

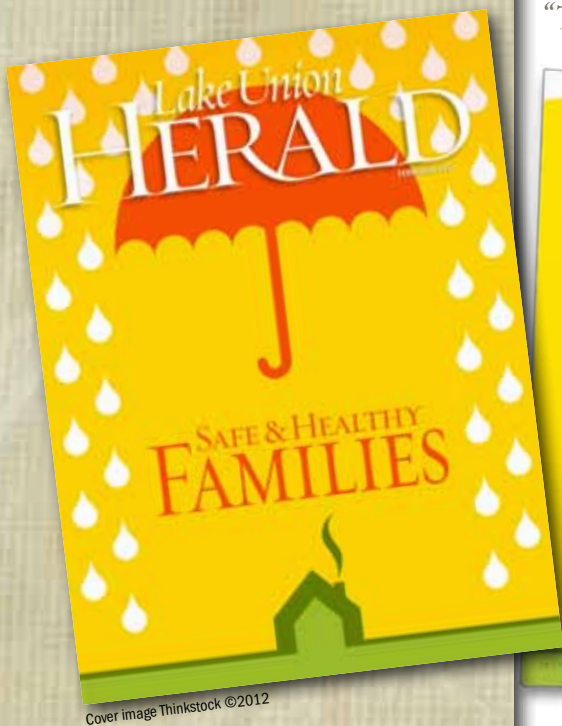
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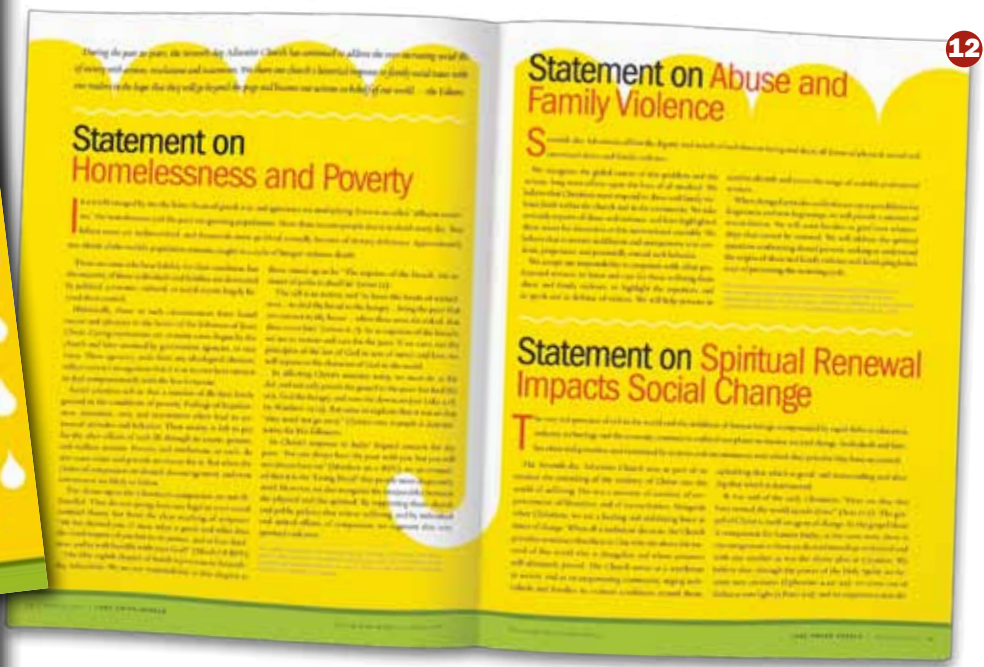
SAFE & HEALTHY  
**FAMILIES**



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



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## In this issue...

Does family begin at birth, or marriage? For Adam and Eve, it began at marriage. For me, it began at birth; a new family began when I got married, and then it took on a whole new dimension when we had children. This issue is dedicated to building safe and healthy families for eternity.

Gary Burns, Editor



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## What's Wrong With It?

**M**y dad was terrific. But as a child there was an area where he and I were not totally in sync — TV. He had opinions about what was appropriate to watch, while I was open to almost anything. There were times when he walked by, surmised what I was watching, and gave guidance. The guidance usually came in the form of, “That does not look appropriate.”

My answer was predictable: “But what’s wrong with it?”

His answer also became predictable: “What’s right with it?” I didn’t like his question-response at all, because he went directly to a principle rather than a technical argument.

I found myself using my dad’s logic years later as a summer camp director. One night, at campfire, the boys’ director showed up for a segment of programming dressed as a woman. He thought it was a great success because the kids laughed. Later that night, he and I had a “Revelation Seminar” about what is appropriate for a Christ-centered camp program. The basics of that conversation became a fundamental expression of values I shared subsequently with each camp staff. You may find those values appropriate to guide any leadership activity with youth — and beyond.

Potential activities, such as stories, songs, skits and language, could be divided into three categories: 1) those with positive values; 2) those with neutral values; and 3) those with negative values. The directive was straight forward: Bring every effort to engaging campers in positive values, such as honesty, the Golden Rule, Christ-centered thoughts, purity, generosity, being nice, etc. There may be occasions when neutral activity might be employed, such as singing “John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt” at campfire — a fun song with probably no redeeming or negative value. But we should avoid, at all times, anything that communicates a negative value, such as off-color jokes, comments that undermine or devalue others, suggesting that promiscuity is okay — you get the drift. It goes back to Dad’s question, “What’s right with it?”

The author of the wonderful book, *Steps to Christ*, gives superb direction on page 58: “Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, ‘love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance’ (Galatians 5:22, 23). They will no longer fashion themselves according to the former lusts, but by the faith of the Son of God they will follow in His steps, reflect His character, and purify themselves even as He is pure. The things they once hated they now love, and the things they once loved they hate.”

It’s good to spend quality time with our Lord each morning, committing our day to Him. But as we reflect back at the end of the day, did a constant spirit of prayer and communion with God occupy our thoughts? It’s clear to me that the noise of this world tends to block out our focus on God. Let’s ask that hard question in everything we do, “What’s right with it?” Will the components of each day lend to or detract from our walk with Jesus?



# The Biggest Christmas Story Lie Ever Told

BY RAYFORD A. YOUNG

Growing up in Libertad Village in the Corozal District, in Belize City, was a fun time for me, my brothers and sisters. We were very fortunate to have a decent home to live in, and my dad was a successful engineer at the sugar factory. Life was good. Christmas was always an exciting time for us. My parents still reminisce about those Christmas mornings when we would all get up and rush to the Christmas tree to see what Santa Claus had left for us. To this day, they talk about the joy it brought to see us all excited and joyous for the gifts Santa brought.

For me, Christmas Eves were anxious times. Falling asleep was hard because my mind was on those toys and what Santa might get me each year, so I would lie in bed, tossing and turning, and think about the story we'd been told about Santa Claus. It just didn't seem practical to me that one fat man knew whether I was good or bad throughout the year. How could he know that? But what was even more alarming was that this fat man would visit every home all over the world, break into people's homes, and no one would see or hear him leave gifts for kids and grownups everywhere. This just did not make a lot of sense.

So as I would lie there, unable to sleep, I played mind games with myself. I wondered where Santa was right then. Maybe he was in Africa delivering the gifts, or perhaps he was in Russia — but, man, those places were so far away. I wondered if he would make it on time to Libertad to drop off our gifts. Then, how would he get from Africa to Libertad in a couple hours? I thought, *Man, this guy is good. FedEx could not compete with this guy.*

There are some innovative people I respect a lot — people like the late Steve Jobs who changed the world with his



*Rayford Young is the director of the Better Living Center in Detroit, Michigan, a place where the love of Jesus is shared in many tangible ways with the less fortunate.*

ingenuity and creative mind in the area of computer technology. Henry Ford is another great man who changed the world with advancements in the automobile industry. But whoever came up with the Santa story takes it all. This story has staying power. We've been celebrating Christmas and this Santa story for ages. Generations after generations are told the same story, and we believe and go along with it. Whoever concocted this story is a genius. And the big department stores, knowing a good story when they see one, jumped on

the bandwagon and keep the lie going, making big bucks from this big lie.

Well, I kind of knew this made no sense, but the outcome was good. I went along with this incredible Santa story because, at the end of the day, you got something for this story and you made your parents feel good. At Christmas, it is for many the only time kids will hug and kiss their parents, especially if they get what they want. But I noticed, as I got older, the gifts were not as great as when I was just a kid. I remember one year I got a book for Christmas. Santa must've thought I was getting older and should be thinking differently, should be more mature, not hauling toy trucks



around anymore. Well, needless to say, Santa was wrong, and my parents did not get a hug and kiss that year.

As we all know, Jesus was born in a manger and came to die for all of our sins. No one knows the exact time or date of His birth, nor the date of His return, which is fine with me. We don't need to know everything. Some things He keeps from us for our own good. If Pepsi can keep its formula a secret, why can't the Lord keep some secrets to Himself?

The Good Book says if you believe in Him and live a good and decent life you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Jesus died for all of us so we can have eternal life. This is what we should be celebrating, not standing in line at a department store at 3:00 a.m. to buy stuff for yourself and your kids.

When Jesus was on this Earth, He lived a simple life. He mingled with the poor; He healed the sick; He did good deeds. So I wondered, *If Jesus just happened to touch down in Belize City on Christmas Day, what would He do for that day? Would He go hang out at a shopping mall at 3:00 a.m., waiting for deals?* You know, I think He would. I know one thing: He would not walk on those streets in Belize City; those potholes are too huge, and He would break His leg.

*Would He be visiting friends and drinking liquor all day? Or would He be sitting in front of the TV, watching the football games?* Knowing the life this Man lived on this Earth, this is what I think He would do on Christmas Day:

I think He would start the day at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital visiting with the sick and comforting them, and perhaps healing a few. Secondly, I think He would set up a food line to feed the poor and the children. Later that day, I think He would have a big healing service at the BTL Park in Belize City, and pray and heal the sick. I think He would take some time from His busy schedule to go visit the poor in their homes to pray with them. He would have a special place in His heart for single mothers and our youth. I think He would gather up all those men sleeping on the

hard, cement pavement in front of the bank and many businesses in downtown Belize City, and take them to Bodies to get them some new, clean underwear and clothes. I can see Jesus picking up a few toothbrushes and shaving blades, so He can shave those guys and brush their teeth for them. So, yes, He would go shopping on Christmas Day, to get the necessities His children need — not to shower Himself with stuff He doesn't need.

This is how Jesus conducted Himself when He was on this Earth. He mingled with the least of these. He cleans up His children, makes them new again. That's who He is; that's how He operates.

So the next time you pass by one of those men sleeping on the pavement, remember that the Savior was born in a stinky stable among the animals, a situation much like that. But, in spite of His humble and poor beginning, He came to die so we could have eternal life. To show our gratitude, we go get stuff we can't afford and don't really need. Too often, we ignore the needs of others for our own greed. We love the Santa Claus lie because it gives license to gorge ourselves; for some, it's to show off to friends and family how successful they are. And that makes a lot of folk feel good about themselves.

This year, why don't we all try and be more like Jesus, and do something meaningful to help the less fortunate instead of ourselves. Buy a few shirts or pants for one of those men sleeping on the cement. Or, better yet, some have big homes. Why not put up one of those less fortunate men in one of the rooms you're not using, and make sure he gets the medical help he needs? That's what our Savior would do. Christmas has passed, but let's remember the lessons of Jesus' life throughout the year and, in honor of Him, do good deeds instead of indulging self. He will take note of it; oh yes, He will.

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Rayford A. Young is the communication director of the Lake Region Conference. This story was adapted from the original version published in the *Belize Times* on December 16, 2011, in his regular column, "In My Perspective." Used with permission from author.



## Family Closeness: The Human Touch

BY CLAUDIO CONSUEGRA

I was not very comfortable with text messaging at first. Maybe it was because in order to type one word, I would often have to press the same key up to three times. It was not until our daughters were in college and not always able to take our calls that we learned to appreciate texting.

Of course, there are those sage nor an email will suffice. Early in our marriage, we tried to phone our parents about once a month. When we first purchased cellular phones, the door was finally opened for more frequent phone calls. Now video chatting allows us to see the people we're talking with. And yet, none of these technological advances completely meet the need for the human touch — it is at those



times when we travel to be with those we love. When we lived in Oklahoma City, we packed our little car and made the 22- to 24-hour trip to Virginia, and then to Maryland, to spend Thanksgiving or Christmas with each other's families, taking turns each year. It was also important to go back home so our girls could be connected to their cousins, aunts and uncles, and, of course, Grandma and Grandpa. No picture in print or on a screen, no voice through the phone lines or cell towers, no message on a mobile phone or computer terminal can ever replace the human touch or that of being in the presence of those we love.

After creating Adam, God declared that something important was missing — that it was not good for Adam to be alone. God knew we all need to be in community, in family.

Some time ago we heard of a campaign to “Disconnect to Reconnect.” The goal was to encourage people to turn off all electronic equipment — phones, televisions, com-

puters — in order to spend time reconnecting with others. Probably one of the best opportunities for daily interaction among family members occurs at the dinner table. Research shows that the rate of teen pregnancy among girls where the family sits to enjoy dinner together, at the dinner table, is much lower than those who don't have this experience.

