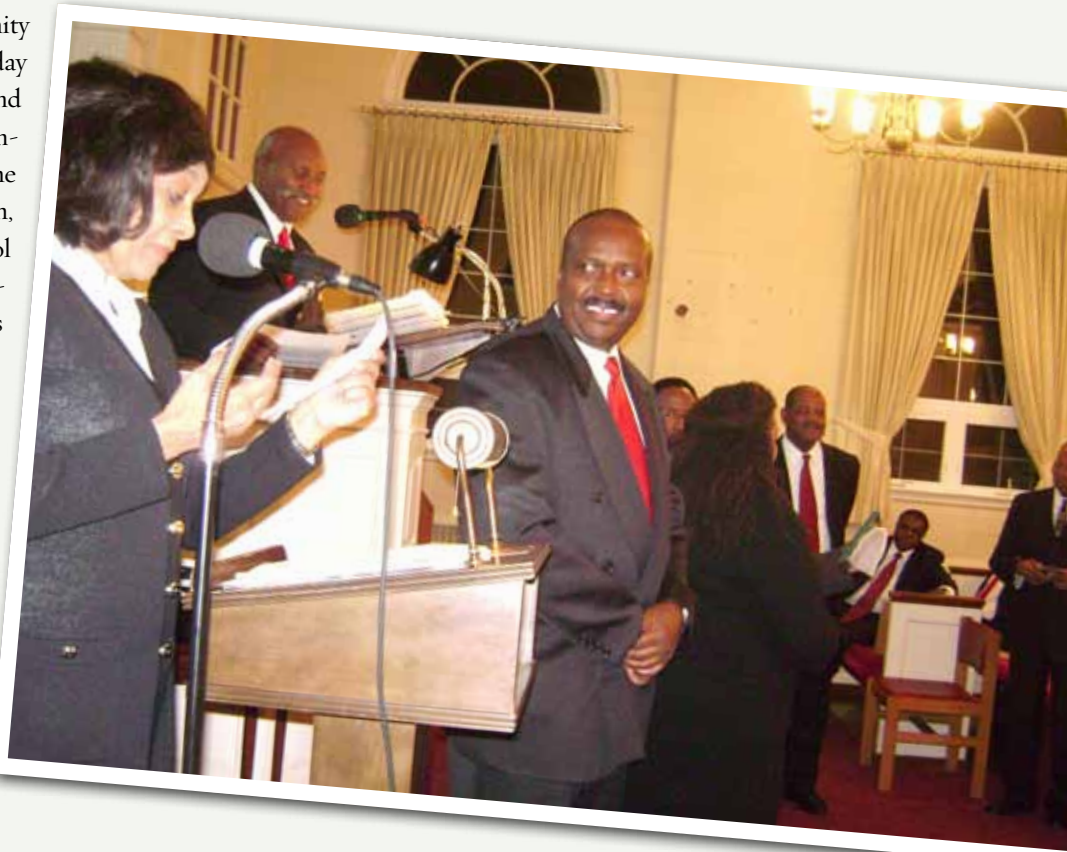
Malcolm and other elders at City Temple SDA Church started a daily prayer line, which now

has up to 30 members and their family members calling in. He is also working to develop a neighborhood missionary program.

"We're trying to put all these things together in our individual churches. We're trying to think out of the box, trying to do some new and different things to direct some attention to Adventism, and let people know that Jesus is coming soon," Malcolm said.

Kristina Penny is a senior journalism major at Andrews University, and she resides in Detroit, Michigan.

Often, people expect the pastor to do all the preaching, teaching and evangelism, but they need to remember that we are all part of a chosen priesthood of active believers, called to get involved in finishing the spreading of the Gospel. —*Timothy Gardner*



God's Plan Fell into Place

Three years ago I, Sally Muse, never would have imagined myself becoming a Seventh-day Adventist. It's been a long journey, and this is my story.

Ever since I was a little girl and learned about Jesus in my Sunday school, He has had a place in my heart. But, like so many casual Christians, I rarely acknowledged Him. All my efforts were put into my worldly goals and relationships, not my relationship with God. I kept Him at a distance, yet He was always there when I needed Him.

When I was diagnosed with cancer, He sent the Holy Spirit into my heart with a comforting, peaceful knowledge that my cancer would be gone, and I would be cured; I have been cancer-free for more than 12 years now. Each time I reached out to Him, He drew me a little closer. It wasn't until the horrific attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, that I began to see the world and God a little differently. It seemed like the definition of right and wrong had somehow been reversed, that violence and immorality were becoming the norm; and, for the first time, I began to question why.

Three years ago, when I was asked by my friends and neighbors to join their Bible study, I jumped at the chance. I thought, *Maybe there my questions would be answered.* There were usually eight of us studying, and we became a very close group. Although the study was not very deep, I was happy I was reading the Bible and praying, for the most part, on a daily basis. This is where I met my friends, Chris and Kerry Fannon.

God used a series of events to lead me to the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church. About a year into Bible study, an unexpected and somewhat devastating personal challenge occurred in my life. Even though I was in constant prayer, my despair deepened as I struggled with my burden, and I felt completely and truly broken. It was then I



Sally Muse believes God had a plan for her life, and recognizes how it fell into place. Also pictured: Jim Howard, pastor, Metropolitan Church

got down on my knees. Although I had done this many times before, this time I offered no "Yes, buts," no excuses for my sins — just an honest, humble prayer in deep contrition. I thank God for His patience with me, for I believe it was then that God truly graced me with the Holy Spirit to start work on my new heart.

It was shortly after that, in September 2010, when Chris and Kerry started to attend the "Unlocking Revelations" seminars presented by Jim Howard, pastor of the Metropolitan Church. They shared their excitement and some details of what they were learning with our Bible study group. I became very interested. Kerry was kind enough to give me her DVDs. After viewing just a few sessions, I knew in my heart that Jim was speaking the truth! It unlocked a desire in me, to read and study the Word, that I had never experienced before. I was truly amazed, and I wanted more!

As a few weeks went by, to almost everyone's surprise, the Bible study leader became increasingly adamant against the Adventist Church and the subject of the Ten Commandments, which he believed to be invalid. We asked him to just examine Scripture with us, but he refused. Consequently, Chris, Kerry and I were accused of bringing the devil into our Bible study, and the three of us were kicked out of a Christian Bible study — something I didn't think was possible. I believe God used the combination of the upheaval in my personal life and the unkind behavior of our Bible study leader to create an even stronger desire in me to know the truth — God's truth, not man's, and I was pretty sure Jim and his church could help me discover it.

As our Bible study disbanded and the seminars at Metro were drawing to a close, Jim graciously offered to study the

Bible with Chris and Kerry. I asked if I could attend as well, and urged them to accept his offer. As the saying goes, “the rest is history.” But, really, I believe God’s plan fell into place.

Shortly after we started Bible study, I began to attend Sabbath services at Metropolitan Church. I was really touched by how welcoming and sincere the church members were. As the months went by, I had found a church that not

only could talk the talk with knowledge, conviction and passion, they could, most importantly, walk the walk! The members’ joy and their conviction of faith was written all across their kind faces. I wanted to be a part of that as well. That is how I came to this good church, and the good people there.

Sally Muse is a member of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan; editing by Joy Hyde, communications secretary, Metropolitan Church.

A Future with Jesus

Sara Conner and Sarah Harnos were baptized on August 27, 2011, at the Metropolitan Church by Jim Howard, pastor. Several factors influenced their decisions to follow Jesus’ command to be baptized, and unite with the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church family.

First is the influence of their family. Both the girls come from Adventist homes, where their parents, Heather and Nick Conner and Stephanie and Vic Harnos, guide their daughters and nurture moral, upright and Christlike character development. They encourage their daughters to be involved in activities that exemplify the Gospel, like helping those in need and being kind and forgiving of others. Since babies, the girls were taken to Sabbath school and church, which further strengthened what the girls learned at home. Their parents sacrificed time and money to enroll their daughters in church school at Metropolitan Junior Academy. The Adventist faith runs deep in both families, providing many examples of right-living. Witnessing the girls’ baptisms were parents, grandparents, many aunts, uncles, cousins and siblings.

The second significant spiritual influence on Sara and Sarah was time spent at the Michigan Conference youth camp, Camp Au Sable. Both girls saw a girl baptized one Friday night at Camp Au Sable, which especially touched their hearts. That is when they desired baptism for themselves.

Another leading factor was the influence of Christian teachers at MJA. Sara and Sarah have been classmates at MJA since first grade, and are best friends forever. Currently seventh-graders, their teacher is Craig Morgan. Craig is also the principal at MJA and, coincidentally, the summer camp assistant director at Camp Au Sable. He has been a fixture



Sara Connor, Craig Morgan, Sarah Harnos

Joy Hyde

at Camp Au Sable for 26 summers along with his wife, Cindy.

