

Lake Union
HERALD

JUNE 2012

**TRANSFORMING
GRACE**

We Are God's Handiwork

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

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In this issue...

The incredible hope we have as followers of the resurrected Christ is His power to save; not just to grant us salvation, but to save us from ourselves. The power of the resurrected Christ is a transforming power that is freely given to those who ask. The indescribable and incredible gift is that we can become like Him. It is His transforming power that works in us to change our desires and our actions. Our Creator is even now recreating His image in us who choose to give Him all.

This issue contains a special pull-out called "Conexiones Extra," designed especially for our Spanish-speaking members, the fastest-growing segment of our church. A full, online English translation of *Conexiones Extra* is available at <http://lakeunionherald.org>.

Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor



Features...

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Seeking Spiritual Unity

We belong to a church that I believe, with all my heart, is a prophetic church, called to bring the message of a loving, saving God to a dying world. This worldwide movement of many cultures and nationalities enjoys a unity that is simply a miracle. Variations of theology, ideologies, social issues, worship styles and, of course, music have always pulled at that unity.

The discussion of women in ministry and, more specifically, the ordination of women pastors, has been with us for several decades. In the past two years, the North American and Trans-European Divisions of Seventh-day Adventists have considered the strong potential of women taking presidential leadership roles in conferences. In the past few months, several unions and one conference have voted actions supportive of the ordination of women and, to date, one union has called a special constituency meeting with the intent to ordain women.

Most will agree the issue has had a polarizing effect. A few churches have split, and some members, from both sides of this issue, have expressed disappointment about our church's current and/or potential future stand. While some members are unsure about women's ordination, others feel very passionate that women should or should not be ordained. Many express that the opposite viewpoint is spiritually, biblically and morally wrong. Interestingly, this division is not along simple liberal/conservative, age or cultural populations. Adventist men and women from almost every group are on both sides of the issue.

The New Testament Church found unity during a contentious time, and early Adventist believers found unity although they came from a variety of religious traditions and in the wake of the Great Disappointment. They were unified in Christ and the hope of His soon return. They were unified in purpose to seek, save and serve God's lost children. Importantly, they experienced unity of the Spirit through corporate prayer and deep study of Scripture.

Before us is a wonderful opportunity for men and women from all cultures — whether conservative, progressive or liberal, and everyone in between — to collectively seek God in a way that opens our hearts to the power and divine guiding of the Holy Spirit.

Since the General Conference has voted an action to invite the world field to study the theology of ordination, our Lake Union officers and leaderships of the local conferences plan to begin exploring this topic by coming together in diligent prayer and the study of God's Word, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit regarding these issues and principles.

It is likely we will individually enter into this process with pre-formed ideas, but we are committed to respectfully understand each other's convictions as we undertake this journey. We will search the Scriptures with a desire to see things from God's perspective rather than our own. Our prayer is that our journey together will bear the fruit of unity like that of the upper room described in Acts 1 and 2. Ideally, we will arrive at a shared conclusion; but, more importantly, even if we are not able to fully agree, we will remain united in mission for God's cause here in the Lake Union.

As we begin the first step of this spiritual process for the Lake Union, please join us in prayer that God will not only guide the leadership of the Lake Union Conference but also the members throughout our territory and around the world.



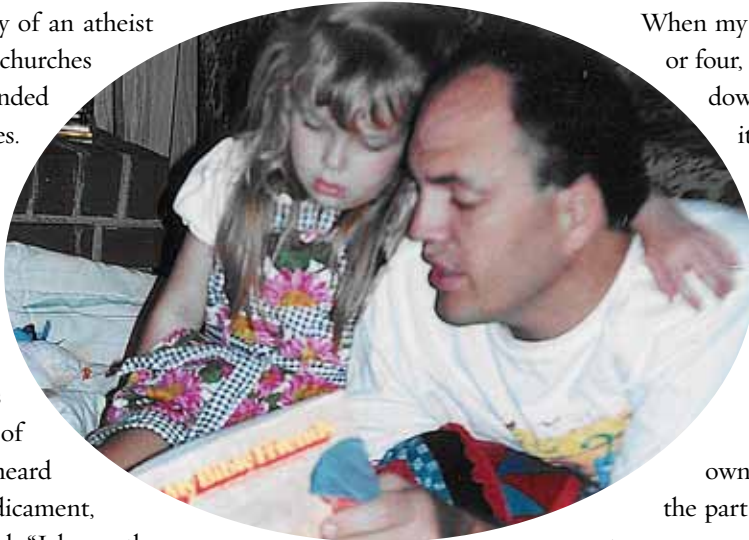
The Gift of Transforming Grace

BY ROBERT OVERSTREET

I love to give gifts. I'm okay with receiving them, but I *love* to give them. A gift is something acquired without compensation. The Bible is full of gifts. One of my favorites is God's gift of grace. Referring to Proverbs 3:34, James asks, "Or do you think the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?' But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'" (James 4:5, 6 NKJV).