The dinner table affords a wonderful opportunity to share our joys and sorrows, our fears and victories, our concerns and answered prayers. For boys, the time they spend with Dad camping, playing sports, fishing or similar activities are what provides them with the positive interaction they need.

When many miles separate us, family closeness and bonding can take place through a text message, a quick email, a phone call or a video chat. But family closeness is at its peak when the human touch is present, when there's no physical distance between us. There is a special family closeness that takes place during the morning and evening family worship times, the conversations around the dinner table, or the special memories made during family outings in nature. Stay close. Stay in touch!

Claudio Consuegra, DMin(c), M.S., CFLE, is the family ministries director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

You can feel  
fabulous in  
February!

## Brighten Your Winter Mood

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Light is very  
therapeutic.

**G**ray skies, short days and freezing temperatures usually don't add up to an exciting winter. But you don't have to feel down and out when it's gloomy outside; your outlook can be cheerful and positive. Sonja Lyubomirsky, author of *The How of Happiness*,<sup>1</sup> offers strategies to provide a new level of joy. These factors can also brighten your winter mood.

**1. Express gratitude to God.** Count your many blessings.

**2. Cultivate optimism at all times.** A consistently cheerful attitude can bolster the body's disease-fighting forces. There is also real, health-promoting value in remembering pleasant events from the past.

**3. Practice acts of kindness.** Work to make the world a better place for others to live.

Reaching out to help others in need releases endorphins so you feel better and more relaxed.

**4. Nurture positive social relationships.** Socializing is a powerful way to boost your mood. While bears hibernate, humans get cabin fever when they hide away all winter. Hugging your dog or playing with your cat for ten minutes can also give yourself a mood boost and lower stress levels.

**5. Develop strategies for coping when times are tough.** Finding benefit in negative life events can also positively influence your physical health and happiness.

**6. Fully immerse yourself in what you are doing, with a sense of accomplishment, and you will find the activity or experience satisfying.** People report the greatest satisfaction and happiness when they do this.

**7. Savor the joy of life.** Take the time to savor the most amazing things about winter. You will be more content, and optimistic thoughts will start trumping the negative ones.

**8. Practice spirituality.** Have quiet moments of meditation. Be ready to forgive.

**9. Enjoy daily physical activity.** It can boost your mood and lift your spirit. If the weather is bad, use an exercise DVD of your choosing.



**10. Act like a happy person.** Happy people are healthier and more productive. A good laugh can lower your blood pressure, boost your immune system, help reduce pain, reduce stress hormone levels and improve your mental outlook.

We could add three more important factors:

**11. Feast on light.** Bright light can keep the winter blahs at bay. Sunlight suppresses melatonin, a chemical that makes you drowsy. Brightening your bedroom when you wake up helps you feel happier all day. Bright fluorescent light in high-traffic areas in the home mimics sunlight better than incandescent bulbs.

**12. Eat healthfully.** Avoid high-sugar comfort foods. These can play havoc with your blood sugar level, and leave you feeling irritable.

**13. Anticipate a getaway.** Planning a vacation, or even thinking about one in the future, can make you happier. If you cannot leave town mid-winter, start researching a spring or summer vacation. Even thinking about it will be magic for your mood.

Being happy and contented improves not only the quality of your life, it also extends your life. Research found that the happiest people, ages 52–79 years, were 35 percent less likely to die during a five-year period than their gloomier counterparts.

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

1. Lyubomirsky, Sonja. *The How of Happiness: A Scientific Approach to Getting the Life You Want*, Penguin Group: New York, NY. (2007)



# PRESENT TRUTH

*Following the Lamb wherever He goes*

## A Message that Turns Hearts

BY THE EDITORS

According to the prophetic clock, the message for today is recorded in Malachi 4:4–6. “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction” (NIV).

**Elijah’s Message:** “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21 NIV).

**Elijah’s Prayer:** “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again” (1 Kings 18:36, 37 NIV).

**The People’s Response:** “When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, ‘The LORD — he is God! The LORD — he is God!’” (1 Kings 18:39 NIV)

**The Promise Repeated:** “He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:16, 17 NIV).

**The Promise Fulfilled:** “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near’” (Matthew 3:1, 2 NIV).

“He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: ‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads



shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation’” (Luke 3:3–6; Isaiah 40:3–5 NIV).

**The Response:** “‘What should we do then?’ the crowd asked. John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the

same.’ Even tax collectors came to be baptized. ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘what should we do?’ ‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, ‘And what should we do?’ He replied, ‘Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely — be content with your pay’” (Luke 3:10–14 NIV).

This column is designed to promote searching the scriptures on current topics — in community, through prayer. Invite others to join you in responding to these questions:

- What are the present truths God would have us understand in light of His Elijah promise?
- In what ways are the conditions of today similar to those at the time of Elijah and John the Baptist?
- What is your personal response to the message to repent? How will your response impact the lives of others?

*Lake Union Herald editors*

Note: This Elijah message became a lifetime focus for John Youngberg, a professor emeritus at Andrews University. His study resulted in more than 40 years of shared ministry to the family with his wife, Millie, who is co-president of Marriage & Family Commitment, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to the prophetic calling of turning hearts of parents to children and children to parents. Recently, John completed “Turning Hearts,” a series of short videos designed for pastors and their families. The series is available at lakeunion.org.



# The Faith that Receives

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

*Have faith in God, Jesus answered. ... Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. — Mark 11:22–24.*

**T**his astounding promise Jesus makes seems to offer too much. How can God offer to do “Whatever [we] ask for in prayer”? And why have so many believers asked, trusting God, and not received?

The difficulty is we tend to think of faith as a personal possession that exists wholly within us. We figure that if we have enough faith, we’ll get what we ask for — and if we don’t, we won’t get it.

But faith is not simply a possession. It’s an aspect of relationship, not something we own, like an idea or a feeling. Faith always involves another person. It trusts the other person to think and act in a certain way. Throughout the years my parents were alive, I knew they would welcome me anytime I came home. I knew they loved me; I trusted that they cared for me and were willing to help me anytime. In other words, I had faith in them. This faith was based on what I knew about them. Faith in God is like that. It’s a conviction about who God is, what He is like, and how He will act.

Praying in faith is not an inner conviction that God will act according to our desires if only we believe hard enough. It involves believing that God will always respond to our prayers in accord with His nature, His purposes, and His promises.

God does not want us simply to toss requests at Him, hoping that some of them will be answered. He wants us to ask, knowing He is there, claiming what He promises, trusting that He will act in line with His nature and that His purposes will be achieved. That’s praying in faith.

When you ask a person for something in good faith, you don’t ask for something the person would not be willing to give. I could never, for example, have asked my parents to give me more than my share of their inheritance. I know them too well to make such a selfish and unfair request. Similarly, if you truly know God, you

will only ask for what is in accord with His will and not for anything that is purely selfish.

If you want to grow strong in prayer, grow strong in faith. If you want to grow strong in faith, get to know God better. If you want to get to know God better, spend time with Him, reading His Word and listening to His Spirit.

## Reflect

Why do you think God has made faith such an indispensable condition of prayer?

What kinds of things can you do to increase your faith?

## Pray

*Praise* God for being trustworthy.

*Ask* God to increase your faith so that you can pray more powerfully.

*Thank* God for His willingness to hear and answer the prayers you bring to Him in faith.

*Confess* any lack of faith you may discover in yourself.

## Act

James 1:5 reveals both the nature of God and a promise of God. If you are *sure* of God’s nature as revealed in this verse and *sure* that God will deliver on His promise, ask for wisdom for an issue you are facing. Believe that God will supply it and thank Him for the wisdom He will provide. Keep asking and trusting until you receive the wisdom you asked for.

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.



# SHARING *our* HOPE

## A Night of Hope

BY KATHY GRIFFIN

**H**uman efforts can't begin to replace Divine appointment. As the Christmas season approached, the Cicero Church members were in the midst of finalizing plans to invite the community to their Christmas hymn sing. Since Christmas is a special time to share our message of hope, timing was ideal as the church received a long-anticipated invitation to join the Christian programming of WHMB Channel 40. To launch this evangelistic media campaign, "A Night of Hope" was born, and was the first locally-produced Adventist program to air on a full power television station in the Indianapolis Metro area.

Families gathered at the church from far and near the evening of December 10, 2011, to experience "A Night of Hope." "The Spirit's presence was obvious, and I was deeply moved [as I heard] so many people worshipping as one," commented Philip Byrd, Indiana Academy music director. The congregation was impressed by selections from Indiana Academy students. The advanced bell group, Grace-notes, performed difficult, yet enjoyable pieces such as "Sing We Now of Christmas." Beautiful choral selections were performed by IA Choralans and the small choir, Keynotes. The energy and enthusiasm was felt while "Come, Emmanuel" and "What Sweeter Music" were sung. Student conductor, Lester Pitogo, led several Christmas pieces.

"The music ministry of the academy and elementary school, coupled with their decorum throughout the evening was a beautiful witness to Jesus," noted Ron Kelly, senior pastor, Cicero Church. "They conducted themselves with excellence, and made a very positive impression."

The Cicero Adventist Elementary third- and fourth-grade scholars recited selections from Luke 2, led by their teacher, Collene Kelly. Grades one through eight performed the song, "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne," which told the story of Jesus. When teacher, Karen Olson, told a special story, she surprised listeners with a new puppy that appeared out of a brightly-wrapped package.



Portraying a shepherd, Ron Benvenuti reminded all present and on the full power television station airing the program how to share the Good News with neighbors.

"O Holy Night," sung by IA principal, Jeremy Hall, accompanied by his wife, Donna, harpist, and Beth Bartlett, pianist, was especially enjoyed by church member, Ramona Trubey. "It transported my spirits above earthly troubles and worries!" A violin solo, "I Wonder as I Wander," was performed by Yeun Jung Koo, and a message delivered by associate pastor, Aaron Clark, left all with

additional feelings of hope and spiritual encouragement.

In full costume, Allan Smith told how the ancient wise men might have interpreted the prophecy from the book of Isaiah. Shepherd Ron Benvenuti reminded all how the Good News came to Earth, and how to share Him with neighbors. Lastly, a modern-day couple, Mike and Jessica VanHart, gave a real glimpse into the true meaning of Christmas in a world filled with the glamour of it.

"Silent Night" was performed by the combined elementary and IA choirs as soloists, Jennifer and David Currier, played a flute and violin descant. As the congregation sang along on the last verse, hearts were full and many eyes wiped. It was indeed a night of hope.

Kathy Griffin is the development director at Indiana Academy and a member of the Cicero Church in Indiana. The Cicero Church has been in television ministry on local access channels for the past 14 years. For additional information, visit [www.sdachurch.com](http://www.sdachurch.com).





## EL amor, el mayor de todos los dones

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*El amor humano nunca puede llevar su precioso fruto hasta que sea unido con la naturaleza divina y ejercitado a crecer hacia el cielo.... El calor de la verdadera amistad y el amor que une los corazones del esposo y la esposa es un goce anticipado del cielo. — En lugares celestiales, p. 204*

**E**n el mes de diciembre mi esposa y yo tuvimos el privilegio de asistir a la boda de Josías y Bessy Bahena. El ver a la pareja unirse en matrimonio me hizo pensar en mi propio matrimonio y en especial cómo Dios dirigió nuestro encuentro.

Hace ya muchos años recibí cierto día un pedido del programa de televisión adventista *It Is Written* para que visitara a una familia que había pedido información sobre la Biblia en el distrito donde yo pastoreaba. Cuando llegué a la casa me recibió una pareja muy simpática. Él y su esposa eran miembros de una iglesia católica carismática. Deseaban aprender más de la Biblia, así que ofrecí darles estudios bíblicos. Salí de la casa por un momento para sacar de mi auto las primeras lecciones de la serie de estudios, y cuando regresé a



*Bessy y Josías Bahena en el día de su boda*

la casa, de pronto apareció su hija Rosanne, que también quería saber más de la Biblia. Pasé un año estudiando la Biblia con ellos y al final tanto los padres como Rosanne se bautizaron.

En aquella época yo estaba soltero y sin compromiso, y al poco tiempo Rosanne y yo empezamos una linda amistad. Yo oraba para que Dios me guiase porque no estaba seguro que fuese sabio que una joven recién bautizada se casara con un pastor.

En el año 1983 tuve la triste experiencia de perder a mi querida madre debido a cáncer y fui a Nueva York para sepultarla. Cuando regresé del cementerio y llegué a la casa de mis padres, en el buzón de correo encontré una carta

de Rosanne. En esa carta ella expresaba su profundo pésame por mi pérdida y me decía que oraba todos los días por mí. En ese momento yo sentí la paz de Dios porque tuve la convicción que Dios me había dirigido a la persona que me amaba y me podía dar aliento en momentos de dificultad.