Craig conducted a baptismal class. For approximately three months, during the 2010–2011 school year, he met with the girls nearly every Monday afternoon. Craig led the girls through the beliefs of the Adventist church, examined proph-

ecies in Daniel and Revelation, and showed them how the prophets pointed to Jesus as the promised Messiah, enhancing their knowledge of Jesus Christ previously learned at home and at school, and through experiences at Camp Au Sable. Craig emphasized spending time daily in prayer and Bible study, so they could strengthen their heart knowledge of Jesus and develop a stronger, more permanent relationship with Him that would guard them through the temptations they will certainly face in their futures.

The primary and most important influence for Sara and Sarah was that still small Voice of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has guided their families, the Camp Au Sable staff and MJA teachers and, ultimately, these young ladies. Since little children, the girls have been taught to listen to that Voice, recognizing It for the protection and great value It brings to their lives. When the Holy Spirit planted the desire for baptism in their hearts that Friday night at Camp Au Sable, they listened, acted and went forward in faith, heeding that guidance.

Both Sara and Sarah love Jesus, and want to commit their future to serving Him and learning more about Him.

Joy Hyde, communications secretary, Metropolitan Church



Jeremy Wolk, chaplain at Chippewa Valley Hospital, makes the patients feel comfortable and welcome.

An Ambassador for Christ at Chippewa Valley Hospital

“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:19, 20 NKJV).

Jeremy Wolk always believed one day he would do God’s work as a physician. But God had a different plan for him. God led him in the same direction, just a different path.

As a young boy growing up in Napa Valley, Calif., Wolk spent much of his free time visiting his parents, both of whom worked at a local hospital.

“I always felt at home when I was at

the hospital. I felt a sense of comfort and peace,” Wolk said.

Wolk’s career path to become a doctor began at Pacific Union College. But knee-deep in his studies, he felt something was missing. He always felt he was meant to do something meaningful with the talents God gave him; he just wasn’t sure what that something was. Soon, God revealed His plans for Wolk, and he switched his major to theology. School became more enjoyable than ever before. “I knew I had found my calling,” Wolk said; “I was doing what God had planned for me.”

Wolk continued his education at Andrews University, where he completed a Masters of Divinity. After graduating, Wolk wanted to do God’s work. He heard about an opening at Chippewa Valley Hospital, one of the Adventist Midwest Health facilities, nestled in the rolling hills of rural Wisconsin. Assigned to the chaplaincy by the Wisconsin

Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 2008, he believes Chippewa Valley was the perfect place to begin his ministry. The facility is a 25-bed critical access hospital and includes Oakview Care Center, an attached 50-bed skilled nursing facility. Wolk’s plan to work in healthcare has come full circle. As chaplain, he provides spiritual counseling, and ensures patients and their families are offered spiritual care in keeping with their beliefs.

Wolk has been working as a chaplain at the hospital for three years now, and loves doing his part to extend the healing ministry of Christ. He and his wife, Neli-da, have been blessed with two beautiful children: David, 7, and Isabella, 4, and a third child is expected to join the happy family in May.

Wolk’s ministry is not confined to the walls of the hospital. In addition to working as a chaplain, he also serves as the pastor of the Durand Seventh-day Adventist Church. Wolk strives to connect the entities of the church and the hospital to benefit the patients, staff and community.

One example of those efforts is Wolk’s work in preventing teen suicide. When he and his family moved to the area, he learned the level of teen suicides was much higher than the national average. Wolk decided to hold awareness events, which helped lower the teen suicide rate in just six months. “Helping raise awareness of the problem made it easier for people to talk about it, and that alone helped lower the rate,” Wolk said.

“It is Wolk’s efforts inside and outside the hospital that make him a true asset to his community,” said Doug Peterson, president and CEO of Chippewa Valley Hospital.

“We have been blessed by Jeremy’s ministry,” Peterson said. “He has many talents; he is a good listener and counselor, and makes our patients feel comfortable and welcome.”

*Patricia Reynaert, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health*



AUSTIN HO

Acrofest, hosted at Andrews University, Nov. 10–12, 2011, brought nearly 1,000 gymnasts to the campus for spiritual renewal, enrichment and collaboration.

Andrews hosts 20th annual Acrofest

The 20th annual Acrofest was hosted at Andrews University, Nov. 10–12, 2011. This annual event brings Seventh-day Adventist gymnasts together from institutions across the country and around the world for spiritual renewal and a chance to collaborate with other gymnasts.

Nearly 1,000 gymnasts and their coaches attended this year's Acrofest. Teams came from as far away as Antilean Adventist University in Puerto Rico and Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alberta, Canada. The 26 participating teams represented academy teams, some private gymnastic programs and seven Seventh-day Adventist college teams.

Israel Falcon is the head coach of the Akro-Lites, a team from Fajardo, Puerto Rico. Akro-Lites is an example of a program that isn't affiliated with any particular institution, but operates as a ministry helping kids with a range of challenges from attention deficit

hyperactivity disorder to obesity. "We offer a motivational program where we teach moral and Christian values, and give them an organized structure in their lives," he says. "Events like this show them what knowing Christ can do for them and how their goals can be achieved if they work hard."

Gymnastics head coach Christian Lighthall says, "The theme this year was, 'He Could Have Said No, But He Said Yes.' It emphasized the ultimate sacrifice Christ made for mankind." Daily worship sessions and special guest speaker, Matthew Gamble, set the tone for a weekend focused on spiritual renewal. Meanwhile, the many workshop stations and opportunities to collaborate with gymnasts from other institutions offered participants a chance to hone their technical skills.

Gymnasts attended workshops and clinics, such as "Pyramids" and "Human Video" in Johnson Gym, Beaty Gym and the Andrews Academy Gym. Human video is a new witnessing tool, according to Lighthall, that uses tumbling moves and formations to depict

a biblical theme or story. "For example, we've portrayed Moses and the parting of the Red Sea. A group of gymnasts on either side of 'Moses' waving their arms back and forth to create the imagery of waves being held back by invisible hands. We've also reenacted the ministry, trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ — all with tumbling moves and formations, and no words." Each team created their own human video project, and all the pieces were incorporated into the Friday night worship.

Acrofest culminated in a live, sold-out finale in Johnson Gym featuring performances by 24 of the participating teams. "Our goal is to maintain a spiritual focus in sport but also to become better athletes," says Lighthall. "This was a way to do both."

The first Acrofest was held in 1991 at Andrews University. Under the leadership of then coach, Robert Kalua, that first Acrofest drew 600 gymnasts and their coaches. By creating a non-competitive atmosphere, Kalua helped establish opportunities for quality instruction and aimed for education and team development within the Seventh-day Adventist educational system. Each year, a different Seventh-day Adventist institution hosts Acrofest. This year marks the fourth time it was hosted at Andrews University.

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



AUSTIN HO

The Andrews Gymnastics demonstrated a three-high pyramid during one of the Acrofest workshops.

[EDUCATION NEWS]

RMES students build houses without hammers

Michigan — When Erin Hudson, executive director of Harbor Habitat (a division of Habitat for Humanity), spoke for the monthly assembly at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in Berrien Springs, RMES students felt a desire to serve others in their community. “One student immediately wanted to know when he could start swinging a hammer and building a house,” said RMES junior high teacher, Chris Davisson. “Our kids are ready to help out.”

Disappointed when they heard that volunteers must be at least 16 years of age to help with home construction, Hudson promised to keep RMES junior high students in mind for other projects.

It didn’t take long for the students to receive the call to help. Just weeks later, Harbor Habitat had a 2,000-piece mailing that needed to go out, but just didn’t have the manpower to get it accomplished on their own. Hudson immediately thought of asking students at RMES for their help.

Two RMES staff arranged to take a small group of students to Harbor Habitat to complete the project. When 21 seventh- and eighth-graders arrived at Harbor Habitat headquarters, they saw huge stacks of papers sitting on tables. After introductions and instructions, the students got right to work.

It was interesting to observe the students in action. Not only were these students able to fill an urgent need, but they also put into practice life skills they’ve learned inside and outside the classroom. The amount of teamwork and self-initiative they showed was astounding! The students asked intelligent questions of Harbor Habitat employees, spoke very respectfully, and used problem-solving skills and common sense to work efficiently. As a



RMES student volunteers pause for a photo at Harbor Habitat with Partner Services specialist, Kathleen Nay (left) and the executive director, Erin Hudson (right).

Wendy Keough

result, everyone had fun and completed their work in a fraction of the time set aside.

“We thought they might complete half of the mailing in the time allotted,” said Hudson. “Needless to say, if we are fortunate enough to have them volunteer again, we’ll have three times as much work ready for them! The Harbor Habitat staff greatly appreciates their willingness to serve and positive attitudes. They have been taught well and are living testaments to the values that you all have worked so hard to instill in them.”