I recently read a story of an atheist who sued the pastors of churches in his town. He was offended by their nativity scenes. When it came time for his day in court, it was announced that the suit was dropped. The man who brought the suit was losing his sight and needed all his funds to pay for surgery. One of the church members heard about this man's predicament, called her pastor, and said, "I know the man dropped the lawsuit, but would it be okay if we helped him with his medical bills?" The churches banded together to provide assistance to the man who had wanted to sue them. He was humbled to receive a gift of transforming grace. Have you received the gift of transforming grace in your life?

Another gift is the gift of peace that comes through prayer. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6, 7 NKJV).



When my oldest daughter was three or four, she ran to the shelf, pulled down the book with her favorite story, and said, "Daddy, read the story about Jesus and the storm!" She climbed up into my lap, opened the pages to the pictures of Jesus and the storm, and said, "Hurry, hurry! Read the story!"

I'd tell the story in my own words; and when I got to the part where I said, "And then a storm came up..." her eyes got real big.

"But, Laura, this wasn't just a regular storm..."

She'd grab my arm and ask, "Daddy, what kind of storm?"

"This was a scary storm. The wind was blowing, the waves were high, and the boat was rocking back and forth." The more I described the storm, the tighter her little hands tried to grip my arm, and the closer she snuggled in.

"Go ahead and say it, Daddy. Say it!" she would plead. "Please say it!"

"Then, Jesus stood up and said, 'Peace, be still.'" As I said, "Peace," the frantic look on her face melted, and she'd lay her head on my shoulder. She experienced the gift of peace. Have you?

A few years ago at the end of a very difficult school year, my wife, Tammy, encouraged me to get a hobby. I liked to golf, but it was too expensive. So, I thought, *Maybe a model airplane...* It was close to Father's Day when we walked into a toy store, and my eyes saw this huge box. I walked over and stood there imagining the fun I would have with the model airplane inside, then tapped the box with my foot and gave my wife the wink. Sure enough, on Father's Day, my girls presented me with the gift. They were so excited.

"Daddy, do you like it?"

"Oh, yes!" I exclaimed as we opened the box and tossed it and the directions aside. We had the plane put together in 45 minutes, and then carried it out to our long driveway that ran through the large horse farm where we rented. I set the plane on the "runway" and said, "Laura, hold the plane while I test the throttle."

So, Laura held the plane. At the moment I pulled back on the throttle, the motor began to make some noise as the propeller blew wind in her face. Laura looked back at me with those "scary-storm" eyes, and I said reassuringly, "It will be okay, just hold the plane."

Moments later, we set the plane down in the middle of the driveway and stepped back. I let Laura guide my hand as we pulled back on the joystick and watched the airplane scream down the long runway. As the plane took off, I stood up — amazed. I was in control of my gift! I don't know how much time passed until I noticed my daughter had left my side. I was mesmerized by the control I had of my gift. My thoughts were interrupted by Tammy's call from the house, "Are you ready?"

I looked up to see Tammy and our little girls standing on the porch. Gifts. "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord" (Psalm 127:3 NKJV). What incredible gifts are our children!

As a 14-year-old teenager, full of anger and total disrespect for most adults, I began my journey at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. It was there where I met teachers like Wally Fox and LeClaire Litchfield. These teachers went out of their way to love me, in spite of who I was and what I said. For most of my freshman, sophomore and junior years, I chose to be angry and disrespect anyone with authority. I had no problem "telling off" any adult who crossed my path; that is, until one Friday night when LeClaire Litchfield, one who I probably disrespected the most, stood before the student body at an agape feast.

"Do you like who you are?" he asked. "Do you like what you see when you look in the mirror? If you don't, you can change it now. Just ask Jesus into your heart, and He will make the change." Right then I chose to change. I no longer wanted to be the angry, disrespectful, belligerent teenager anymore, and I asked Jesus to come into my life and make the change. And He did!

"I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them" (Ezekiel 11:19, 20 NKJV).

The gift of a new heart and a new spirit comes as the result of receiving the best gift of all — Jesus Christ. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (II Corinthians 9:15 NIV).