Hemos pasado ya más de veinticinco años casados y ambos damos gracias a Dios todos los días por haber guiado nuestras vidas. En los años que han transcurrido hemos tenido muchos momentos y experiencias sumamente agradables. También hemos tenido una variedad de desafíos, pero siempre los hemos enfrentado sabiendo que el amor que Dios nos ha dado nos ayuda, porque de acuerdo con 1 Corintios 13, el amor “todo lo sufre, todo lo cree, todo lo espera, todo lo soporta”.

Mi esposa y yo queremos animar a los nuevos esposos Bahena y a las muchas otras parejas que se han casado recientemente a que unidos oren a Dios todos los días para que les ayude a crecer en el amor divino para poder gozar en plenitud las hermosas experiencias de la vida y poder enfrentar unidos también los desafíos que sin duda aparecerán en el futuro.

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

*During the past 20 years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has continued to address the ever-increasing social ills of society with actions, resolutions and statements. We share our church's historical response to family social issues with our readers in the hope that they will go beyond the page and become our actions on behalf of our world. —the Editors*

# Statement on Homelessness and Poverty

In a world ravaged by sin, the bitter fruits of greed, war, and ignorance are multiplying. Even in so called “affluent societies,” the homelessness and the poor are growing populations. More than 10,000 people starve to death every day. Two billion more are malnourished, and thousands more go blind annually because of dietary deficiency. Approximately two-thirds of the world’s population remains caught in a cycle of hunger-sickness-death.

There are some who bear liability for their condition, but the majority of these individuals and families are destituted by political, economic, cultural, or social events largely beyond their control.

Historically, those in such circumstances have found succor and advocacy in the hearts of the followers of Jesus Christ. Caring institutions are, in many cases, begun by the church and later assumed by government agencies, or vice versa. These agencies, aside from any ideological altruism, reflect society’s recognition that it is in its own best interest to deal compassionately with the less fortunate.

Social scientists tell us that a number of ills find fertile ground in the conditions of poverty. Feelings of hopelessness, alienation, envy and resentment often lead to antisocial attitudes and behavior. Then society is left to pay for the after-effects of such ills through its courts, prisons, and welfare systems. Poverty and misfortune, as such, do not cause crime and provide no excuse for it. But when the claims of compassion are denied, discouragement, and even resentment are likely to follow.

The claims upon the Christian’s compassion are not ill-founded. They do not spring from any legal or even social contract theory, but from the clear teaching of scripture: “He has showed you, O man, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 7:8 RSV)

The fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah is precious to Seventh-day Adventists. We see our responsibility in this chapter as

those raised up to be “The repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in” (verse 12).

The call is to restore and “to loose the bands of wickedness ... to deal thy bread to the hungry ... bring the poor that are cast out to thy house ... when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him” (verses 6, 7). So as repairers of the breach, we are to restore and care for the poor. If we carry out the principles of the law of God in acts of mercy and love, we will represent the character of God to the world.

In affecting Christ’s ministry today, we must do as He did, and not only preach the gospel to the poor, but heal the sick, feed the hungry, and raise the downcast (see Luke 4:18, 19; Matthew 14:14). But verse 16 explains that it was so that “they need not go away.” Christ’s own example is determinative for His followers.

In Christ’s response to Judas’ feigned concern for the poor: “For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me” (Matthew 26:11 RSV), we are reminded that it is the “Living Bread” that people most desperately need. However, we also recognize the inseparables between the physical and the spiritual. By supporting those church and public policies that relieve suffering, and by individual and united efforts of compassion, we augment that very spiritual endeavor.

This public statement was released by the General Conference president, Neal C. Wilson, after consultation with the 16 world vice presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, on July 5, 1990, at the General Conference Session in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.

# Statement on Abuse and Family Violence

**S**eventh-day Adventists affirm the dignity and worth of each human being and decry all forms of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and family violence.

We recognize the global extent of this problem and the serious, long-term effects upon the lives of all involved. We believe that Christians must respond to abuse and family violence both within the church and in the community. We take seriously reports of abuse and violence, and have highlighted these issues for discussion at this international assembly. We believe that to remain indifferent and unresponsive is to condone, perpetuate, and potentially extend such behavior.

We accept our responsibility to cooperate with other professional services, to listen and care for those suffering from abuse and family violence, to highlight the injustices, and to speak out in defense of victims. We will help persons in

need to identify and access the range of available professional services.

When changed attitudes and behavior open possibilities for forgiveness and new beginnings, we will provide a ministry of reconciliation. We will assist families in grief over relationships that cannot be restored. We will address the spiritual questions confronting abused persons, seeking to understand the origins of abuse and family violence and developing better ways of preventing the recurring cycle.

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This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and was released by the Office of the President, Robert S. Folkenberg, at the General Conference Session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, June 29–July 8, 1995.

# Statement on Spiritual Renewal Impacts Social Change

**T**he very real presence of evil in the world and the sinfulness of human beings, compounded by rapid shifts in education, industry, technology and the economy, continue to embroil our planet in massive societal change. Individuals and families often feel powerless and victimized by systems and circumstances over which they perceive they have no control.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church sees as part of its mission the extending of the ministry of Christ into the world of suffering. His was a ministry of comfort, of empowerment, of liberation, and of reconciliation. Alongside other Christians, we are a healing and stabilizing force in times of change. When all is turbulent about us, the Church provides assurance that there is One who sits above the turmoil of this world who is changeless and whose purposes will ultimately prevail. The Church serves as a watchman in society and as an empowering community, urging individuals and families to evaluate conditions around them,

upholding that which is good, and transcending and altering that which is detrimental.

It was said of the early Christians, “Here are they that have turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). The gospel of Christ is itself an agent of change. In the gospel there is compassion for human frailty; at the same time, there is encouragement to form perfect relationships with God and with one another as was the divine plan at Creation. We believe that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we become new creatures (Ephesians 4:22–24), we come out of darkness into light (1 Peter 2:9), and we experience now the

transforming power of the world to come (Hebrews 6:5). This spiritual renewal permeates society as salt provides seasoning and as light illumines darkness. The presence of spiritually-renewed persons in the community can do a work that political and social initiatives alone cannot accomplish. Christians who have experienced the transforming power of Christ are stabilizing, strengthening pillars in society, and they preserve life-affirming values. They act as

agents of change in the face of moral decay. Their active presence in the community provides hope, as individuals and families are ennobled by Christian principles and their lives and relationships impact others around them.

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) for release by the Office of the President, Robert S. Folkenberg, at the Annual Council session in San Jose, Costa Rica, October 1-10, 1996.

# Statement on Child Sexual Abuse

**C**hild sexual abuse occurs when a person older or stronger than the child uses his or her power, authority, or position of trust to involve a child in sexual behavior or activity. Incest, a specific form of child sexual abuse, is defined as any sexual activity between a child and a parent, a sibling, an extended family member, or a step/surrogate parent.

Sexual abusers may be men or women and may be of any age, nationality, or socio-economic background. They are often men who are married with children, have respectable jobs, and may be regular churchgoers. It is common for offenders to strongly deny their abusive behavior, to refuse to see their actions as a problem, and to rationalize their behavior or place blame on something or someone else. While it is true that many abusers exhibit deeply rooted insecurities and low self-esteem, these problems should never be accepted as an excuse for sexually abusing a child. Most authorities agree that the real issue in child sexual abuse is more related to a desire for power and control than for sex.

When God created the human family, He began with a marriage between a man and a woman based on mutual love and trust. This relationship is still designed to provide the foundation for a stable, happy family in which the dignity, worth, and integrity of each family member is protected and upheld. Every child, whether male or female, is to be affirmed as a gift from God. Parents are given the privilege and responsibility of providing nurture, protection, and physical care for the children entrusted to them by God. Children should be able to honor, respect, and trust their parents and other family members without the risk of abuse.

The Bible condemns child sexual abuse in the strongest possible terms. It sees any attempt to confuse, blur, or denigrate personal, generational, or gender boundaries through

sexually abusive behavior as an act of betrayal and a gross violation of personhood. It openly condemns abuses of power, authority, and responsibility because these strike at the very heart of the victims' deepest feelings about themselves, others, and God, and shatter their capacity to love and trust. Jesus used strong language to condemn the actions of anyone who, through word or deed, causes a child to stumble.

The Adventist Christian community is not immune from child sexual abuse. We believe that the tenets of the Seventh-day Adventist faith require us to be actively involved in its prevention. We are also committed to spiritually assisting abused and abusive individuals and their families in their healing and recovery process, and to holding church professionals and church lay leaders accountable for maintaining their personal behavior as is appropriate for persons in positions of spiritual leadership and trust.

As a Church we believe our faith calls us to:

- Uphold the principles of Christ for family relationships in which the self-respect, dignity, and purity of children are recognized as divinely mandated rights.
- Provide an atmosphere where children who have been abused can feel safe when reporting sexual abuse and can feel that someone will listen to them.
- Become thoroughly informed about sexual abuse and its impact upon our own church community.
- Help ministers and lay leaders to recognize the warning

signs of child sexual abuse and know how to respond appropriately when abuse is suspected or a child reports being sexually abused.

- Establish referral relationships with professional counselors and local sexual assault agencies who can, with their professional skills, assist abuse victims and their families.
- Create guidelines/policies at the appropriate levels to assist church leaders in:
  - Endeavoring to treat with fairness persons accused of sexually abusing children.
  - Holding abusers accountable for their actions and administering appropriate discipline.
  - Support the education and enrichment of families and family members by:
    - Dispelling commonly held religious and cultural beliefs which may be used to justify or cover up child sexual abuse.
    - Building a healthy sense of personal worth in each child which enables him or her to respect self and others.

- Fostering Christlike relationships between males and females in the home and in the church.
- Provide caring support and a faith-based redemptive ministry within the church community for abuse survivors and abusers while enabling them to access the available network of professional resources in the community.
- Encourage the training of more family professionals to facilitate the healing and recovery process of abuse victims and perpetrators.

(The above statement is informed by principles expressed in the following scriptural passages: Genesis 1:26–28; 2:18–25; Leviticus 18:20; 2 Samuel 13:1–22; Matthew 18:6–9; 1 Corinthians 5:1–5; Ephesians 6:1–4; Colossians 3:18–21; 1 Timothy 5:5–8.)

This statement was voted during the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee on Tuesday, April 1, 1997, in Loma Linda, California, USA.

# Statement on Well-being and Value of Children

Seventh-day Adventists affirm the right of every child to a happy and stable home environment, and the freedom and support to grow up to be the person God intended. In 1989, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the fundamental importance of children by voting the “Convention on the Rights of the Child.” In harmony with many of these lofty principles, and considering the value Jesus placed on children when He said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matt 19:14, NIV), we seek to aid children who suffer from the following destructive influences:

**Poverty** — Poverty impacts children’s development, robbing them of necessary food, clothing, and shelter, and adversely affecting their health and education.

**Illiteracy** — Illiteracy makes it difficult for the parents to earn wages or care for their family or for the child to reach his or her potential.

**Poor healthcare** — Millions of children have no access to healthcare because they lack the proper insurance coverage or they live where medical care is unavailable.

**Exploitation and vulnerability** — Children are corrupted and exploited when they are used for cheap labor, sweat shops, armed conflict, and the perverted sexual

pleasure of adult predators, and are exposed to sexually explicit materials in the mass media and on the Internet.

**Violence** — Every year many children die violent deaths. The vast majority of individuals who suffer in armed conflicts are women and children. Children bear deep physical and psychological scars, even after the fighting stops.

In response to the above issues and needs, Seventh-day Adventists stand for the following rights of children:

- The right to a loving and stable home where there is safety and freedom from abuse.
- The right to adequate food, clothing, and shelter.
- The right to proper health/medical care.

- The right to an education that prepares children for a positive role in society by developing their personal potential and giving them earning capacity.
- The right to a religious and moral education in the home and church.
- The right to freedom from discrimination and exploitation.

- The right to personhood, respect, and the development of positive self-esteem.

This statement was voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM), for release at the time of the General Conference Session in Toronto, Canada, June 29–July 9, 2000.

# Statement on Respect for All People: Making Churches and Community Safe

The Seventh-day Adventist Church affirms the dignity and worth of each human being as the handiwork of the Creator and the focus of God's redemptive action in Jesus Christ. The Scripture clearly indicates that a distinguishing mark of Christian believers is the quality of their human relationships. It is in the spirit of Christ to love and accept one another, to seek to affirm and empower, and to protect the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

To this end, Seventh-day Adventists, as Christians, seek to live by the highest moral and ethical principles of conduct in their relationships with fellow human beings. We stand with other religious and community leaders who decry all forms of sexual abuse and family violence as well as all trafficking and exploitation of women and children, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, social, economic, and health status. We believe that to remain indifferent and unresponsive is, in effect, to condone, perpetuate, and potentially extend such behavior.

Long-standing Adventist position statements denouncing the sexual abuse of children and family violence and offering practical guidelines for an appropriate and caring church response have endeavored to provide a model for other communities of faith seeking to break silence and to respond appropriately and compassionately to persons who know this devastating experience firsthand.