“Amen!” says Rod Lawrence, director of development at Harbor Habitat. “Thanks so much, Ruth Murdoch staff and students. We deeply appreciate your enthusiasm, cheerfulness, helpfulness, sharp eyes, nimble hands, bright minds, etc., etc., etc. ... We would love to have you back!”

While RMES students couldn’t pound nails and cut wood to build houses for those in need, God used them to do the work that was critical at that moment. Because this mailing was

completed in time, others can now give resources to get houses built. RMES staff hopes each student working on this project takes some ownership in the housing that Harbor Habitat provides to those in need in Benton Harbor.

Wendy Keough, assistant to the principal, Ruth Murdoch Elementary School



RMES seventh-graders Rebecca Overstreet, Jasmine Kim and Gabby Guderyan are proud of the amount of work they accomplished at Harbor Habitat.

Wendy Keough



Esther Jones

Department of Physical Therapy students Tinelle Jardine (left) and Amy Trautwein (right) stop to smile for the camera while packaging gifts for Operation Christmas Child. The packing party was organized by Esther Jones, who serves as a regional coordinator for Operation Christmas Child and is administrative assistant in the Department of Physical Therapy at Andrews University.

Salvation shared a shoebox at a time

Michigan — Every November, the gymnasium at Niles Adventist School in Niles, Mich., fills up with brightly-colored shoeboxes full of items, both fun and functional, from toys to toothbrushes. Volunteers then load the boxes onto semi-trailers headed for processing centers in North Carolina or Minn. From there, the boxes are distributed to more than 8.3 million needy children around the world.

Esther Jones, along with her husband, Charles, of Niles, Mich., has coordinated Operation Christmas Child in the northwestern Indiana and southwestern Michigan area for the past 15 years. “We plan to be involved with OCC until they throw dirt over us!” Jones says. She has seen the project grow from 550 boxes to this year’s collection of 21,338 boxes.

Jones learned about the project from her sister. They decided to fill 40 boxes and take them to the nearest collection center, which was then in Indianapolis. Jones shared a promotional video with her church family at the Buchanan Seventh-day Adventist

Church. One member was in management at Wal-Mart. He then showed the video to other Wal-Mart associates, who began to pack boxes of their own. Within weeks, they had collected 550 boxes, and Wal-Mart provided transportation to Indianapolis for the next three years. By the third year, the number rose to 3,200 boxes, and the Niles Adventist School became an official collection center.

This year, students from the Department of Physical Therapy at Andrews University packed 65 boxes after Jones, administrative assistant in the department, presented OCC to the students in the classes of 2013 and 2014. “They embraced the project, and many chose to participate as one of their community service projects,” says Jones.

Ashleigh Jardine, a member of the class of 2014, recalls packing shoeboxes as an elementary school student at nearby Village Adventist Elementary School, another institution with which Jones herself works to pack boxes. When Jones brought the project to the Department of Physical Therapy, Jardine’s class held a packing party of their own. “It was the perfect oppor-

tunity for our class to bond; and, more importantly, for us to make a difference in the lives of these children,” she says.

When a child receives a shoebox, they are likely receiving their first Christmas gift. Often, it contains a personal note from the person who donated the box. These letters can lead to lifelong correspondences and friendships. In 2009, Jones had the opportunity to accompany Operation Christmas Child to the Dominican Republic. As an area coordinator, she handed Niles Adventist School collection site’s 100,000th shoebox to a little girl named Judelka.

“We saw God working in front of our eyes several times,” commented Jones. The children also receive a book in their language telling the story of salvation. “This is a fantastic way to assist in the completion of the Great Commission of Matthew 28,” says Jones. “What a joy it is to provide a child with most likely their first gift ever, and then for them to learn of the greatest gift, salvation. What could be better?”

Samantha Snively, student newswriter, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Esther Jones

Department of Physical Therapy students Erika Mikkelsen (left background), Kaes Kammon (front center) and Zack Lusk (front right) help package donated toys for Operation Christmas Child. These gifts, including a booklet containing the story of salvation, are headed to the poorest children of the planet.



The animals in the live Nativity were a pleasant surprise for many children who participated in the Christmas Open House. Staff from the Easter Passion Play at Andrews were on hand to keep an eye on the kids while they got up close and personal with the baby cow, sheep, roosters and a miniature horse that were keeping Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus company in the makeshift stable.

Andrews joins neighbors for Christmas Open House

Michigan — Andrews students, staff and faculty helped kick off the Christmas season with their neighbors in Berrien Springs, Mich., at the town's Annual Downtown Open House, "Kindle Your Christmas Spirit." This event offers members of the Berrien Springs community a chance to gather for an evening of festive fun with something for everyone. An estimated 700 members of the community filled the streets of downtown Berrien Springs to enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, Christmas crafts for kids and a chance to see inside many businesses located downtown.

Each year, Andrews' participation has grown. The first year of the event, members of the Andrews University Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) club offered face painting. Since then, students have donned Santa hats and decorated an estimated 250 cheeks each year with snowflakes, Christmas trees and stars, to name a few.

This year the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication shared building space with the SIFE team. Andrews volunteers assisted children in making a Christmas garland to hang on the town's Christmas tree located in Memorial Park. The children also made pine cone birdfeeder ornaments to hang on the tree. "Everyone enjoyed sharing a cheery, warm cup of Rosy Glow tea — a specialty from our own Dining Services, compliments of Andrews University," says Rebecca May, director of events and campus relations at Andrews University.

The Easter Passion Play team found a creative way to bring the story of Jesus to life through a live Nativity. Two Andrews students, Amarilis Rodriguez and Heber Garcia, dressed as Mary and Joseph while sitting in a makeshift stable full of live cows, chickens, sheep and even a miniature horse. Young and old alike enjoyed petting the animals, and the live Nativity was a fitting way for the Easter Passion Play team to participate in the event.

"Andrews is blessed to be part of a community that values bringing people



Andrews shares an interesting tie with The Journal Era, the town's newspaper and one of the organizers behind the event: Andrews (then known as Battle Creek College) and the town's paper, The Journal Era, were both founded in 1874.



Andrews student Leslie Harris drew Santa hats on the face of four-year-old Keira Suarez.

together," says José Bourget, a chaplain in the Office of Campus Ministries and producer for the Easter Passion Play. "Through the various festivities that each season brings, it's great to see Berrien Springs, our hometown, come together, especially now, to celebrate peace, unity and goodwill to all men."

Andrews University also provided pencils to Santa, who then handed them out to the children who came to share their wish list with him.

"It is our privilege to link arms with our little village on various community events and special occasions. Although there are dozens of resources available to the community on our campus, relationships are best built through personal contacts, not general invitations. We hope and pray that the influence of Andrews University in Berrien Springs will enrich the community we call home, in ways both large and small," says May.

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

[YOUTH NEWS]



Jason C. North

During a youth-led evangelistic series, held in May 2011, God moved in a mighty way. Many individuals, young and old, renewed their commitment to Jesus.

Indianapolis area youth stir hearts with God's Word

Lake Region — On Mon., May 9, a youth explosion week began in Indianapolis. The students of the Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist School and the youth departments from area churches came together to hold a youth evangelistic series. God moved in a mighty way.

In March 2011, Jason North, pastor of the Emmanuel and Tabernacle of Hope churches, and Norris Ncube, Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist School principal, discussed doing a week of spiritual emphasis in the spring. After some brainstorming, they came up with the idea for Capitol City School students to do the speaking. They then decided on a date and went to work.

Nine students volunteered to be speakers. During April, North went to the school weekly to work with the students on their presentations. The

students were eager to get started, and each student selected a biblical truth to cover during their presentation. They did their own research to learn what the Bible says about their topic, developed a Bible study, and created a Power-Point presentation, which included very detailed background pictures and illustrations. Once these presentations were completed, North and the students polished the vocal and media presentations.

The final piece was to organize the nightly programs. Area youth leaders from five Lake Region churches each chose a night to coordinate. The program consisted of a praise and worship segment, welcome, opening prayer, student presentations, and a season of intercessory prayer. Nightly, North also shared his personal testimony of how God rescued him from a life of sin and rebellion.

The title of the week of spiritual emphasis was “i-believe.” Each night the students not only presented biblical truths, but also shared their personal convictions and encouraged listeners to embrace the same biblical beliefs. The youth evangelism series ended with a youth federation convocation where Kimberly Bulgin, of Toronto, Canada, shared with the young people how they should be unavailable to the enemy and available to Christ by accepting the pure Gospel of Jesus.

Many young persons as well as older persons, through the power of the Holy Spirit, renewed their commitment to Jesus — some by making decisions

for baptism and re-baptism, and two members of the community deciding to enroll in Bible studies.

The servant of the Lord, Ellen White, said, “The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 7, p. 64), and “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!” (*Education*, p. 271).