So, I'm standing there on the "runway," thinking, *I have time for one more loop around the pasture.* I decided to take it higher and make the loop wider before bringing it in for a landing. When I pushed the joystick to the left to bring it back home, nothing happened. I shook the remote. I banged it on my leg and tried it again. Nothing. I tried walking forward to get closer. No response. I watched as the plane continued on a path toward the highest tree at the other end of the pasture.

When I arrived at the base of the tree, I could see just a glimpse of the wing at the top of the tree. I could hear the motor still buzzing and the propeller beating against the leaves.

As I stood there, helpless to do anything, I thought, *What did I do wrong?* I was so disappointed. I walked back to the house. In the living room, I saw the box, the Styrofoam mold and the directions. I picked up the directions and read the notice: "Charge the plane at least two hours prior to use."

Each and every young person in your churches and schools is a gift God has given to you as parents, grandparents and church members. And they have come with directions, an instruction manual — God's Word. We are to be the examples Jesus called us to be, and the Bible is where we learn how to be better parents, better church members, better pastors and teachers. That's where we learn how to teach them, educate them and prepare them for life. I am where I am today because of my experience with Adventist teachers; people like my academy chaplain, LeClaire Litchfield, who extended to me the gift of transforming grace.

Robert Overstreet is the principal of Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Father's Day Cards

BY ABRAHAM SWAMIDASS

You may have heard or read that, in the reproduction process, the father provides the child's identity. The female contributes two X chromosomes; the male contributes an X and a Y chromosome. If the father gives the male an X, the child will be a baby girl; if he gives a Y, the baby will be a boy.

Fathers have incredible influence on their children and play a critical role in their development. Children need fathers who love and care for them on a consistent basis. The latest research indicates that fathers who are actively involved in raising their children can make a positive and lasting difference in their lives. In contrast, this same research reveals a number of potentially negative outcomes for children whose fathers are not involved.

Consider the implication of this story: A prison volunteer got the idea that the prisoners might like to send Mother's Day cards to their moms. So she wrote to a greeting card company to ask if they would donate some cards, to which they responded graciously and generously. And, sure enough, those men in prison couldn't wait to take those cards! The demand was overwhelming! The volunteer ran out of cards before she ran out of sons who wanted to send expressions of love to their mothers.

Well, Father's Day comes just one month after Mother's Day, so the woman figured the initiative was such a success for Mother's Day that she would do the same thing for Father's Day. She contacted the card company; and, once again, they honored her request. The woman let the prisoners know that free Father's Day cards were available, then waited for the men to rush in and get them. Do you



know how many of those felons, many with a history of violence, asked for a card this time? Not one. Not a single prisoner wanted to express love to his dad. And that's when the woman learned that such men usually carry a deep resentment, even hatred, toward their fathers, many of whom were absent from their sons.

Children with active fathers are less likely to commit juvenile crimes than children with inactive fathers. The chances that a child will commit crimes as an adult also diminish when he grows up with an actively-involved father.

You are the model in whose image your children will be shaped in their most formative years. So take your children to church, don't send them. Pray for them and pray with them. Attend their ball games, piano recitals or whatever activities in which they may be involved as often as possible. Know who their friends are. Children are looking for direction and guidance. When that young man comes over to take your daughter out on a date, be the first one at the door. Let him know there's a man in the house watching over that young lady.

Fathers, we have to fight for our children. If we will fight for them, God will fight with us.

Abraham Swamidass, D.Min., is the family ministries coordinator for the Wisconsin Conference.

Trans fat increases the risk of heart disease and diabetes.

Tracking the Trans Fat

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Fries and donuts supply an excess of trans fat.

What do doughnuts, pizza, pie crusts, popcorn, crackers, French fries, potato chips and various bakery products have in common? These all contain partially-hydrogenated vegetable oils with substantial levels of trans fatty acids. Forty percent of the trans fat in our diet originates from cakes, cookies, crackers, pies and breads; 21 percent of the total trans fat comes from shortenings and hard margarines.

The trans fatty acid content of a food is now listed on the food label, making it easier to select healthy food choices. The American Heart Association recommends that trans fats be limited to one percent of our daily calories, for a total of 2 grams per day. Typically, the average American consumes about three times that amount. A medium serving of fries supplies 8 grams of trans fat, a doughnut has 5 grams, while a Danish pastry and a small bag of potato chips each has 3 grams.

In 2008, New York City banned trans fats in all their restaurants, while Denmark and Switzerland have placed strict limits on trans fats. While restaurants and food manufacturers are making progress, trans fats are still prevalent in many foods.