Many resources have been developed by Adventist professionals and shared through governmental and interfaith networks to educate pastors, teachers, and leaders in both church and community regarding the nature of the problem

and how to help individuals and families access the network of social and professional services which can best respond to specific needs. An annual Sabbath in Seventh-day Adventist churches is dedicated to continuing to break silence on these issues and to increasing the Church's effectiveness in the protection of the vulnerable with a view toward prevention.

Seventh-day Adventists take very seriously their responsibility to help make the Church and community a safe place for children. A strong position statement on the well-being and value of children was issued in 2000, enumerating the rights of children and the many challenges facing families and communities charged with their care. Strong child-protection policies have been put in place in Seventh-day Adventist churches and schools in different parts of the world. These policies can provide a model for the development of such guidelines in other places regarding the screening of volunteers and appropriate measures to ensure that perpetrators are reported and removed from positions that put children at further risk. However, the policies are valuable only as they are implemented. Seventh-day



Adventists have been practically involved, among others, in establishing orphanages. We have also been involved in community activities combating abuse.

Beyond speaking out against violations of human dignity, Seventh-day Adventists are committed to the development of each person to their fullest potential. The Church operates a global educational system. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) provides a diversity of family and community development services including micro-lending, food and water security, literacy, HIV/AIDS

education and emergency response. Leadership training programs are offered through Adventist churches worldwide in many areas of ministry and community service, such as family life education, health education, women and children's ministries, etc. Seventh-day Adventists view such work as an extension of the ministry of Christ and consider it our privilege to join hands with others in support of all human beings with whom we share this global village.

This statement was voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) for release at the time of the General Conference Session in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, July 5, 2005.

# Statement on Ending Violence Against Women and Children

**W**e, the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, speak up and join with others to bring an end to violence against women and girls. Global statistics indicate that in all societies women and girls are more frequently the victims of violence. Actions or threats likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering are incompatible with biblical ethics and Christian morality. Such actions include, but are not limited to, family violence, rape, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), honor killings, and dowry murders. Manipulation, denial of personal liberty, and coercion are also acts of abuse and violence. To such behaviors the Seventh-day Adventist Church says, "Let's end it now!"

Seventh-day Adventists recognize that creation in God's image bestows dignity and worth on every individual. The measure of that worth is seen in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ to provide eternal life for everyone. The love and compassion that characterized the earthly life of Jesus sets an example for all His followers in their relationship with others. Christ-like behavior leaves no room for violence against family members or persons outside the family.

The Bible counsels Christians to view the body as the temple of God. Bringing intentional harm to another person desecrates that which God honors and is therefore sinful behavior. Seventh-day Adventists commit themselves to being leaders in breaking the cycle of violence perpetrated against women and girls. We will speak out in defense of victims and survivors through teaching, preaching, Bible study, and advocacy programs.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church seeks and welcomes

partnerships and collaboration with others in addressing this global issue. The collective voice of many can save tens of thousands of women and girls from the harm and suffering that result from abuse and violence.

(This statement is supported by the following Bible references: John 3:16; Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 61:1-3; Ephesians 5:2-3; 1 John 3:10, 15-18, 4:11; 3 John 1:2; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19; Romans 12:1-2.)

(See also the "Statement on the Nurture and Protection of Children.")

This statement was approved and voted by the Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on June 23, 2010, and released at the General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, June 24-July 3, 2010.

# Statement on the Nurture and Protection of Children

**S**eventh-day Adventists place a high value on children. In the light of the Bible they are seen as precious gifts from God entrusted to the care of parents, family, community of faith and society-at-large. Children possess enormous potential for making positive contributions to the Church and to society. Attention to their care, protection and development is extremely important.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church reaffirms and extends its longstanding efforts to nurture and safeguard children and youth from persons — known and unknown — whose actions perpetrate any form of abuse and violence against them and/or sexually exploit them. Jesus modeled the kind of respect, nurture, and protection children should be able to expect from adults entrusted with their care. Some of His strongest words of reproof were directed toward those who would harm them. Because of the trusting nature and dependence of children upon older and wiser adults and the life-changing consequences when this trust is breached, children require vigilant protection.

## **Redemptive Correction**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church places a priority on church-based parent education that helps parents develop the skills necessary for a redemptive approach to correction. Many children experience harsh punishment in the name of a biblical approach to discipline. Correction characterized by severe, punitive, dictatorial control often leads to resentment and rebellion. Such harsh discipline is also associated with heightened risk for physical and psychological harm to children as well as increased likelihood the youth will resort to coercion and violence in resolving their differences with others. By contrast, examples from Scripture as well as a large body of research confirm the effectiveness of more gentle forms of discipline that allow children to learn through reasoning and experiencing the consequences of their choices. Such milder measures have been demonstrated to increase the likelihood children will make life-affirming choices and espouse parental values as they mature.

## **Making Church a Safe Place for Children**

The Church also takes seriously its responsibility to minimize the risk for child sexual abuse and violence against children in the congregational setting. First and foremost, church

leaders and members must themselves live by a strict code of ethics that precludes even the appearance of evil as regards the exploitation of minors for the gratification of adult desires. Other practical measures toward making church a safe place for children include attention to the safety of the church facility and its surroundings and the careful supervision and monitoring of children and their environment during all church-related activities. Education regarding what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate interaction between adults and children, the warning signs of abuse and violence, and the specific steps to be followed should inappropriate behavior be reported or suspected are vitally important. Pastors and church leaders who are visible and approachable play an important role in prevention as well as in responding well to the needs of children whose safety may have been jeopardized. Regular updates are needed regarding their moral and legal responsibility to report child abuse to appropriate civil authorities. The designation of trained personnel and specific protocols at wider levels of Church organization will help to ensure appropriate action and follow-through when abuse is reported within the church setting.

Because of the complex nature of the problem of child sexual abuse and violence against children, intervention and treatment of perpetrators requires resources beyond the scope of ministry provided by the local church. However, the presence of a known perpetrator in a congregation calls for the highest levels of vigilance. While perpetrators should be held fully responsible for their own behavior, the supervision of persons with a history of inappropriate behavior is necessary to ensure that such persons maintain appropriate distance and refrain from all contact with children during church-related activities. Provision for alternative opportunities for perpetrators to grow spiritually in settings where children are not present greatly enhances child protection.

### Fostering Emotional and Spiritual Healing

Children who have been personally victimized or who have witnessed disturbing events need the care of adults who treat them with sensitivity and understanding. Practical support that helps children and families maintain stability in the midst of turmoil empowers victims and their families and promotes healing. The Church's commitment to breaking the silence frequently associated with child sexual abuse and violence, its efforts toward advocacy and justice for all victims, and deliberate action to safeguard children from all forms of abuse and violence will contribute much toward the emotional and spiritual recovery of all concerned. The Church regards the nurture and protection of children as a sacred trust.

(This statement has been informed by the principles expressed in the following biblical passages: Leviticus 18:6; 2 Samuel 13:1-11; 1 Kings 17:17-23; Psalm 9:9, 12, 16-18; 11:5-7; 22:24; 34:18; 127:3-5; 128:3-4; Proverbs 31:8-9; Isaiah 1:16-17; Jeremiah 22:3; Matthew 18:1-6; 21:9, 15-16; Mark 9:37; 10:13-16; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; 1 Timothy 5:8; Hebrews 13:3.)

(See also "Seventh-day Adventists Speak Up For Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.")

This statement was approved and voted by the Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on June 23, 2010, and released at the General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, June 24-July 3, 2010.

# Statement on Global Poverty

Poverty is present in every society. Poverty robs human beings of their most basic rights. It keeps people hungry; it deprives them of medical care, clean water, an education, the opportunity to work, and often results in a sense of powerlessness, hopelessness, and inequality. Every day, more than 24,000 children die due to preventable conditions created by poverty.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that actions to reduce poverty and its attendant injustices are an important part of Christian social responsibility. The Bible clearly reveals God's special interest in the poor and His expectations as to how His followers should respond to those who are unable to care for themselves. All human beings bear the image of God and are the recipients of God's blessing (Luke 6:20). In working with the poor, we follow the example and teaching of Jesus (Matthew 25:35, 36). As a spiritual community, Seventh-day Adventists advocate justice for the poor and "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves" (Proverbs 31:8 NIV) and against those who "deprive the poor of their rights" (Isaiah 10:2 NIV). We participate with God who "secures justice for the poor" (Psalm 140:12 NIV).

Working to reduce poverty and hunger means more than showing sympathy for the poor. It means advocating for public policy that offers justice and fairness to the poor, for their empowerment and human rights. It means sponsoring and participating in programs that address the causes of poverty and hunger, helping people to build sustainable lives. This

commitment to justice is an act of love (Micah 6:8). Seventh-day Adventists believe it is also a call to live lives of simplicity and modesty that witness against materialism and a culture of affluence.

Seventh-day Adventists join the global community in supporting the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals for reducing poverty by at least 50 percent by 2015. In furtherance of this, Seventh-day Adventists partner with civil society, governments and others, working together locally and globally to participate in God's work of establishing enduring justice in a broken world.

As followers of Christ, we engage this task with determined hope, energized by God's visionary promise of a new heaven and a new earth where there is no poverty or injustice. Seventh-day Adventists are called to live imaginatively and faithfully inside that vision of God's Kingdom by acting to end poverty now.

This statement was approved and voted by the Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on June 23, 2010, and released at the General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, June 24-July 3, 2010.

## A Growing Family

BY JOY HYDE

Recently, the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan, welcomed some new members to the family. Here are the stories of how Jesus touched their lives.

### Shaheeda and Michael Hill

In 2010, I (Shaheeda Hill) received a flier in the mail for the “Unlocking Revelations” seminar held by Jim Howard, Metropolitan Church pastor. I talked with my husband, Mike, and we agreed we were interested in attending, so I signed us up to go. Unfortunately, we were only able to attend one seminar, and it was entitled “Revealing of the Antichrist,” which we found very interesting. Later that week, Joshua Plohocky, Metropolitan Church Bible worker, came by our home with some DVDs of the seminars we missed. He continued to keep in touch with us.

Soon after, Joshua offered to do Bible studies with us, so we could better understand the love of Jesus Christ. That’s how we got to the Metro Church; since then, our lives have changed forever. The sermons that Jim shared just hit our hearts so hard, we knew that this was the church we were supposed to attend. The members were warm and welcoming, and certain members reached out to us immediately — like they had known us our whole lives. We have developed friendships with many wonderful people at Metro, and I’m sure they will be long-lasting ones.

Before we arrived at the Metro Church and started doing Bible studies with Joshua, my husband and I struggled with things such as violent video games and violent entertainment. It feels so good now that the Lord has purged those cravings from us!

Our children, Steven, 8, Shawn, 6, and Michael Jr., 4, are experiencing their own little walk in Christ, and they also have changed. In summary, I’m so thankful we found Metro. I would encourage anyone who hasn’t been baptized to



The Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan, recently welcomed new members to the family. Clockwise from left: Marsha Browder, Shaheeda Hill, Michael “Mike” Hill and Joshua Plohocky, Metropolitan Church Bible worker

experience the love and warmth that only the Lord can give you!

### Marsha Browder

I grew up in a Christian home but, as I got older, I decided to take a different route. I attended many churches throughout the years, but was not being spiritually fed. I noticed that my daughter was attending a Seventh-day Adventist church, and it struck me as weird that she attended a church where members were worshipping on Saturday. She tried to persuade me to attend with her and her husband, but I was very stubborn, and didn’t.

One day, my daughter came to visit. She left her baptismal card with the beliefs of the church on it. As I began to read the card, I was convinced this was where I needed to be. I started attending the Metropolitan Church, and immediately fell in love with the teachings and the members.

Soon, I also began doing Bible studies with Joshua Plohocky, Metropolitan Church Bible worker. During this time, I mentioned to him that I wanted to stop smoking. Even though I earlier had breast cancer and heart surgery, I still hadn’t been able to hold back my fleshly urges enough to quit. Joshua told me to think of it this way: “Every time I want to smoke a cigarette, it’s like I’m pounding a nail through His hand again.” I didn’t want to hurt Jesus, so I stopped; through the grace of God, I haven’t smoked since then.

I was recently baptized, and I must say I feel so complete now, and so happy to be filled with the love of God.

Joy Hyde is the communications secretary of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan.

# Can You Hear Me Now?

BY EDWIGE CHARLES

**M**y day began like any other. As I rested on my bed, my roommate walked into the room. I greeted her; but, right then, a peculiar event happened: She was mouthing, “Good morning” back to me. Alarmed, I sat up on my bed and asked her to repeat herself.

“Hello. Are you okay?” she said in muted, mumbled tones. I turned my right ear toward the source of the sound and, again, asked her to repeat herself.

“Hellooo...,” she slowly mouthed. We both realized that, overnight, I had developed a hearing loss in my right ear.

I went to class as if nothing happened. It was difficult to follow the teacher; every time he spoke I heard nothing but muffled speech and squeaks. At times, it even became painful to hear at all. As soon as class was over, I hurried to my school’s Speech and Hearing Clinic where the audiologist tested my hearing. She gave me an audiogram (a graph that demonstrates how well a person can hear), which revealed a moderate sensorineural hearing loss. “If you were my child,” she advised, “you’d be seeing an ear-nose-throat doctor today.”