In reflecting on the event, North said, “My appeal is that we would allow our young people to blow the trumpet of the Lord, the way God has placed it upon their hearts. That we as older members would trust how the Holy Spirit is stirring up the hearts of our young people. Their methods may not be the same, but it’s the same Spirit that is inspiring them. Through our tender guidance and financial support they may, by the grace of God, finish the work.” North is thankful to the many individuals who made this event possible, and appreciates their vision, leadership, support and cooperation. And most of all, he is thankful to his “Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for giving me a chance to right the wrongs of my past by sharing what He has done and continues to do for me.”

Jason C. North, pastor, Emmanuel & Tabernacle of Hope Seventh-day Adventist Churches, as shared with Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference

[UNION NEWS]

Indiana Conference celebrates Timber Ridge Camp 50th anniversary

Indiana — The Indiana Conference proudly celebrated the 50th anniversary

of Timber Ridge Camp, Oct. 14–16, 2011. Fifty current and previous staff attended the weekend celebration. Among them was Mary Ellen Perkins, a counselor and girls’ director, 1961–1982, who recently compiled the TRC history.

At TRC’s beginning, all the workers were volunteers. Some of Perkins’ funniest memories from those early years included: when some of the girl

campers let all the horses out of the pasture; when a snake landed in her canoe; when a boy tried to catch a snake during the campfire service; and canoeing down White River with girls who did not follow directions.

Bill Geary, TRC youth director, 1961–1971, also in attendance at the anniversary reunion, remembered, “Everybody showered with a hose that was



Fifty current and former Timber Ridge Camp staff gathered for the camp's 50th Anniversary in Spencer, Ind., Oct. 14-16, 2011.

out of a cafeteria window ... and there was only cold water!”

“God has led thousands, young and old alike, to know Jesus better through ministry at TRC. After spending a weekend visiting with former staff and campers, I am honored to be a part of

the ministry,” said Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth ministries director and current TRC director.

In 50 years, there have only been two camp rangers, Russell Hainey and Kenny Pickett, and one manager, Dean Whitlow.



Mary Ellen Perkins, a counselor and girls' director from 1961 to 1982, regaled current and former TRC staff with tales of the camp's early days.

“Probably what I heard people saying most was [that] it was like coming home. And many asked, ‘When can we do this again?’” said Whitlow. “Another said, ‘This is my happy place, my safe place.’”

The warm reception toward this homecoming weekend played a large factor in the Conference's hope to schedule another TRC reunion in five years.

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



Members of the Indianapolis Outreach Coalition entered into thoughtful prayer before delving into an intentional strategy to reach Indianapolis.

IOC ponders actions to reach greater Indianapolis for Jesus

Indiana — On Sun., Nov. 6, 2011, in Carmel, Indiana Conference administration brainstormed with the Indianapolis Outreach Coalition to create a formal strategy to evangelize the Indianapolis Metro area. The IOC's purpose is: “To utilize traditional and new methods of reaching the populous of the greater Indianapolis metroplex as expediently as possible through

teams of existing and newly-converted disciples.”

Conference officials plan to capitalize on the energy already established by IOC members and their churches as a strategy is formulated. “What would we do if money wasn't an excuse?” Van Hurst, Indiana Conference president and IOC chairperson, asked, at the Nov. 6 IOC meeting.

According to Hurst, “Ideas for the deliberate evangelism of Indianapolis include strategic marketing, partnering with other organizations for community events, and health-related seminars that will spawn small groups — small groups that are designed with the intent to plant new churches.”

Twenty-six such small groups have been realized under the guidance of Antonio Rosario, Indiana Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator. “Small groups are the key,” Rosario said. “Post-modern people are looking for relationships. They want to feel ownership in their church. Small groups offer this, which is why it reaches them.”

The IOC set Sabbath, Apr. 14, as the date for the second Operation Downpour. This event is designed to reach the zip codes surrounding an Indianapolis church in one afternoon. Operation Downpour events are made possible as members from churches represented in the IOC and volunteers from other parts of the Lake Union Conference rally around the church hosting Operation Downpour. They create a large workforce not ordinarily available to a single-church endeavor.

“I believe the Lord is preparing us for something,” said Hurst. “Knowing something great is on the horizon, there is a spirit of anticipation and an attitude of action in Indiana.” The Indiana Conference is considering the addition of three new churches in the Indianapolis area: one in Greenfield, one in Fishers and one tailored toward emerging adults that is proposed to be planted in the heart of downtown Indianapolis.

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference



PHILIP WILLIS JR.

James Peggie, from the Urban League, teaches a class titled, "College Readiness." While it is called "Man College" and is specifically geared for boys and men, the conference is also a resource for mothers and guardians of young men who have challenges. Also pictured (from left): Kevonda Woods and Darrien Allen

Second Man College teaches life skills to community youth

Lake Region—After spending two years in a tough inner city area, hard hit by crime, a poor economy and social challenges, Philip Willis, Jr., pastor of the Gary Church, has learned a few things. "Evangelism is not as simple as putting up a satellite or doing a Revelation seminar. The inner city communities are hurting personally, economically and socially," he says.

"Sixty-four percent of Gary families are single parents (see www.city-data.com/top2/h6.html). Gary's homicide rate rose in 2010 and placed the city once nicknamed the "nation's murder capital" back at the top of the FBI's list for murder rates in cities its size according to a report on 14 News WFIE (see www.14news.com/story/13808457/gary-indiana-tops-homicide-rate).

"Within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we have adolescent youth who have been in and out of juvenile detention, spent time in jail, some raised by single parents, and others touched by joblessness," Willis stated.

Unless the evangelism methodology can specifically address those issues that have caused suffering, Willis believes the church's outreach efforts could be an exercise in futility. "If our objectives are really to reach people, we should look no further than the formula Jesus laid out for us in *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143," Willis says. He

quotes from the book, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

Man College grew out of this need to radically transform the approach to the ministry within the Gary Church as well as its outreach. First, Willis started preaching five- to ten-minute sermons. Following the messages, church members went out to knock on neighbors' doors near the church to find out what they could do to help. As a result, 28 new young people (mostly young men between ages 10 and 17) from the community filled the Gary Church along with their parents to join a recreation program on Saturday nights. The parents were excited not only because it was free but because it provided their children something positive and constructive to do.

The second approach was to use Man College to help touch the lives of the high percentage of single parents in the community who need help with their adolescent males. In their book, *Father Facts*, authors Wade F. Horn and Tom Sylvester point out that children whose biological fathers are absent are, on average, two to three times more likely to engage in criminal behavior than their peers who live with their married, biological parents.

This year, the second Man College conference was offered at the Gary

Church. On Oct. 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., ten presenters and three keynote speakers were assembled to teach the young men in the community. A young man by the name of Earnest, 15, who attended the self-awareness and self-defense class at the Man College conference, took to heart the challenge to be more than his environment. He really wanted to learn Jujitsu. Earnest had been robbed multiple times, and recently at gunpoint. When he revealed his love of reading, the presenter, Richard Carr from Orlando, Florida, suggested he read the book, *Gifted Hands*, a story about neurosurgeon Ben Carson's journey from violence to serving humanity.

Another community member, Reggie Gilliam, shared this about his



James Stokes, a colonel, teaches "Essential Etiquette for Men" at Man College.



In a class he taught at Man College, Richard Carr, left, demonstrates how to defend against an attack. He is assisted by Philip Willis Jr., center. Also pictured: Michael Green.

experience with the Man College Conference: “Pastor Willis, I really enjoyed the men’s conference. Because of the conference and the media seminar, I have chosen to no longer play the “Call of Duty” video game. I was honestly addicted to that game and would play for hours into the night. I went online yesterday on YouTube to see more hidden messages and symbols in the game and was shocked. Thanks again for inviting me to the Man College conference. Also, I enjoyed the DVDs you made, and have already let a friend watch them.”

Local community leaders were also invited to the Man College conference. Michael A. Green Sr. of the Male Empowerment Network has a program on the radio titled, “Calling All Fathers.” He said this of the event, “I really enjoyed interacting with everyone, always good to meet new friends. The breakout sessions were good, and most important was I learned things I could share with my family and others. We will get the word out in order to make next year even greater.”

While the Gary Church is already planning the next Man College confer-

ence event in March 2012, Man College is not a single event by far. Continuous and aggressive weekly follow-up through the recreation program and the after-school mentoring project is geared to meet the community’s needs and win their confidence. “If we successfully accomplish this, we will have paved the way for them to follow along,” says Willis.

Philip Willis Jr., pastor, Gary Church, as shared with Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference



Sam Taylor

Native garb worn and homeland language heard on International Sabbath, held Oct. 22, 2011, gave testament to a wide array of countries represented in the South Bend Church.

South Bend International Day celebrates diversity

Indiana — International Sabbath at the South Bend Seventh-day Adventist Church landed on Oct. 22 — a momentous day in Adventist hearts and history books, generating a new vitality to hasten Christ’s return.

At the South Bend Church, David Williams, master of music, tied the events of 1844 with Matthew 28: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ... I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19, 20 NKJV). Standing between the congregation and a wall of bright flags displayed on the stage, Williams enthusiastically called out a series of continents and countries and invited

individuals to stand as Christ’s chosen ambassadors from their homelands.

Pivoting on the international Great Commission, the service segued into “an experience, not just in Heaven to come, but also present in Adventism today,” vividly remembered Nathaniel Sevilla, an active young adult member of the South Bend Church. “This was the part that really did it for me. During the song service, I observed a strong spiritual high in the congregation. I saw that there is a unity in the Spirit in respecting the different cultures.” The sanctuary erupted with a burst of multicultural energy, intensified by color and depth not usually present in worship.

Members stood to their feet, united by the Great Hope they ardently sang about in old pioneer-like songs. Many groups stomped their feet in the spirit and expressed the joy running over in their hearts,” recalled Sevilla. “What a snapshot of God’s kingdom!”

Next, participants read Scripture in “seven or eight different languages,” Stephen Apola said.

Then, during the children’s story, “Children learned to tolerate others who may be different,” recalled Michael Adeniyi.

“The message focused on unity, diversity and appreciating the strengths our differences bring,” Apola said.

Members often attend Sabbath services in “church uniform” — men in suits, girls in dresses, but this Sabbath members were especially invited to wear clothes reflecting their cultural background. “I experienced culture from people within my church, whereas I never would have been able to have that understanding if they were not able to help me be ‘in their land’ as a result of their presence that Sabbath,” Sevilla said.

“Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America — we blend well together, which is why we decided to celebrate our diversity,” said the church’s pastor, Throstur Thordarson, who on this particular Sabbath donned native Icelandic garb. It is estimated that 40 to 50 nations, from at least five continents, attend the South Bend Church.

“It was beautiful — different skin, accents, clothes, but Heaven; this makes us come together as one family,” Adeniyi remarked.

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference



Joni Baker

A cooking class was held at the Grand Haven (Mich.) Community Service Center in September 2011.

Cooking healthy leads to monthly Supper Club

Michigan — In Grand Haven, a place was found for those who hungered for a way to move from an animal-based diet to a plant-based diet.

Five Tuesdays, starting with Aug. 30, found 40–50 people in the Grand Haven Adventist Community Center learning how to cook in a way that takes advantage of the “fresh and local” movement as well as the U.S. Department

of Agriculture’s new “MyPlate” eating healthy recommendations (see www.choosemyplate.gov). Kicking off the first night was Vicki Griffin, author and speaker of the *LifestyleMatters* “Balanced Living” seminars. This series brings solutions for building a better brain, better habits and a better life with each session filled with practical information, scientific facts, cooking demonstrations, food tastings, and question-and-answer sessions.

Attendees found a different theme each night, with breakfast, lunch and dinner being served three nights. The other two nights were themed around foods for a healthy brain and healthy snacking. Several attendees wanted to know, “What are we having next week?” Some thought that the coordinators couldn’t possibly top each week. Recipes were provided for the foods served each night, and there was a demonstration of one or two of the foods provided as well.

At least two women indicated they

were losing weight (by the end of the five weeks) by cooking the way they had learned. One woman shared that when she had blood work done by her physician, during the five weeks she had been practicing cooking vegetarian/vegan, her doctor said, “Whatever you’re doing, keep it up!” because her blood work all looked really good.

Enthusiasm ran high among the attendees for what they were seeing, tasting and learning. So much so that more than 25 signed up for a one evening per month “Supper Club,” which started in November. At the first Supper Club, Norman Boeve, a local physician, spoke about eating healthy for a long life.

The Grand Haven Church family continues to find interesting ways to put themselves out in the community and share God’s love with others.

Joni Baker, communications co-director and food presenter/preparation volunteer, Grand Haven Church



At the Bay City Church Vacation Bible School last summer, children were invited to gather up toys and stuffed animals from home to send to less fortunate children in the Philippines. Leaders hoped this initiative would reinforce the program’s theme of kindness and love.

Bay City Church spreads Christmas cheer

Michigan — This past summer Melojeane Zawilinski with her daughter, Karla, facilitated the annual Vacation Bible School at the Bay City

Church. “The neatest part was when we got to meet new friends at VBS. Another thing I enjoyed the most were the songs we learned from Karla and Victoria. I also like that this year we can see the smiles of the children we shared our toys with,” said Lee Deary III.

Zawilinski says, “In order to culminate this year’s themes on kindness and love, children were invited to gather up toys from home and bring stuffed animals to ship to the less fortunate children in the Philippines in time for Christmas distribution. Everyone contributed in different ways. Children as young as three years old brought in toys; parents of VBS attendees handed out money to defray the cost of shipment; teenagers came on a Sunday to pack the toys and other goods; adult members of the church offered more money and toys — and even gave up their own cherished toys they have kept for quite a few years.”

There was an abundance of

generosity and giving hearts displayed in support of the annual Philippine Toy Project that was initiated last year. The Bay City Church members plan to continue this annual tradition and outreach as more and more sponsors pour in. Young people and adults are all inspired to bring smiles to their little friends overseas.

Church members were delighted as they anticipated the joyful faces of the children who received the toys at Christmas — not only in one, but two boxes! Zawilinski says, “Though these children are from the other side of the world, we hope to meet them someday in Heaven where it’s not only toys that would bring a smile to their faces, but also the truth that we all belong to one Father.”

Melojeane Zawilinski, church member, Bay City Church, and Philippine Toy Project coordinator, as shared with *Lake Union Herald* staff

Bible prophecy series follows the life of Jesus

Illinois — In September 2011, a Bible study series of meetings was held at the Moultrie County Senior Citizens Center in Sullivan, Ill. The theme for the series was “Are You Ready?” and the messages shared by Steve Nelson, pastor, focused on prophecy by following the life of Jesus. The key point was that being ready for what is soon to come is all about having a relationship with Jesus. The outreach was a joint



Steve Nelson, pastor, presents Bible prophecy messages during a ten-night series held at the Moultrie County Senior Citizens' Center in Sullivan, Ill., in September 2011.

effort between the Stewardson and Mattoon Churches.

The ten-night series was well

attended for the small, rural community, with about 30–50 percent of attendance each night being visitors. Several visitors who attended the full series, or nearly every night, are now taking Bible studies with local church members.

A Bible and a satellite dish featuring Christian programming were given away at the end of the series. Ruby Saucedo received the Bible in recognition of her perfect attendance, and Bill and Beverly Alwerdt were the winners of the satellite dish drawing.

Samantha Nelson, former correspondent, Stewardson and Mattoon Churches

[WORLD CHURCH NEWS]



Software upgrade makes multiple Hope Channels available for local church websites

Every Seventh-day Adventist church and school can now offer eight different Hope Channels on their website.

With one click, a visitor to an Adventist church website on the netAdventist system can start watching Christ-centered, family-friendly programs including a unique mix of inspirational and educational Bible study, preaching, health, cooking, music, family life, travel, documentary and children’s programs. The viewer can also see a list of upcoming programs below the video player’s screen.

The free software upgrade is intended to enhance a local church’s community outreach to a variety of cultures by adding a valuable service to the site. An easily-installed “widget” can be customized to define which channels a church or school

wants to offer. Churches can offer a live stream of Hope Channel, Esperanza TV, Hope Channel International, Hope Channel Europe, Hope Channel North Africa/Middle East, Hope Channel Germany, Hope Channel Norway and Hope Channel India.

The new service came as the result of a joint-effort between Sascha Schuster and Olivier Guy, software developers at Hope Channel’s Stimme der Hoffnung (Voice of Hope) studio in Germany, and John Beckett, global software and technology director for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

How to get or upgrade a netAdventist website

Every Adventist organization can have a netAdventist website. This means even small churches and schools can have an easy-to-use professional website that supports their efforts to share Christ in their local area. To acquire the free netAdventist service from their local church conference or union office, visit <http://www.netadventist.org/signup/> and follow the easy-to-use instructions to establish the site. Those already utilizing the netAdventist platform can simply download the new video player from www.netadventist.org.

About netAdventist

With netAdventist, churches and schools have the ability to provide an online presence at the local level that reinforces the distinctive message of the

global Seventh-day Adventist Church. With netAdventist, visitors to the website immediately will ascribe credibility that comes with being connected to a global church movement and its global television network.

A netAdventist site is able to generate online forms and polls, as well as load and display documents (such as school handbooks or church directories), create photo albums and event calendars and receive prayer requests. Users can also have mailing list management, RSS feed generation and podcast creation, as well as e-commerce capabilities that allow the institution to accept online donations or create an online product catalog. The software also provides full translation capabilities, enabling churches to share news about their ministry with visitors from nearly anywhere in the world.