After the ENT tested my balance and hearing, and evaluated my medical history, he concluded that inflammation of my inner ear was the cause of my sudden hearing loss. “Basically,” he explained, “sound is able to effectively travel through your ear until it reaches your cochlea, which is the section of your ear that stimulates the auditory nerve to your brain. Because it is inflamed, it isn’t able to transmit the electric signals properly.” He prescribed steroids to try to reduce the inflammation so part of my hearing would return, and asked me to return so he could monitor my hearing loss. It was clear he had no real hopes of my hearing returning to normal.

I prayed to God that night, thanking Him not only for the gift of hearing for the past 20 years of my life, but for all the other senses I still possessed and took for granted. I also thanked Him for allowing my other ear to remain unaffected. Studying speech-language pathology and audiology in school, I’d heard and seen, on countless occasions, clients lose their hearing. They were all rehabilitated and moved on with the best of their abilities. I was inspired to do the same. I continued to stare at my pill bottle. My first dose was due soon; but, rather than take it, I felt compelled to skip it, and dozed off to sleep instead.



Edwige Charles

In a dream, I found myself in a crowd of people. Looking down, I quickly realized I was the woman, sick for ten years, desperately desiring healing. I glimpsed Jesus and hurried over, reaching for the hem of His garment. I grabbed on tightly, but nothing happened; Jesus just kept on walking. I grabbed at His garment again. Jesus turned around, looked at me and asked, “What do you want?”

“Jesus,” I pleaded and pointed to my ears, “please heal me.”

He gently placed His hands over my ears, and I opened my eyes.

Waking from my dream left me confused. My phone rang, and I placed it on my right ear. Rather than hearing muffled speech, it was my mother’s voice — loud and clear!

I went back to the ENT’s office where they tested my hearing again. The audiologist compared my past audiogram to my current one, then looked again and again. She called the ENT so he could examine me further.

He asked if I had taken my medication. I honestly told him, “No, Jesus healed me.” He responded that, in extremely rare cases, a complete spontaneous recovery is possible, and that had occurred. I told him that while I do not doubt it happens, I know Jesus healed me. We mutually and politely agreed to disagree. He bade me congratulations, and I have not been to an ENT clinic since.

Growing up, I frequently heard, “Always appreciate what you have before it’s too late.” The point of the message was intended to instill a level of appreciation for the things to which I believed everyone was naturally entitled. The truth is, Jesus did not have to heal me; He didn’t even have to give me hearing in the first place. But, for whatever reason, He decided to bestow His grace on me and restore my hearing anyway. I vowed to Him I would proclaim my testimony to all who would pay attention to remind others that God not only hears our worries, He listens.

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Edwige Charles attends Andrews University, where she is a senior studying speech-language pathology and audiology. Edwige is from Chicago, Illinois, where she is a member of the Bethlehem French Church.



Sheila Galloro

Mark Woolfington, chaplain at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, recently launched a new E-Chaplain ministry program at all four Adventist Midwest Health hospitals.

## Adventist Midwest Health launches new E-Chaplain ministry

Every morning at 7 o'clock, Mark Woolfington boots up his computer at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital and checks his email inbox for "Please Pray for Me" messages. Then he does.

"There aren't a lot of people who walk in here and say 'Pray for me,'" said Woolfington, a chaplain at the hospital. "This is a way for us to bring our ministry to people who really need it, but maybe, for a variety of reasons, just can't ask for it."

Woolfington recently launched a new E-Chaplain ministry program at all four Adventist Midwest Health hospitals, and is now "extending the healing ministry of Christ" electronically to people who need it the most.

Adventist Midwest Health chaplains provide spiritual and emotional care with Christian compassion and thoughtful service. They are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and try to see all new patients.

The E-Chaplain ministry prayer request service is accessible from the organization's [keepingyouwell.com](http://keepingyouwell.com) website and on the AMH intranet for employees.

People submit prayers on everything from grief to relationship issues. As requested, the E-Chaplain will respond to emails and offer chaplain services through counseling, answering questions, explaining biblical truth and simple encouragement through email and following up with a phone ministry, which many prefer.

"For some people, prayer face-to-face with a stranger is very difficult," Woolfington said. "I think the anonymity of this program is very appealing."

After all, prayer is personal. On one hand, rarely does a patient heading into surgery pass up a prayer. Then there are other patients who politely decline a prayer when surrounded by family, but have a chaplain paged after his family leaves, shares Woolfington.

"People don't have to be patients or staff to use the E-Chaplain ministry either. In fact, about 90 percent of patient contacts at Adventist Midwest Health are not admissions to one of the four hospitals; instead, they are through outpatient services, Adventist Health Care at Home or Adventist St. Thomas Hospice," said John Rapp, regional vice president, ministries and mission of Adventist Midwest Health.

"Our mission statement is to 'extend the healing ministry of Christ' to everyone we serve, and this is a major

extension of spiritual care into the community," Rapp said. "It says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17-19, 'Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit.'"

Information about the E-Chaplain service is given to patients with their discharge packets, and an Adventist Health Care at Home chaplain can make a home visit if desired. If a professional counselor is needed, chaplains provide that information along with their prayers. A Spanish-speaking chaplain helps out with the Spanish prayers.

Every single prayer request is answered. Woolfington checks his email throughout the day to see how many prayers have landed in his inbox. As word spreads and the program gains popularity, Woolfington will forward some prayers to other Adventist chaplains.

The E-Chaplain ministry also serves employees, who are often overlooked when tragedy strikes.

For example, a 14-year-old girl who lived near La Grange was recently murdered and pronounced dead at the hospital. Reporters with television cameras lined up across the street to cover the brutal crime, and grief counselors were brought in to talk to her family and friends.

But what about the doctors, nurses and staff who work at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital? They live in the area. They knew the girl. And they, too, were devastated by the loss.

"After such a tragedy, I'm sure many of our employees went straight home to be with their families and loved ones," Woolfington said. "But their grief and their heartache may have surfaced later. With E-Chaplain ministry, we're there whenever our staff, our patients or our community needs us."

Sheila Galloro, Adventist Midwest Health, public relations specialist



Eileen McMillen

## New assistant manager named at the Howard Performing Arts Center

Andrews University is pleased to announce Eileen McMillen as the new assistant manager of the Howard Performing Arts Center. This role was previously held by Erica Slikkers who, in Nov. 2011, was promoted to manager. McMillen's official start date was Jan. 9, 2012.

"Eileen will be a powerful asset to the Howard Performing Arts Center," says Slikkers. "She comes with experience in non-profit management, as well as a passion and respect for the arts."

Prior to accepting the assistant manager position, McMillen worked as director of funding and strategic development for StoneBridge School in Chesapeake, Va. She holds two degrees from Andrews University: a Bachelor of Science in Psychology (May 2009) and a Master of Administration in International and Community Development (May 2011).

During her time as a graduate student, McMillen worked on projects for several non-profit organizations, including Neighbor to Neighbor and REACH International, both of which are based in Berrien Springs, Mich.

"Music always has been a huge part of my life," says McMillen. She counts

performing as an alto soloist in a production of Handel's "Messiah" and being a member of the annual Candlelight Processional at Disney's Epcot Center among the highlights of her musical experiences.

McMillen, a native of Sebring, Fla., has been married since June 2011 to J.B. McMillen, a fellow Andrews alum.

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

## Andrews introduces three new academic programs

Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year, Andrews University will offer three new programs. The School of Architecture will introduce programs in both construction management and interior design. According to Carey Carscallen, dean of the School of Architecture, no other Seventh-day Adventist educational institution offers a four-year degree in construction management or interior design. Carscallen believes it is important to make these options available to our youth.

"The church needs workers who understand its beliefs of simplicity, creativity, building and designing for the glory of God. Like other secular

universities with construction management and interior design programs, our students will gain understanding of everything related to the profession. However, unlike others, they will also have the opportunity to participate in community service, outreach, mission work and even the opportunity to study abroad," says Carscallen.

Also starting in the 2012-2013 academic year, the Department of Visual Art & Design plans to begin offering a program in documentary filmmaking (pending hire of a new faculty member). This program will be ideally suited for those interested in storytelling. It will combine the foundation of documentary theory, film history, storyboarding, editing, compositing and sound creation, all while providing the students with a conceptual framework to use their skills to serve others.

Rhonda Root, chair of the Department of Visual Art & Design, says, "Our department is always seeking to stay up-to-date with advancements in the fine arts. We want to provide our students with the highest quality fine art education and career preparation possible."

Read more about these new programs by visiting [www.andrews.edu/news](http://www.andrews.edu/news).

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



Students interested in studying at the Andrews University School of Architecture now have two new programs to choose from: Construction Management and Interior Design.

## [ EDUCATION NEWS ]

### PWA mission trip benefits students, too

Lake Region—Peterson-Warren Academy, in Inkster, Mich., maintains a record of continuous improvement to its academic program. The latest enhancement includes mission trips for students who distinguish themselves academically and with good citizenship. The student missionary program is a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County in southeast Michigan. Alice Dent, executive director for the affiliate and PWA alumnus, organized a mission trip to the Carolinas and sponsored some of the expenses through her organization. Other sponsors include the PWA Home and School, PWA Alumni Association and Dent Industries.

Six students — Corey Newman, Kyle Beechem, Symone Cole, Dennis Wallace III, Michaela Hughes, Regina Gray — were selected to go on the trip under the supervision of Alice and her husband, Brandon Dent.

A few weeks before the trip, an orientation was conducted where Corey Jackson, Burns SDA Church pastor, provided a spiritual emphasis and a special prayer for each student.

On May 25, 2011, at 6:00 a.m., the student missionary team, decked in bright yellow Habitat for Humanity T-shirts, boarded a plane to Charlotte, N. Carolina. The team was so well mannered that the airline staff paid them compliments and provided a bag of healthy snacks along with well wishes.

Upon arrival, the team ate a quick breakfast and went right to work painting a home for an elderly gentleman who had no indoor plumbing and a sagging roof. The PWA students partnered with Goodwill Industries North Carolina in participating

in this program that provides second chances to youth who dropped out of high school. The program provides



From left: Kyle Beechem, Corey Newman and Dennis Wallace III remove logs at Pathway to Peace Ministries, a lifestyle and evangelism training center. They prepared the grounds for a beautiful new walkway.

construction skills, and an opportunity to earn a GED and launch a career in the construction industry. Program participants admired the strong work ethic of the PWA team and commented on their positive attitude.

On day two of the trip, the team worked in a community affected by the recent tornadoes in the South. They built a privacy fence, installed cabinets and performed other outside maintenance activities. The afternoon was spent refurbishing a third property, preparing the house for painting by removing door handles, faceplates for power outlets and switches, discarding old carpet and staining the front porch.

On day three, the team traveled to Pathway to Peace Ministries in Peachland, N. Carolina. PWA alumnus, Cary Rodgers, and wife, Elene, are owners of this Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle and evangelism training center. The young men from PWA removed trees and prepared the grounds for a beautiful new walkway, while the young ladies assembled new furniture. The most significant part of this experience was not what the students provided for the Center, but what they received. The Rodgers conducted Rightly Trained for Action (RTA) seminars that equip youth for evangelism. The student missionaries also learned to assemble some delicious, vegan recipes.

On Sabbath, the missionary team participated in the worship service at the Pageland SDA Church in Pageland, S. Carolina. Dennis delivered a sermonette on one of the Bible's greatest evangelists, "The Woman at the Well." Kyle and Corey provided scripture and prayer, and the entire team presented special music.

After dinner, the team put their new training into action as they witnessed in the local community. In addition to passing out tracts, they engaged residents in meaningful dialogue and, in several cases, prayed with them. One single mother indicated she was looking for a church where she could improve her life and become a better example for her children, so the team connected her with the local church.

After this dynamic witnessing experience, the PWA missionary



From left: Students enthusiastically assemble after painting: Michaela Hughes, Regina Gray, Corey Newman, Dennis Wallace III, Kyle Beechem and Symone Cole.





team returned to the local church and conducted the entire Adventist Youth program that included special music, a skit depicting some of their experiences in the community and a discussion panel on witnessing.

“Because of this experience, I think I want to be a minister,” said Dennis.

“It was very gratifying to offer people in need the only real solution: Jesus Christ.”

Regina said, “I’ve never witnessed in the community before. It was so inspiring, I want to do more of it when I get home.”

All of the students indicated that

their lives were positively changed because of this experience. They also established lifelong bonds with each other and their chaperones. Most importantly, they exhibited their school motto of being prepared “for now and eternity.”

Albert Rodgers, assistant principal, Peterson-Warren Academy



Wendy Keough

Volunteer Beverly Pottle reads with Jocelyn Gonzalez, her third grade reading buddy.

## Volunteers make a difference at RMES

Michigan—“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” —Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*

When Kathryn Hickerson, third grade teacher at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School, started a volunteer reading program, many adults were interested in signing up to spend time with students. Now, in year three of her well-established volunteer reading program, volunteers are logging in hundreds of hours at RMES.