About Hope Channel

As the official television network of the Seventh-day Adventist church, Hope Channel consists of 13 diverse channels. Full-time language channels operate in English, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Romanian. Other satellite and online channels carry Russian, French, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Czech, Norwegian, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Korean, Mandarin, Arabic, Turkish and Farsi languages.

Scott M. Steward, marketing representative, HopeTV



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

Andrews University

Howard Performing Arts Center Events: (For more information, call 269-471-3560.)

Jan. 28, 7:00 p.m., Carla Trynchuk & Chi Yong Yun: Andrews University Department of Music professors Carla Trynchuk and Chi Yong Yun perform together in an evening of violin and piano pieces.

Mar. 10, 8:00 p.m., Ernie Haase & Signature Sound: Gospel music's Grammy-nominated, Dove Award-winning quartet brings 21st-century ideas combined with the timeless quality of great quartets from the 1950s to take an unconventional approach to joyfully communicating God's Word.

Apr. 15, 7:00 p.m., Canadian Brass: Boasting an international reputation as one of the most popular brass ensembles, Canadian Brass has four decades under their belt. Canadian Brass is an important pioneer of bringing brass music to mass audiences everywhere.

Adventist Engaged Encounter (AEE), an enrichment weekend for engaged and recently married couples, offers couples the insights, tools and confidence to enrich their relationship and strengthen their love and commitment for one another. This invaluable weekend experience is being held at Andrews University, **Mar. 2-4**. For registration information, contact the Undergraduate Leadership Program at ae@andrews.edu or 269-471-6636.

Indiana

Winter Ski Fest & Polar Bear Campout: This weekend, **Feb. 10-12**, at Timber Ridge in Spencer, will be filled with friends, snow and ministry! If camping on Pathfinder Hill in Feb. sends shivers up your spine, then we have warm cabins for you to stay in. In addition to a spectacular, spiritual program through the weekend, you may ski and snowboard all day Fri. and Sun. Contact Trish Thompson for more information at youth@indsda.org or 317-844-6201.

Indiana Youth Rally will be held **Feb. 17-18**, at Indiana Academy on Fri. night and Indianapolis Junior Academy all day Sabbath. An annual event, this year's rally features guest speaker is Willy Ramos, known as the "Ghetto Preacher," Sabbath afternoon breakout sessions, singing, a Sat. night gymnastic program, and lots of time to meet old and new friends. Make plans to attend! Contact Trish Thompson for more information at youth@indsda.org or 317-844-6201.

Indiana Academy Day will be held **Mar. 25** at the academy in Cicero. Please contact Allan Smith, IA recruiter, for more details at almsmith317@gmail.com or 317-517-0543.

Indiana Academy Music Festival will be **Mar. 29-31** in Cicero at the academy. For more information, contact Philip Byrd, IA music teacher, at 317-984-3575, ext. 236 or byrd@srcq.org.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Jan 7** Local Church Budget
- Jan 14** Local Conference Advance
- Jan 21** Local Church Budget
- Jan 28** Religious Liberty

Special Days

- Jan 7** Day of Prayer
- Jan 15-21** Religious Liberty Week

Michigan

Battle Creek Tabernacle Sacred Concert Series 2012 (Concerts will be held at 264 West Michigan Ave., Battle Creek; for more information, visit www.battlecreektabernacle.com.)

Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m., Dick and Mel Tunney, award-winning pianist and vocalist. Free concert. Dick is currently the pianist and music director for Christian singer, Steve Green. His wife, Mel, is a gifted singer and songwriter.

Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., Rafael Scarfullery, classical guitarist. Free concert. Scarfullery is a composer, orchestral and choral conductor, classical guitarist, church musician and organist who has won several awards for his cultural projects, compositions and performances.

Mar. 10, 7:30 p.m., Buddy Houghtaling, singer and songwriter. Free concert. Houghtaling is from Battle Creek and is well known in Michigan. He can also be seen on Three Angels Broadcasting Network as a solo artist, as well as on the 3ABN show, "Kid's Time."

Apr. 14, 7:30 p.m., Sandi Patty, Christian singer. Admission charged. Patty is one of the most highly acclaimed performers of our time, and the most awarded female vocalist in contemporary Christian music history.

Father-Son/Big Brother-Buddy Retreat at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Mich., will be held **Jan. 27-29**. Fee includes cabin lodging, meals and on-site recreation. Register online at www.campausable.org, or call 517-316-1570 for more information. Registration deadline is Jan. 23.

Marriage Commitment Retreat is held **Mar. 9-11** at Camp Au Sable, Grayling. The purpose of this weekend is for you and your spouse to get away and take some time to reconnect with each other and with God. There are five seminar sessions throughout the weekend, lots of time for enjoying nature, fellowshiping with other couples, planned activities Saturday night, and special marriage recommitment service on Sun. morning. Speakers this year will be Pastor Buddy and Carmen Griffith. To register or for more information, contact Alyce at 517-316-1543 or ablackmer@misd.org.

North American Division

Recharge Your Prayer Life, Event 1: Plan now for a special, life-changing day of prayer for your church on NAD Day of Prayer, **Jan. 7**. For more information and resources, go to www.nadprayerministries.org.

Recharge Your Prayer Life, Event 2: NAD Prayer Summit, **Jan. 12-15**, in beautiful Innsbrook, Fla. Go to www.plusline.org/events.php to register, or call 1-800-SDAPLUS (732-7587).

Union College Homecoming: Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming, **Apr. 5-8**. Honor classes are 1942, '52, '57, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92 and 2002. Special Unionaires reunion — celebrating 25 years under the direction of Dan Lynn. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or alumni@ucollege.edu.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Homecoming 2012, Apr. 27-29, next weekend after LSU. Honor classes 50+, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, '97, 2002. Fri. morning benefit golf tournament, evening reception, LSA Library; Sabbath morning alumni roll call and reunions 9:30 a.m., LSA gym; evening basketball varsity/alumni tournament; LSA Gala Ladies Tea, Apr. 29, 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 951-351-1445, ext. 244; email lsaalumni@lsak12.com; or visit www.lsak12.com/alumni.htm.

"Transforming Lives Through Libraries": Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians 2012 Conference, **June 19-24**, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Silang, Cavite, Philippines. Librarians and information professionals are invited to visit <http://adsal.org> for conference information, or contact Christy at ScottChristy.Scott@wallawalla.edu or 509-527-2153.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jan 6	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27	Feb 3	Feb 10
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:29	5:36	5:44	5:52	6:01	6:10
Chicago, Ill.	4:34	4:41	4:49	4:58	5:05	5:14
Detroit, Mich.	5:14	5:21	5:29	5:38	5:46	5:55
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:34	5:41	5:49	5:56	6:04	6:13
La Crosse, Wis.	4:42	4:49	4:58	5:07	5:16	5:25
Lansing, Mich.	5:19	5:26	5:34	5:43	5:52	6:01
Madison, Wis.	4:37	4:44	4:52	5:01	5:10	5:19
Springfield, Ill.	4:48	4:55	5:02	5:10	5:18	5:26

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

Obituaries

BACHELLER, Stephanie, age 23; born Nov. 25, 1987, in Muskegon, Mich.; died Oct. 6, 2011, in Muskegon. She was a member of the Holland (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her father, Gordon; mother, Judy; brother, Michael King; and sisters, Shawn Goff and Amy Bergren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Craig Harris and Gene Hall, and interment was in Oakgrove Cemetery, Croton Twp., Mich.

BAKER, Gerald L., age 67; born Oct. 13, 1943, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Oct. 1, 2011, in Clio, Mich. He was a member of the First Flint (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita (Miller); son, Shea; daughter, Joi Reymore; brother, Larry; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor George Pangman, with private interment.

BAKER, Richard L., age 70; born Feb. 20, 1941, in Ionia, Mich.; died Sept. 7, 2011, in Grand Rapids, Mich. He attended the Ionia Church and the Berrien Springs (Mich.) Village Church.

Survivors include his wife, Jessie I. (Ward); son, Scott R.; daughters, Vicky Manning and Jennie Hunter; brothers, Sam and Marvin; sister, Susan Sutherland; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Paul Larson, and interment was in Grant Twp. Cemetery, Free Soil, Mich.

CHALKER, Byron Sr., age 89; born Feb. 14, 1922, in Parkersburg, W.Va.; died Sept. 24, 2011, in Chattanooga, Tenn. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Paloma (Tillman); sons, Byron Jr. and Ronald; daughter, Donna Ruckgaber; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

No funeral services were held.

DEBOLT, Wanda M. (Nicholson), age 84; born July 9, 1927, in Bedford, Ind.; died Aug. 12, 2011, in Bedford. She was a member of the Bedford Church.

Survivors include her sister, Betty June Brown Bowden. Since the age of 10, Wanda made a commitment to be part of the family of God, and throughout her life she remained a faithful member, attending church regularly and serving in several church offices.