While she knows research shows the importance of reading to the future success of a student, Hickerson was not thinking about using reading as a way to help students steer clear of a life of crime. She was surprised and delighted when she read an email from the Michigan Department of Education that told of a judge in the Taylor School District who was starting his own volunteer reading program. It read: “A district judge is spearheading

Corps in the Taylor School District, saying that helping children become better learners means he will see fewer of them across the bench, according to *The (Southgate) News-Herald*.”

“‘There is a direct correlation between a person’s lack of education and the increased probability of becoming a defendant (in court),’ Judge Geno Salomone told *The News-Herald*.” (See <http://www.educationreport.org/pubs/mer/article.aspx?id=16074> or *Michigan Education Digest*, Vol. XIII, No. 47, Nov. 29, 2011)

Hickerson felt an immediate connection between Salomone’s program and the one she created. “I thought, *How neat! This judge is starting a volunteer reading program, and I have a volunteer reading program!* I just thought it was nice to hear that someone in Michigan thinks reading is important enough to start a district-wide program similar to the one I have at our school.”

While Salomone had his own goal in mind, it seems that he and Hickerson share the same philosophy based on research — reading as a young student equals future success.

According to a 1988 study, researchers R. Anderson, L. Wilson and P. Fielding found that during a period of 26 weeks, “among all the ways in which children spend their time, reading books was the best predictor of several measures of reading achievement” (see “Growth in Reading and How Children Spend Their Time Outside of School,” *Reading Research Quarterly*, 23, 285–303).

Hickerson states that the goal of this program is to give the students the opportunity to read outside of the typical classroom atmosphere. “It’s also

about relationships,” she continues. “My students look forward to reading with their volunteer each week, and I know that the volunteers feel the same about spending time with the students.”

Being a volunteer in the program doesn’t require much training, but it does require organization and a time commitment. Hickerson gives each volunteer a folder and explains some simple instructions on how to spend their time with the students. “We listen to the students read, help them sound out words when they get stuck, discuss the subject matter, and get to know the students by talking about their interests,” explains Janet Olson. She and other volunteers also document how the students did during their reading time, and note concerns and praises as well. This ensures that the lines of communication between student, volunteer and teacher are open. “Mrs. Hickerson will review these sheets and make comments when necessary. If we see something that is a concern, she will often make a comment as well.”

“Some of my volunteers simply listen to the students as they read,” explains Hickerson. “Some of them take turns reading to the student and then listening while the student reads. They are good at meeting the students’ needs, whatever the reading level. Our volunteers set aside time specifically for being with my students. My students realize that this time is a special part of the day, and it makes them feel important.”

Olson agrees. “I have several students who are assigned to me. They each have their own personality. Some just want to read, and then jump out

of their chair to move on to the next activity. One boy is very inquisitive and likes to discuss the subject matter. He is such a joy to be with! Another girl is learning English. She struggles with her reading, but she understands the concept and is coming along nicely. I admire anyone who comes to our country and doesn't know the language."

The interaction between students and adult volunteers is a very positive one. Sometimes staff overhear their conversations about what the students did over the weekend, or what subjects they like to read about. The volunteers seem to make a connection with the students before they dive into their book. Both the volunteer and the student seem at ease, and they are usually smiling as they work together. The program is a win-win-win-win situation for the teacher, student, volunteer and for the parent, too.

RMES third grade students read books from the North American Division Office of Education recommended collection. But is it acceptable for students to choose their own reading material?

"Oh, yes," Hickerson adds. "That's part of the privilege of the program, that the student gets to make the choice of book he or she reads. The one requirement is that it must be a book within his or her own reading level. The choice gives them a sense of ownership. Reading those books as well as the required books introduces them to many different genres and various authors." Hickerson hopes her students will discover the genre or author that appeals to them, leading to more reading outside of school.

David L. Waller, RMES principal, appreciates the time and effort put forth by the volunteers and students. "It's exciting to see our students participating in a reading program such as this. They look forward to reading, which is something that makes the day of every teacher and school administrator," he said.

Waller also acknowledges the initiative that Hickerson took to get this program going. "Her dedication to the program is evident in its success. It's in its third year, and everyone is still

enthusiastic about reading together once a week."

If you would like more information on this volunteer reading program, contact the RMES office at 269-471-3220, or visit the RMES website at [www.myRMES.org](http://www.myRMES.org).

Ruth Murdoch Elementary School is a K-8th grade Seventh-day Adventist educational institution located at 8885 Garland Ave. in Berrien Springs on the campus of Andrews University.

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



Ziane Roberts-Clark enjoys silent reading time outdoors at RMES.

Wendy Keough

## [ PATHFINDER NEWS ]

### Pathfinder training weekend results in surrendered hearts

Lake Region—The Lake Region Conference Teen Leaders in Training retreat, "Born Leaders — Raising the Bar," was conducted in a boot camp style. Forty TLTs, along with 26 staff, were in attendance at Camp Wagner, Nov. 4–6, 2011. TLT commanding officer Angie Gardner and master chief, Ruphos Brown, along with several other leaders, led the troops through an awesome and disciplined weekend, full of activities centered on spiritual reconnection and serving others. The youth were organized into four gender-specific platoons which, by the end of the weekend, became a true family.



Forty TLTs and staff attended a boot camp style retreat at Camp Wagner, in Cassopolis, Mich., in November 2011. Weekend events were centered on spiritual reconnection and serving others.

Sabbath morning an outreach program was conducted at a local nursing facility. A praise and worship service was presented to the residents there. Smiles and hugs were shared, and specially designed cards with heartfelt words were left with each senior citizen attendee.

Soul-searching worships were

conducted daily by Dennis Wallace, chaplain. His life struggles and victories inspired all as he challenged everyone to surrender totally to Christ and to raise the level of commitment to share God's love with the world.

Another community service activity in which the TLTs willingly participated

in was packing shoes for the “Soles for Souls” project. These shoes will be sent to those in need. Team-building exercises were presented in an exciting game format as the youth learned more about the “Operational Department” component of the TLT program. The “Time of Trouble” game encouraged teamwork, memorization of scriptures, and finding clues and safety at “safe houses.”

Each TLT was involved in classwork, and encouraged to be ready for investiture into the next level of the TLT program by June 2012 — before the next TLT boot camp.

The “Drill Knock-Out” activity demonstrated the discipline of marching as drill master, Devaun Smith, called out commands to TLTs. Imani Laues, of the City Temple Nighthawks club in

Detroit, Mich., and Mwenya Mwenya Jr., of the All Nation Ambassadors club in Berrien Springs, Mich., were declared the skilled marchers.

One of the most inspiring events that took place was a candlelight consecration service, directed by Paulette Howard, the Lake Region Conference Pathfinder coordinator. The service touched the hearts of many of the Pathfinders, resulting in many rededicating their lives to Christ. Five TLTs indicated a desire to be baptized!

A special elite team of ten was selected by leadership in attendance at this event. This special honor team, along with ten other Pathfinders, will represent the Lake Region Conference at special events hosted by the Conference, Lake Union and North American

Division. Howard presented the chosen representatives with special white, braided cords with explicit instructions that they must be exemplary Christians in every aspect of their lives.

Gardner said the weekend was successful because of all of the goals that were accomplished: outreach with nursing home ministries; the mission project, “Soles for Souls”; the youth acquired knowledge of TLT operations and completed classwork; and many friendships were made. The ultimate was the surrendering of hearts and desire for baptisms.

Teresa Rodgers, master guide, Pathfinder Leadership Award recipient and Pathfinder Instructor Award candidate, Lake Region Conference

## [ LOCAL CHURCH NEWS ]

### Annual Holiday Tasting Extravaganza opens door to community

Michigan—“What do vegetarians eat for holiday meals if there is no meat?” This is the question Jeanie Weaver pondered in 1988. Then she conceived an idea to conduct a different kind of vegetarian cooking outreach, which included involving the maximum number of Metropolitan Church members to reach the maximum number of residents in the community, raising money for Metropolitan Junior Academy and accomplishing more community outreach all at the same time.

Being engaged with community outreach through her exercise class and doing vegetarian cooking schools, Weaver often encountered the question about holiday meals. The thought occurred to her, *Why not rally Metro’s talented vegetarian cooks together and have each prepare their favorite holiday dish, serve bite-sized servings to hundreds of people, and charge admission with the proceeds going for the school and future community events?* Thus was born the Metropolitan Holiday Tasting Extravaganza.



In November 2011, 31 cooks provided 57 delicious dishes that were enjoyed by approximately 550 guests at the 24th Annual Holiday Tasting Extravaganza held at Metropolitan Junior Academy in Plymouth, Mich.

In November of that year, Weaver coordinated the first ever Extravaganza. She engaged members gifted in style and decorating to deck the church fellowship hall for the Christmas season. Tables were set and filled the hall, and each willing cook decorated their “stations” with their own holiday settings, displaying edible wares. Besides the cooks, there were parking lot attendants, a kitchen crew, Christmas carolers, childcare support, clean-up crews and many more active participants.

The event was a roaring success. Metro members fed more than 300 people sumptuously that year. Attendees almost unanimously requested that the

Extravaganza occur annually. Every year in November, since 1988, the Metro Church hosts the Extravaganza.

Through the years, Weaver and her team of willing workers perfected techniques and presentation. In 1989, a volunteer wrote a cookbook that included all the recipes from the event, and these have been sold every year since.

In 1991, when the new school plant was built, the event moved to the gymnasium, allowing the feeding of tasty vegetarian dishes to a couple hundred more hungry people. Later on, the Metro Rangers Pathfinder club members and MJA students became the official bus crew, clearing tables and greeting visitors.

The Extravaganza has spawned similar events as near as Dayton, Ohio, and as far away as Brazil.

In 2011, attendees and volunteers witnessed the 24th Extravaganza. Thirty-one cooks provided 57 delicious dishes that served as fare to be enjoyed by approximately 550 guests, plus the 100-member Extravaganza work crew.

The guests provided feedback on

comment forms, stating they would be interested in Metro's monthly Supper Club, other vegetarian food events like cooking schools, health and exercise classes, stop smoking clinics as well as personal Bible studies. Through the years, thousands of visitors have tasted and enjoyed delicious vegetarian dishes, and volunteers have planted the seed for a future of healthier diet choices for them.

Thousands of dollars have been generated from ticket and cookbook sales that resulted in the "extras" for MJA as well as funding future outreach programs. Most importantly, hundreds of Metro members became the face of Adventism to the community while positively promoting their church and school.

Joy Hyde, communications secretary,  
Metropolitan SDA Church, Plymouth



The small group, Ebenezer, attended by Noé and Elizabeth Garcia, helped coordinate the Garcia wedding. They continue to support the Garcia family as they begin a new life with Christ at the center.

## Family strengthened with God in relationship

Indiana—On Sept. 24, 2011, after Operation Downpour (see Dec. 2011 issue at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org)), more than 200 joyfully returned to the Indianapolis Central Hispanic SDA Church for a program of testimonies, music, food and preaching.

Guest speaker Eddie Allen, Lake Region Conference vice president, delivered a vivid sermon depicting the Second Coming of Jesus. Twelve people responded to his passionate call and asked for baptism, two of which were Noé Garcia and his fiancé, Elizabeth Leocadio.

"Noé's eyes flooded with tears," Antonio Rosario, Indiana Conference

Hispanic ministries coordinator, said. "The teardrops were meshed with joy and sorrow," an outward evidence of conviction by the Holy Spirit to get ready for Heaven and the unspoken emotions, flowing like a river of sadness, as Noé thought of his little girl, Melany, as her fragile life hung in the balance.

"Pastor, I've made a decision," Noé said after the meeting.

"Si, Noé?"

"I can't wait any longer to give Jesus control of my life. I want to get baptized and marry my wife before my daughter goes back to the hospital for her medulla transplant."

Rosario announced Noé's decision to Ebenezer, the small group Noé and his family had attended for more than six months. "The small group was happy to coordinate the wedding," said Rosario. "Miguel Marin and his wife,

Cecilia, led the endeavor. The small group made all the decorations for the sanctuary, organized the ceremony, and decided details for the reception meal's preparation."

On Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011, Indianapolis Central Hispanic SDA Church members celebrated the Garcia wedding. Elizabeth exclaimed, "I am so happy, and thankful to God, to my husband and to everybody in the church."

In memory of October 22, 1844 — The Great Disappointment Day — the Indianapolis Central Hispanic Church members organized a weekend of spiritual activities, starting with a Friday night service with an emphasis on consecration. William Rojas, from the Indianapolis East Hispanic SDA Church, was the speaker. Sabbath morning, Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union Conference vice president, challenged the congregation to "cry out to God" for revival.

"That afternoon we devoted much time to talking about the spirit of the Adventist pioneers, the mission of the church and the urgency to get ready for Heaven," Rosario said.

That weekend, Melany received the medulla transplant from her little brother. It was a miracle that he was a 100-percent match. Saturday afternoon, Noé and Elizabeth left Riley Hospital to be baptized.

With tears of joy in their eyes, Noé and Elizabeth expressed their testimony, telling the congregation: "This is the most beautiful moment of our lives."

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, as shared by Antonio Rosario, Hispanic ministries director, Indiana Conference



Todd Ward

Pathfinders present the Glendale Church Pathfinder club banner. This ministry draws young people from the community whose parents sometimes attend prayer meeting.

## Glendale Church marks 50 years of ministry, growth

Indiana—The Glendale Seventh-day Adventist Church in Indianapolis is celebrating 50 years of ministry. On many Sabbaths, the church sanctuary is at maximum capacity. “We may have to go to two services,” said Steve Jencks, senior pastor. “God has brought together diverse people who have a lot of talent and who use their gifts for Him,” he added, attributing the congregation’s “health” to the Lord’s leading.

Glendale’s school, Indianapolis Junior Academy, mirrors the church’s maxed-out capacity. “Praise the Lord for His blessings! We have hired two new teachers and three additional classroom aides,” stated Elizabeth Merion, treasurer and secretary at IJA. “With 82 students, we are packed and have had to turn students down.”

Youth from surrounding neighborhoods regularly visit Glendale’s campus to fellowship and exercise through the Youth Sports Program. According to Antonio Lopez, Glendale youth pastor, the program draws as many as 90 kids during the summer months and attracts the community and church members who don’t usually attend Sabbath services.

“Pretty soon, the parents start to bring their kids to Adventurers or Pathfinders. The parents end up attending prayer meeting while they wait for their kids,” Lopez said.

There are 63 kids in Adventurers and Pathfinders combined. Glendale’s youth division also has several small groups for young men, ages 14–19, and for young women. “We want to provide opportunities for our youth to become godly men and women,” Lopez said.

The church’s food pantry ministers to the needs of their neighborhood every

other week. It is estimated that 50 to 55 people in need come every month.

The community wrote a letter of commendation to Glendale for beautifying the neighborhood with a new fruit tree orchard. David and Shelley Wheeler, who piloted the project, joined the Glendale family in 2009. “We wanted to help the IJA kids. Ultimately, we plan for the produce to give them extra finances for school projects and trips.”

The promise given in Luke 6:38 is undoubtedly illustrated in the Glendale Church. “Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you” (NIV).

This vibrant community of believers freely gives the best they have to offer. Heaven’s blessings are so abundant in Glendale that they have chosen to be the “mother church” for a new church plant. The church plant, projected to settle in downtown Indianapolis, is being designed to meet the needs and interests of emerging adults, specifically those in their 20s and 30s.

“Our core group is designing the downtown church to reconnect young adults with Christ. This is a place where young adults have a voice in how the church operates and the missions it undertakes,” said Kandi Jamieson. “Our biggest hope is to lead those who attend to a deeper, spiritual experience in a place where they are welcomed enthusiastically, are loved unconditionally, where friendships are made.”

Looking further into the future, Glendale plans to hold a large evangelistic series in the fall of 2013.

Glendale will memorialize God’s many blessings during their 50-year ministry through a weekend celebration, May 18 and 19. C.D. Brooks, an evangelist and the former speaker of Breath of Life television ministry, and Van Hurst, Indiana Conference president, are scheduled as guest speakers.

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference



Trevor Smith, associate pastor of the Hinsdale Fil-Am SDA Church, prepares to baptize Ruben Pidu, one of seven who was baptized at the conclusion of "The Jesus Way" Bible seminars.

## Hinsdale Fil-Am Church offers Bible seminars

Illinois—A week-long, nightly Bible seminar was held at the Hinsdale Fil-Am Seventh-day Adventist Church, Nov. 12–19, 2011, with speaker Ramon Baldovino, senior pastor. The meetings were well attended and also streamed live on the Internet through the Fil-Am Church website for the benefit of those who could not be physically present. Joel Guerra, personal ministries leader at the Fil-Am Church, coordinated the meetings, and the church elders presided each night. The church's new, state-of-the-art sound system was used during the meetings. A wooden cross

graced the pulpit, producing a striking backdrop for the messages.

The theme of the week-long seminar was "The Jesus Way." The messages were titled: "The Jesus Way through Human Helplessness"; "The Jesus Way through Human Darkness"; "The Jesus Way through Human Hopelessness"; "The Jesus Way through Human Restlessness"; "The Jesus Way through Human Lawlessness"; "The Jesus Way through Human Emptiness"; "The Jesus Way through Human Ungodliness" and "The Jesus Way through Human Loneliness." The audience, consisting of members of the Fil-Am Church and several community friends and family of some church members, was captivated by Baldovino's dynamic preaching, complemented by moving,

melodious music provided by church members, including the Fil-Am Rondalla conducted by Lyn Baldovino, the Men's Chorus conducted by Mercy Andalis as well as various vocalists and instrumentalists.

Very well-received were the 10- to 15-minute health lectures every night at the outset of the meetings, presented by physicians Jason Goliath and Meechai Tessalee, both members of Fil-Am Church. They emphasized the importance of a healthy lifestyle using the acronym NEWSTART, which stands for nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest and trust in Divine Power. Goliath and Tessalee also stressed the strong connection between a healthy lifestyle and a healthy spiritual life.

Music following the health lectures segued into Baldovino's messages. An appeal song after each night's message, by Ronjo Ombao and Andrew Maldonado, made each of the nightly messages more meaningful. The theme song, "Step by Step with Jesus," was sung by the audience at the beginning and at the end of the meetings. A reception was held each night after the meeting for the attendees, with a light snack prepared by members of the church.

The series ended on Sabbath, Nov. 12, with the baptism of seven people following the special concluding message by Baldovino; two others were also accepted as members by profession of faith. The series not only led those to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior through baptism and profession of faith, but it sparked a revival within the church members as well. Additionally, the evangelism effort of this Bible seminar paved the way for a weekly Bible study with Baldovino for a community guest and his family.

The successful effort was achieved by the combined efforts and participation of members of the Hinsdale Fil-Am Church.

Jesse Reyes, church elder and Bible seminar participant, Hinsdale Fil-Am SDA Church

## [ UNION NEWS ]

## Volunteers quietly support ministry

Michigan—They are known as support persons — behind-the-scene volunteers who quietly, steadily, faithfully and cheerfully do many large and small jobs. The labor and hours behind each project may never be seen or appreciated, while the end product or results are there for all to appreciate and benefit from. They do their work as perfectly as if it were being ultimately tested by the Master Himself. They are the quiet members in our church who are the “wind beneath the wings.” You know them, every church has them — the ones who wash dishes after every Sabbath fellowship dinner; the ones who carefully plant bulbs in October so tulips and daffodils will bloom around the entrance to the church each spring; the quiet and faithful who mow and trim the church grounds; they shovel snow and clean parking lots so members can safely get to and from their vehicles on Sabbath morning; they are part of the janitorial crew who keep the church bathrooms clean and sparkling, the church offices neat, and the Sanctuary peaceful and welcoming for all. Yes, we may take them for granted, but their services are the oil that keeps a successful organization running smoothly. And God marks every task.

Barbara Hall is one such example. She and her husband, Rudy, donate countless hours of volunteer service to the Michigan Conference, the Battle Creek Tabernacle and Battle Creek Academy. Her latest completed project was to make 12 soldier and eight Indian outfits, used this past summer for Camp Au Sable’s evening worship play. Barbara tried to keep things practical, making each piece of durable, easy-to-laundry fabric. Yet, these soldier uniforms are authentic from the shiny brass buttons to the red trim and braid. Each uniform took 20 hours from start to finish! The Camp Au Sable staff is indeed grateful for all the hours and



Barbara Hall donates countless hours of volunteer service to enhance ministry in the Lake Union. Her latest completed project was to make 12 soldier and eight Indian outfits used last summer for Camp Au Sable’s evening worship plays. She also maintains every costume in the camp’s collection. Staff members are wearing some of the costumes she created and maintains.

hours of work that helped to make these outfits realistic. They bring to life the scenes portrayed while campers and visitors alike enjoy.

Ken Micheff, youth director of the Michigan Conference, values the contributions Barbara makes to camp ministry. He said, “Barbara Hall is such a blessing to Camp Au Sable; she has worked so hard using/giving her skills to help in our mission. Each costume she made averaged about 20 hours of work, and she donated all the materials as well. Also, Barbara spends countless hours maintaining, fixing and sewing each and every one of our costumes. What a blessing she is! This is just one example; many people have talents that, if donated to God’s mission (camps, schools, community service centers, etc.), they could make a positive difference.”

Yes, very few church members are on the public front lines as preachers, evangelists, musicians or teachers, but their efforts of daily service do not go unnoticed. Remember, Jesus counseled each of His children to be faithful in the small details of life. We can, by the eye of faith, see the beginning of a ripple effect here on Earth, never knowing until we are in Heaven the long-range

results of the small, humble tasks that are so beautiful in the sight of God.

“There are few who realize the influence of the little things of life upon the development of character. Nothing with which we have to do is really small. The varied circumstances that we meet day by day are designed to test our faithfulness and to qualify us for greater trusts. By adherence to principle in the transactions of ordinary life, the mind becomes accustomed to hold the claims of duty above those of pleasure and inclination. Minds thus disciplined are not wavering between right and wrong, like the reed trembling in the wind; they are loyal to duty because they have trained themselves to habits of fidelity and truth. By faithfulness in that which is least, they acquire strength to be faithful in greater matters.

“The formation of a noble character is the work of a lifetime and must be the result of diligent and preserving effort. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them”  
— *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 222–223.

Sylvia Mullen, member, Battle Creek Tabernacle

# Announcements

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

## Andrews University

**Adventist Engaged Encounter**, 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. For many, attending AEE is one of the most significant experiences of their courtship or early marriage. The invaluable weekend experience is being held on the Andrews University campus, **Mar. 2-4**. For registration information, contact the Undergraduate Leadership Program at Andrews University at [aee@andrews.edu](mailto:aee@andrews.edu) or 269-471-6636.

**AU Music and Worship Conference:** Hosted at Andrews University, **Mar. 29-31**, this annual conference provides training for pastors, worship leaders, church musicians and church artists seeking firm biblical principles and practices of worship ministry. For registration and more information, visit [auworshipconference.org](http://auworshipconference.org) or call 269-471-8352.

**The Health & Fitness Symposium 2012** will be held at Andrews University, **May 10-13**. This event will feature presentations, seminars, workshops and poster presentations from a variety of health and fitness professionals. It is sponsored by the AU Department of Nutrition & Wellness, Pioneer Memorial Church's Health & Wellness Ministries, the GC Department of Health Ministries and [PositiveChoices.com](http://PositiveChoices.com). For full details and registration information, visit [www.andrews.edu/cas/nutrition/symposium](http://www.andrews.edu/cas/nutrition/symposium).

## Indiana

**Sabbath Celebration (annual statewide convocation):** This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Dick Tibbits, is the co-author of *Forgive and Live*. The

celebration will take place **Mar. 31** in the Indiana Academy gymnasium. For more information, contact Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201.

**Hispanic Holy Week** is a full week of Easter evangelism, **Mar. 31-Apr. 8**, hosted by all Indiana Hispanic churches. Keying on the biblical events around Christ's death and resurrection, Hispanic Holy Week reaches the Hispanic Catholic community, which also commemorates these events. This is a great opportunity to celebrate Christ's resurrection with your Catholic friends and coworkers. For more information, or to find a participating church near you, contact Antonio Rosario at 317-844-6201 or [prarosario@aol.com](mailto:prarosario@aol.com).

**Operation Downpour** will be held in Carmel, **Apr. 14**. Mark your calendar. Be a part of the storm! For more information, contact Don Hawley at [hawleyd7@yahoo.com](mailto:hawleyd7@yahoo.com).

**Indiana Academy Graduation Weekend** this year will be held **May 25-27**.

## Lake Union

### Offerings

- Feb 4** Local Church Budget
- Feb 11** Adventist Television Ministries
- Feb 18** Local Church Budget
- Feb 25** Local Conference Advance

### Special Days

- Feb 4-25** Black History Month
- Feb 5-11** Christian Home and Marriage Week
- Feb 18** Health Ministries Sabbath

## 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](http://www.battlecreektabernacle.com).

**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 has traveled extensively throughout the U.S., singing at churches, camp meetings, youth rallies and other Christian fellowship gatherings. Houghtaling also can be seen on Three Angels Broadcasting Network.

**Apr. 14, 7:30 p.m., Sandi Patty, Christian singer.** Admission charged. As one of the most highly-acclaimed performers of our time and the most awarded female vocalist in contemporary Christian music history, Patti has received five Grammy Awards, four Billboard Music Awards, three platinum records, five gold records and 11 million units sold.