A memorial service for her and her husband, who had died a year earlier, was held at the close of church, and interment was in Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Anderson, Ind.

GASS, Ardela J. (Meese), age 79; born Oct. 10, 1931, in Lansing, Mich.; died Sept. 20, 2011, in Delta Twp., Mich. She was a member of the Grand Ledge (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Jeffrey; daughter, Jo Le Hilton; brother, Darroll Meese; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Jeff Dowell, and interment was in Greenwood Cemetery, Aurelius, Mich.

GLASS, Fred O., age 86; born Aug. 10, 1924, in Flint, Mich.; died May 8, 2011, in Fenton, Mich. He was a member of the Fenton Church.

Survivors include his wife, Helen T.; son, Gregory; daughters, Linda Riley and Sherrie Dugon; brother, Joseph; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bruce Babienko, and interment was in Oakwood Cemetery, Fenton.

HAWKES, Lois (Headley) Briggs, age 85; born Jan. 17, 1926, in Louisville, Ky.; died July 31, 2011, in Lawton, Mich. Lois' husband, Bill Hawkes, pastored the Columbus, Kokomo and Ft. Wayne, Ind., churches, as well as a number of churches in Mich.

Survivors include her husband, William; sons, James and William Briggs; daughter,

Deborah Briggs; stepdaughters, April Noiland and Rebecca Hawkes; brother, Sonny Headley; four grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Hershel Mercer and John Sabbell, and interment was in Montgomery (W.Va.) Memorial Park Cemetery.

HEIMERMAN, Pauline M. (Droes) Johnson, age 86; born Mar. 20, 1925, in Appleton, Wis.; died July 2, 2011, in Appleton. She was a member of the Fox Valley Church, Neenah, Wis.

Survivors include her son, David Johnson; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Samuel Garbi, and interment was in Highland Memorial Cemetery, Appleton.

HUCKINS, Alona J. (Dreps), age 90; born Feb. 5, 1921, in Lansing, Mich.; died July 23, 2011, in Lansing. She was a member of the Lansing Church.

Survivors include her son, Dennis; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Lyle Davis, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Lansing.

JOHNSON, Patricia J. (Droes), age 86; born Mar. 20, 1925, in Appleton, Wis.; died June 13, 2011, in Appleton. She was a member of the Fox Valley Church, Neenah, Wis.

Survivors include her daughter, Sachy Abendroth; twin sister, Pauline Heimerman; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Samuel Garbi, with private interment.

KACHENMEISTER, Mae E. (Slikkers), age 87; born Feb. 29, 1924, in Hamilton, Mich.; died Aug. 2, 2011, in Palm Desert, Calif. She was a member of the Holland (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Robert; daughters, Cheryl Kachenmeister and Pamela Kachenmeister; brother, Leon Slikkers; sister, Jean Brummett; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ilko Tchakarov, and interment was in Hamilton Cemetery.

MCNEAL, Clifford F., age 98; born Jan. 18, 1913, in Bangor, Mich.; died Aug. 2, 2011, in Holland, Mich. He was a member of the Holland Church.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Church McNeal; sons, Patrick and David; stepsons, John, Ken, Andy, Mike and Tom Church; daughter, Betty Roseboom; stepdaughters, Donna Ward, Cathy Jansen and Marie Church; and many grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Gene Hall and Sue Beavers, and interment was in Fennville (Mich.) Cemetery.

PRENTICE, Frederick A., age 80; born Feb. 3, 1931, in Valparaiso, Ind.; died Aug. 27, 2011, in King, Wis. He was a member of the Merrill (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his daughters, Teresa Bovee and Lisa Schulz; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Rowell Puedivan, and interment was in Plainfield (Wis.) Cemetery.

SCHULTZ, William, age 61; born Mar. 10, 1950, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; died July 21, 2011, in Lansing, Mich. He was a member of the Lansing Church.

Survivors include his wife, Patty; brothers, Robert N., Herbie D. and Mahlon D. Schultz, and Ronald and Rowland Collins; and sisters, Vendalla S. Lackie, Cheryl D. Button and Tressa M. Schultz.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Charles Hanlon, with private interment.

VANDER SCHAAF, Hazel M. (Simmons), age 87; born Dec. 9, 1923, in Holland, Mich.; died July 16, 2011, in Holland. She was a member of the Holland Church.

Survivors include her son, Dan; daughter, Diane Furjanic; brother, Sime Simmons; three grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Pastor Gene Hall, and interment was in Graafschap Cemetery, Holland.

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$35 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$45 per insertion for all others. A form is available at www.LakeUnionHerald.org for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at www.LakeUnionHerald.org.

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VISIT WWW.CHRISTIANSINGLES.DATING.COM OR ADVENTISTSINGLES.ORG: Free 14-day trial! Join thousands of active Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, detailed profiles, match notifications! Two-way compatibility match, 10 photos, confidential online mail. Witnessing opportunities to the world through articles, friendships, chat, forums. Matching Adventists since 1993! Adventist owners. Thousands of successful matches! Top ranked.

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AUTHORS WANTED: If you've written your life story, want to tell others of God's love, or desire to share your spiritual ideas and want it published, call TEACH Services, Inc., at 800-367-1844, ext. 3, for a FREE manuscript review.

SINGLE AND OVER 40? The only interracial group for Adventist singles over 40. Stay home and meet new friends in the U.S.A. with a monthly pen pal newsletter of members and album. For information, send large self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO-40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

Vacation/Travel Opportunities

OGDEN ADVENTIST TOURS: Vietnam, Cambodia and the Mekong River: Nov. 10-25, 2012. Pre-extension to Bangkok, Thailand: Nov. 7-11, 2012. The tour features a seven-night Mekong River cruise aboard the River Saigon with daily onshore visits. Plus seven nights in Ho Chi Ming City, Hanoi and Angkor Wat with guided excursions daily. For more information, contact Merlene Ogden at 269-471-3781 or ogden@andrews.edu.

Miscellaneous

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DONATE YOUR CAR AND YOUR MONEY GOES FAR! Support Adventist Christian education at Great Lakes Adventist Academy by donating your 2000, or newer, running automobile. Once vehicle is sold, you will receive a receipt for a tax-deductible donation. For more information, contact Kassie Norcross at 989-427-2462.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MBA ONLINE. Quality and convenient program offered at reduced tuition. Accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education. For more information, contact mba-info@andrews.edu.

SPONSOR A CHILD! \$30 a month can send a child in India to an Adventist school. It pays for tuition, housing, food, clothes and medical. Adventist Child India is an official project of Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists. For more information, call 301-680-6228; email childcare@sud-adventist.org; or visit www.acichild.com.

CAREGIVER NEEDED for two senior ladies in their own home. Will need you

to take them to doctor appointments in their own vehicle. Country living; church and city close. For more information, call 269-580-0801 or 269-945-4867.

MIDWEST CENTER OF EVANGELISM is now offering Bible worker/medical missionary certification training online! Learn how to become an effective soul winner like Jesus. This online training program allows you to stay where you are and, at the same time, be effectively trained. For more information, visit www.rekindletheflameministries.org and click MIDWEST, or call 715-310-2196.

WILDWOOD WEIGHT REDUCTION & LIFESTYLE RENEWAL: Bring a friend and save 20%. Feb. 5-19; Feb. 26-Mar. 11, 2012. 14-day programs focusing on lifestyle change, health education, hands-on cooking and exercise. Cost: \$740. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, Tenn. For more information, contact Darlene Keith at 931-724-6706; visit www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org; or email darlenekeith@gmail.com.

HELP FOR TROUBLED KIDS: Boys/girls, ages 7-17, learn positive choices and skills without fear of being expelled. Addressing school difficulties, lying, stealing, defiance, anger, aggression, discouragement, etc. Dedicated, trained Adventist team. Since 1988. For enrollment or to join our team, call 304-782-3628/3630. Miracle Meadow School, Salem, W.Va.

Employment

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY/ALLIED HEALTH, FALL 2012: Prefer biology Ph.D. to teach upper and lower division classes with a strong interest in origins. Desire Adventist scientist holding

a short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and research. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy and three references to: Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee Chair, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; phone: 423-236-2929; fax: 423-236-1926; or email kasnyder@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor of film to teach directing, screenwriting and film theory. M.F.A. in film production preferred. Broad knowledge of field, advanced technical skill, professional production experience and strong storytelling abilities are requisite. Must be Adventist church member in good and regular standing. Send cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, portfolio samples, and

at least three references to: Randy Craven, Dean, School of Visual Art/Design, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for full-time faculty positions



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UNION COLLEGE (Lincoln, Neb.) seeks biology professor. Ph.D. preferred; strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching and scholarship essential. Several specialties acceptable. Submit vitae and cover letter to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, Chair, Division of Science, at cawolfe@ucollege.edu. Deadline is Jan. 31, 2012.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is accepting applications for two Assistant or Associate Professors in Biology. Opportunity includes teaching graduate and undergraduate courses as well as advising students and research. Ph.D. is required. Please visit this

website for more information and to apply: http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE DIVISION is seeking an outstanding individual to be the Assistant/Associate Dean. Opportunity includes directing major student events, providing support for student body organizations, and shaping the culture of the campus. Minimum of 5 years experience in higher education and a master's degree is required. For more information and to apply, please visit: http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

NEEDED: Retired LE, Bible worker, teacher who is interested in paid, part-time pastoral position for a small church. If interested, please call the Indiana Conference at 317-844-6201.