**Marriage Commitment Retreat** is held **Mar. 9-11** at beautiful Camp Au Sable, in Grayling, Mich. The purpose of this weekend is for you and your spouse to get away and take some time to reconnect with each other and God. There are five seminar sessions throughout the weekend, each one with topics designed to help strengthen your marriage. We provide lots of time for enjoying the natural beauty of the camp, and fellowshiping with

other couples as you eat and worship together. Activities are planned for Sat. night, and then a special marriage recommitment service Sun. morning. This is a weekend you won't want to miss. Speakers this year will be Pastor Buddy and Carmen Griffith. To register, or for more information, contact Alyce at 517-316-1543 or [ablackmer@misda.org](mailto:ablackmer@misda.org).

## North American Division

**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@college.edu](mailto:alumni@college.edu).

**Washington Adventist University** celebrates Alumni Weekend, **Apr. 13-15**. Join us for the grand opening of the Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center, Apr. 14, at 8:00 p.m. Visit [www.wau.edu/alumni](http://www.wau.edu/alumni) for a list of events and activities or call 301-891-4133 for more information.

**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 [Isaalumni@lsak12.com](mailto:Isaalumni@lsak12.com); or visit [www.lsak12.com/alumni.htm](http://www.lsak12.com/alumni.htm).

# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Feb 3	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24	Mar 2	Mar 9
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:01	6:10	6:18	6:27	6:37	6:45
Chicago, Ill.	5:05	5:14	5:23	5:32	5:43	5:50
Detroit, Mich.	5:46	5:55	6:04	6:13	6:23	6:32
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:04	6:13	6:21	6:29	6:38	6:46
La Crosse, Wis.	5:16	5:25	5:35	5:44	5:55	6:04
Lansing, Mich.	5:52	6:01	6:10	6:19	6:29	6:38
Madison, Wis.	5:10	5:19	5:29	5:38	5:49	5:57
Springfield, Ill.	5:18	5:26	5:35	5:43	5:52	5:59



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

## Obituaries

**AUSTIN SR., Dennis J.**, age 70; born Nov. 14, 1940, in Flint Twp., Mich.; died Oct. 13, 2011, in Fenton, Mich. He was a member of the First Flint Church.

Survivors include his sons, Dennis Jr. and Phillip; daughters, Stacy Gruber and Angelia Austin; brothers, Ed, Doug, Jerry and Steve; sisters, Caroline Estep, Donna Buning and Veralyn Matney; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Jeff Akenberger, and interment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

**DUDGEON, Marcia J.**, age 51; born Oct. 1, 1959, in Glens Falls, N.Y.; died Sept. 3, 2011, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her father, William E.; brother, William E.; and sister, Sharon J. Dudgeon.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Sharon Terrell, and inurnment was in Holland (Mass.) Cemetery.

**DYER, Mercedes D. (Habenicht)**, age 94; born July 8, 1917, in Argentina; died Sept. 30, 2011, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her stepsons, Bill and Dennis Dyer; and 12 step-grandchildren.

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

**HARRIS, Janet (McGuire)**, age 63; born Dec. 2, 1947, in Kokomo, Ind.; died Oct. 16, 2011, in Galveston, Ind. She was a member of the Kokomo Church.

Survivors include her husband, Richard; sons, Andrew and William; daughter, Ann Miller; brothers, Fred and Michael McGuire; stepsister, Sandra Brown; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Blake Hall, and interment was in Albright Cemetery, Kokomo.

**HAUG, Kenneth L.**, age 86; born Nov. 28, 1924, in Quinnesec, Mich.; died Aug. 3, 2011, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Dolores I. (Miresse); son, Daniel J.; daughter, Rebecca L. May; sister, Phyllis D. Strohl; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Dwight K. Nelson, Esther Knott and Chester Damron, with private inurnment in Michigan Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Flat Rock, Mich.

**HOSKINS, Geraldine J. (Shumway) Kittle**, age 87; born Feb. 2, 1924, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died Oct. 12, 2011, in Perrysville, Ind. She was a member of the Danville (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Paul Kittle; stepdaughters, Patsy Holbaugh and Ann Van Leer; and her large, extended Hoskins family.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Raymond J. Plummer, and interment was in Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery, Danville.

**KING, Dorothy L. (Clayton)**, age 94; born Nov. 6, 1916, in Alton, Ill.; died Sept. 19, 2011, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, William C.; daughter, Cecilia F. King; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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

**KINNEY, Ann F. (Moore) Root**, age 95; born Jan. 6, 1916, in Nashville, Tenn.; died Oct. 1, 2011, in Jackson, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, James Root; daughters, Rosalyn Berlin, Rhonda Root and Rhonna Brahman; sister, Alice Davis; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

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

**KUPFERSCHMID, Gertrude A. (Clapp)**, age 86; born Nov. 18, 1924, in Kankakee, Ill.; died June 22, 2011, in Peoria, Ill. She was a member of the Peoria Knoxville Avenue Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Joyce E. Smith; five grandchildren; one step-grandchild; seven great-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Clarence Small, and interment was in Swan Lake Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Peoria.

**LARSON, Richard C.**, age 91; born Nov. 9, 1919, in St. Joseph, Mich.; died Oct. 18, 2011, in College Place, Wash. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his sons, Richard C. Jr., Donald D., David N. and Robert E.; brother, Frank; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Inurnment was in Wayne Twp. Cemetery, Glenwood, Mich.

**ORRISON, Richard "Buzz" T.**, age 78; born May 29, 1933, in Takoma Park, Md.; died Sept. 7, 2011, in Benton Harbor, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon L. (Porter); sons, Richard T. Jr., Robert T. and Ryan T.; sisters, Jean E. Trunnell and Lauretta K. Lutz; and six grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Dwight K. Nelson, with private inurnment in Oakwood Cemetery, Falls Church, Va.

**OSWALD, Virginia E. (Green)**, age 92; born Jan. 5, 1919, in College Place, Wash.; died Sept. 17, 2011, in Bridgman, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Jerry D.; daughter, Karen Nelson; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Glenn Russell, with private inurnment, Panama City, Fla.

**ROBINSON, Robert**, age 84; born Jan. 22, 1927, in Denver, Colo.; died Oct. 13, 2011, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Martha (Hlad); son, Stephen; daughter, Karolee Robinson; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial visitation services were conducted, with private inurnment, Niles.

**SCHROEDER, Esther D. (Crist)**, age 81; born Mar. 4, 1929, in Jim Falls, Wis.; died Sept. 1, 2010, in Arpin, Wis. She was a member of the Marshfield (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Walter; son, Gary; daughter, Linda Skilton; brother, Everett Crist; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Armando Camacho, and inurnment was in Bethel Cemetery, Arpin.

**SMITH, Steven G.**, age 66; born Dec. 17, 1944, in Peoria, Ill.; died May 23, 2011, in Peoria. He was a member of the Peoria Knoxville Avenue Church.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce E. (Kupferschmid); daughters, Debra L. Smith and Lisa A. Macri; brother, Gerald L.; sister, Mary Schierer; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Donald Lewis and Clarence Small, and interment was in Swan Lake Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Peoria.

**SYMONDS, David L.**, age 85; born Apr. 24, 1926, in Pine Ridge, Mich.; died June 8, 2011, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Myrtie (Samples); daughter, Tammie Riess; brother, Clifton; sister, Lila Symonds; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bruce Hayward, and interment was in North Shore Memory Gardens Cemetery, Coloma, Mich.

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](http://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](http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org).

## For Sale

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## Vacation/Travel Opportunities

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**SUMMER GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR,** June 22-July 5, 2012, with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! For more information, call or fax 269-471-5172, or email [gctours@mac.com](mailto:gctours@mac.com).

## Miscellaneous

**WANTED TO BUY 1-10,000 AND FOR SALE:** Used Adventist books, cookbooks, songbooks, school books, old catalogs of Adventist books, Uncle Dan and Aunt Sue tapes, Sabbath games. For more information, call John at 269-781-6379.

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# NAD ACS Convention

March 22-25, 2012



## Training Tracks



**Community Services**  
Sung Kwon, Presenter



**Disaster Response**  
Joe Watts, Presenter



**Tutoring & Mentoring**  
Sandra Brown, Presenter



**Elder Care**  
Marilyn Renk, Presenter



**Crisis Care**  
Steve Willsey, Presenter



**YES-Youth Empowered to Serve**  
Justin Vibbard, Presenter

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**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY/ALLIED HEALTH, FALL 2012:** Prefer biology Ph.D. teaching upper and lower division classes, and has a strong interest in origins. Desire Adventist scientist holding short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate

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## PARTNERSHIP with GOD

### Spiritual Predators

BY GARY BURNS



As a natural transition from active lay-ministry, I responded to God's call to become a pastor ten years after college. I was not prepared for all the issues that pastors have to face. Within just a few months, I was surprised at the necessity to start a folder in my ministry file labeled "WOLVES." I was starting to sense why the Bible uses the shepherd metaphor to describe spiritual leadership.

Before Paul left Ephesus, he said, "savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30 NIV).

There is something about our sheepish nature that makes us susceptible to spiritual predators — individuals who "distort the truth" for the purpose of

creating their own following and establish their own "kingdom." And true to their deceptive form, they come in sheep's clothing "even from [our] own number."

Spiritual predators gain money and power by planting seeds of doubt, often working independently and without the support of church leadership. They find eager audiences through sensational reports, claiming some personal messianic role to "save" their hearers from a supposed conspiracy or impending doom. Fear is often the primary motivator, and financial support is an objective.

Those in partnership with God have a deep, personal, abiding relationship with Him. They know His voice, stay with the flock and reject the voice of the predator (see John 10).

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

## Beautiful Feet

BY JENNIFER CALHOUN

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!' — Isaiah 52:7 NIV*

**H**ave you ever thought of feet as beautiful? Not the cute little soft feet of a newborn; I mean grown-up feet like yours and mine. When I think of the adjective “beautiful,” “feet” is not usually the first noun that jumps to mind; but a few months ago, the Lord opened my eyes to the beauty of feet that Isaiah understood when he was writing Chapter 52.

During summer 2011, I spent ten weeks, 40 hours a week, carrying Christian books door-to-door as a student literature evangelist. Because the weather was hot, I wore flip flops or sandals as I trekked through miles of neighborhoods and country roads in Michigan with a heavy bag of books slung across my shoulder.

At the end of each day, I returned to the school where our canvassing group was hosted and headed to the bathroom to try to remove eight hours of dust and dirt from my feet before putting them into my sleeping bag for the night. As I lathered my feet with soap and rinsed them with warm water, my mind ran through the experiences I'd had that day and reviewed each person I'd encountered. Some were polite, and some not so polite. Some knew Jesus, and some didn't. Some were experiencing trauma and pain in their lives that I couldn't even imagine, and others seemed to have smooth sailing. Some refused my books; some accepted, having a genuine interest in spiritual things or just wanting to help a student get to school. But all of them had



an opportunity to come to know Christ that day. All of them received a chance to know the truth that sets us free. All of a sudden, my dirty, tired feet began to look pretty beautiful.

What did Jesus' feet look like at the end of a long day of ministry 2,000 years ago? I'm sure they were tired and dusty and needed to be washed before He could go to bed. But, I'm sure, to Jesus those feet were beautiful because they carried Him about on His missions of mercy, allowing Him to show the love of His Father to a world of lost sinners.

How are your feet looking today? Do they carry you in the footsteps of Jesus and take you to share the Good News of His Gospel message? If so, they are beautiful.

“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:15 KJV)

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Jennifer Calhoun, 20, is a sophomore at Andrews University where she is majoring in nursing. When not at school, she resides in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and is a member of the Williamsport SDA Church.

## God's Blessings in the Mission Field

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

“If you’ve never gone on a mission trip, it’s something you need to experience,” says Katie Saylor. “When you put yourself out there for God, you will be blessed!” A senior at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Katie already has a long resumé of mission trips and leadership roles. She claims mission work is her passion and has shown her God’s power time and time again.



Aspen Studio

Katie Saylor

On her first mission trip to Armenia four years ago, Katie and a group of FLAG (Fun Learning About God) Camp staff taught English to elementary and high school students. She became fast friends with the locals, and was inspired by their generosity and humble lifestyles. The experience sparked Katie’s passion for missions.

Katie participated in three other trips to Ecuador and Mexico. At these locations, she built churches, taught vacation Bible schools and performed outreach.

At her academy, Katie serves as girls’ programs director of the Aerokhanas gymnastics team. She helps organize team tours as well as their drug-free programming. Katie is also a musician for the team’s play about the life of Christ.

Last school year, when the team was planning a Week of Prayer at Spring Valley Academy, Katie was asked to share her testimony. “I was uncomfortable with the idea; but for some reason, I said ‘yes,’” she says.

“When I began talking, I was scared that people wouldn’t listen. But they actually cared! When I was done, 35 students stood up to give testimonies.” Katie claims the Holy Spirit was there that night as students opened their hearts to God and asked for forgiveness. Prayer circles formed, and many made decisions for baptism.

“It was so incredible,” remembers Katie. “We made lifelong friends because we were willing to step out. It was such a blessing to see the Holy Spirit work like that.”

Katie’s gymnastics team is in the middle of their touring season, which includes doing a Week of Prayer at Maplewood Academy in Minnesota. She also looks forward to the summer when she will work as a construction staff at a mission site in Nicaragua.

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

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