Real Estate/Housing

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Working Together

BY GARY BURNS



A pastor arrived at his first district just in time for nominating committee. Committee members already had been chosen, and the meeting time set. At the scheduled time, the pastor arrived at the church, walked into the room where the meeting was to be held, and was met with the greeting: "What are you doing here?"

"I came for nominating committee," he replied with surprise.

"Well, pastor, you can just sit over there; if we need you, we'll call you," the deacon instructed.

That's a very different scenario than what is found in many churches where the pastor does everything and the members just attend services.

As we look at the activity of the church in the book of Acts, we see the apostles doing a lot of preaching and teaching;

the entire body seems to be engaged in ministry of every dimension. There are many scenes where every member of a particular area is engaged in meeting needs of the community — selling land and donating the proceeds for relief efforts, coming together in united prayer for direction, problem-solving, ministry initiatives, etc.

The Early Church was not without its problems, and Paul addresses them directly. The solution he offers is the centrality of Christ and His lordship. Under the headship of Christ, Paul calls the church to unity, and makes the appeal for everyone to be engaged in ministry as God has gifted them — all the "parts" of the body working together in partnership with God to accomplish His purpose.

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

Making It Personal

BY BRODY WOODARD

I was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church eight years ago. I was what some might call a “Slip ‘n Dip,” someone who is baptized without the baptism of the Spirit. I appreciated all the kind words from the church members, cards, books, etc., but, to me, it just seemed like a cold bath.

After four or five years, I was getting sick of Adventism. I felt there was no place for me, and nothing for me to do. I didn't feel a sense of security within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, so I left — for about three months, that is. That may not seem like a long time, but during that time I was being very influenced by leaders of other faith groups. One, in particular, drew me in. I developed an appreciation and, admittedly, a love for the rituals in their services, and wanted to be a part of that.

During this time of searching for certainty, I reached out for help from the pastor of my church, Don Williams. He and his wife, Pat, meant so much to me during my searching years.

While listening to a sermon at the Gobles Pinedale Seventh-day Adventist Church by Mark Howard, pastor, I sensed the Spirit of God telling me as clear as day, “Brody, you don't know Me. You need a personal devotion life.” After church ended, I talked with Mark; he encouraged me to set some time aside for devotions. So that is exactly what I did.

One morning, an Ellen White quote popped into my head: “It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should



take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 83). That is exactly what I did.

One day, I went into the conference room at the Oakwood Seventh-day Adventist Church, and read the chapter in *The Desire of Ages* about Jesus in Gethsemane.

That's when I first realized what

He had done for me: “He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. He has left the courts of heaven, where all is purity, happiness, and glory, to save the one lost sheep, the one world that has fallen by transgression. And He will not turn from His mission. He will become the propitiation of a race that has willed to sin” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 690).

Jesus became more real to me when I attended the Emmanuel Institute of Evangelism, Class of 2011. I can thank a summer of canvassing for helping me realize what He did for me. On November 19, 2011, I recommitted my life to Jesus and was baptized again.

Brody Woodard is a member of the ExCEL canvassing program of the Michigan Conference. For information about ExCEL, see <http://michiganyouthinaction.com>.

Never Too Young to Serve

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

You don't have to be all grown up to serve God. Just ask Mackenzie Jezierski. The ten-year-old is very involved in her community and church. She plays piano during the offertory, collects the lamb's offering and reads Bible verses at the pulpit. She claims that service and loving God are very important.



Mackenzie Jezierski

"I like helping people," states the fifth-grader. "And we need to know Jesus because in the end times, we should know a lot about Him so we can tell other people, and they can be ready, too."

Mackenzie enjoys serving God around her hometown of Warren, Mich., and is especially involved in her church's outreach efforts. Every month, the church performs a special ministry in the city. Participants are assembled into three groups to pass out literature, go door-to-door, pray with strangers and/or stay at the church to pray for the efforts.

Occasionally, Mackenzie and several church members pass out surveys in the neighborhood to spark interest in Christianity. "We talk to people and ask them if they want to [participate in] a seminar, a cooking class, or [desire to] stop smoking, stuff like that. And we ask them if they'd be interested in Bible studies at home or coming to a Bible study at church," she says.

At the beginning of the school year, Mackenzie's class took part in the Magabook program to raise funds for the school. She was put into a group with three other students and sent door-to-door to talk with strangers about the book, *The Great Controversy*, the children's *Story Time* books, worship writings and other Christian literature.

When Mackenzie grows up, she wants to serve others by being a physical therapist or speech language pathologist. More importantly, she wants to serve Jesus in the mission field and go wherever He calls.

"Our pastor's wife goes on mission trips to Africa, and I really want to go on one of those to help out," she says. "I really have a passion for little kids and handicapped children. I just like to help, and would go on a mission trip to help people like that."

"God can work through kids, too," exclaims Mackenzie. What an awesome God we serve!

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is studying physical therapy at Andrews University.

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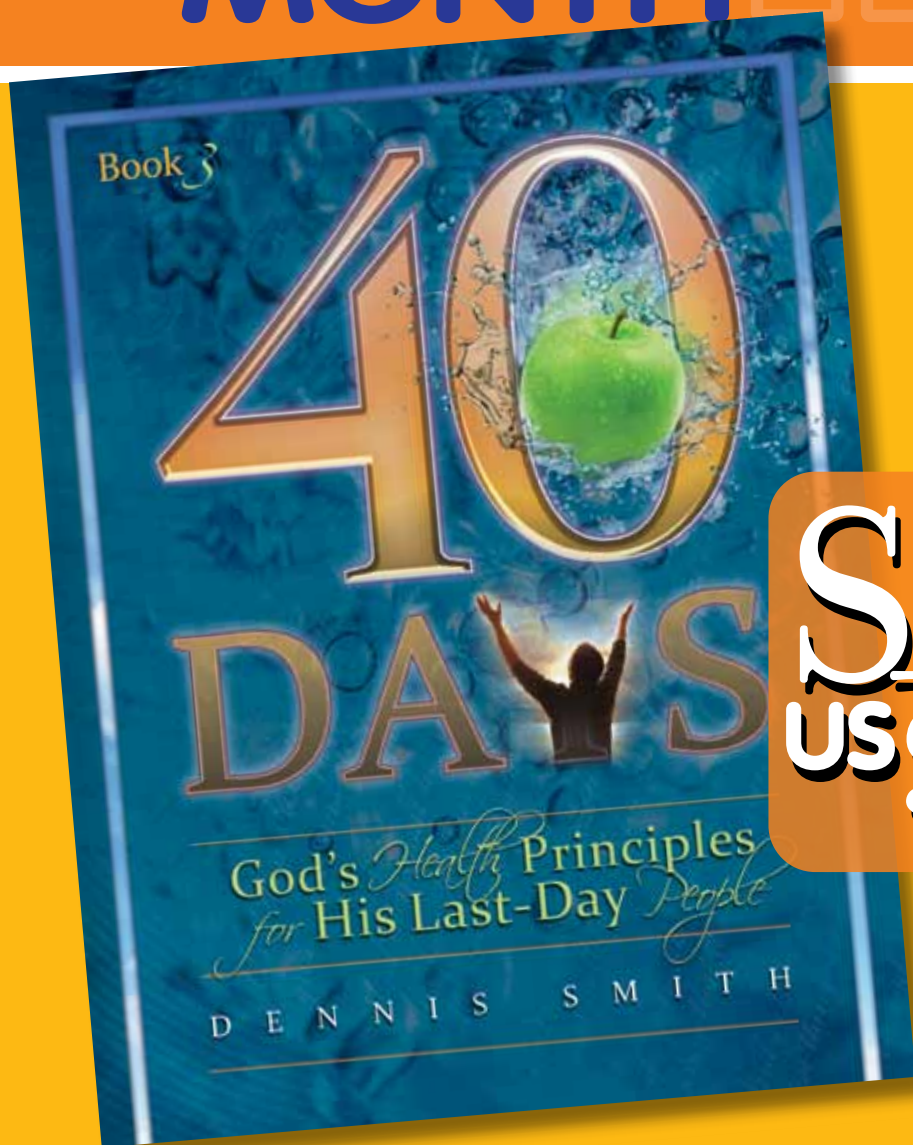
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