Why all this concern about avoiding trans fat? Trans fat is known to raise your “bad” LDL cholesterol levels and lower your “good” HDL cholesterol levels, thereby increasing your risk of heart disease. For every two percent of energy from trans fat that replaces saturated or unsaturated fat in the diet, there is a 20–30 percent higher risk of heart attack. The use of trans fat produces proinflammatory effects such as increased interleukin-6, C-reactive protein and endothelial dysfunction, all of which negate cardiovascular health. Trans fat may also worsen insulin sensitivity, and increase the risk of insulin resistance and diabetes.



Experimental animals fed trans fat show a greater tendency to experience a gain in body weight. A new study provides evidence linking intake of trans fat with behavioral irritability and aggression.

If trans fat is so unhealthy, why do food manufacturers use hydrogenated vegetable oils? They allow food products to stay fresh on shelves longer. The margarines that are liquid or very soft at room temperature no longer contain trans fat. Margarines now contain modified palm oil to provide the desired properties. Soft tub margarines typically contain only one-third as much saturated fat as butter. One should, however, limit the use of the hard stick margarines since they may contain significant levels of trans fat.

The Food and Drug Administration allows food products containing less than one-half of a gram of trans fat to state on the label that the product contains zero grams of trans fat. This labeling can be misleading, since multiple servings of these foods could enable one to easily exceed the daily recommended limit for trans fat intake. In addition, some foods that claim zero trans fat may actually contain high levels of saturated fat. On the other hand, some foods, such as glazed doughnuts and pizza, may contain substantial amounts of both trans fat and saturated fat.

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



PRESENT TRUTH

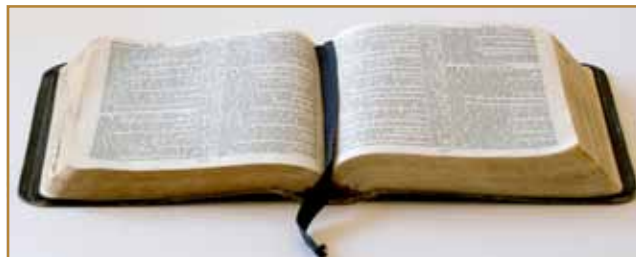
Following the Lamb wherever He goes

Unsettling Times

BY THE EDITORS

The first century church went through a number of transitions as it began to apply the teachings of Jesus to a culture that was expanding beyond Judaism. It was an exciting time as well as an unsettling time as some old practices were let go and new practices put in place. Some, however, were not able to receive the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ because, as He described them, they were “old garments” and “old wine skins” (see Matthew 9, Mark 2 and Luke 5). To them, the gospel was a threat that would tear them up and burst them at the seams. They saw that this new teaching would threaten what they had come to know as Judaism. Ultimately, they concluded it would be better for Jesus to die than for their whole nation to perish (see John 11:49–51). Others welcomed the message recorded in Isaiah, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19).

The early advent believers faced similar challenges. By accepting the message of the second coming of Christ as taught by William Miller, many were asked to leave their churches, including Ellen White and her family. Following the Great Disappointment of October 22, 1844, the advent believers went through a trying time. Ellen reflected on their experience in a talk she gave at a conference on May 16, 1905.



nor did she know where she could find the answers. She may not be alone. So, we are suggesting that we get back to that “old-time religion,” or could we say, that “old-time discipline” of meeting together to study and pray

“After the passing of the time in 1844 we searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with the brethren, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power.”¹

The circumstances of today also are unsettling. Many voices proclaim conflicting beliefs to many who, admittedly, do not know what they believe or why. Recently, an individual contacted the *Herald* with a story of how her faith had been challenged. She knew she did not believe what another person was trying to teach her, but she didn’t know why,

earnestly, seeking the light that shines from God’s Word.

This column is designed to promote searching the Scriptures on current topics — in community, through prayer. Invite others to join you in a prayerful response to these thoughts:

- Do I depend on others to define and defend my beliefs?
- Am I willing to allow the Holy Spirit to expand my thinking and broaden my beliefs as He did for Jesus’ disciples?
- Is there a danger in revisiting long-held beliefs and searching the Scriptures anew for greater depth and understanding?
- To what degree do I let my own cultural bias influence my interpretation of Scripture, and how can I begin to see things from God’s perspective rather than my own?

The Lake Union Herald editors

1. *The Review and Herald*, May 25, 1905.

Getting What We Ask For

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him. — 1 John 5:14, 15 NIV

Imagine what it would be like to approach God in prayer and to receive from Him anything and everything we asked for. I'm sure we would do a lot of asking if that were the case. Once the pattern of asking and receiving was established, we'd be bold to go back and ask for more.

Well, God doesn't promise to give us anything and everything we ask for. But He does make an astonishing promise to pray-ers that is even better. He promises to give us whatever we ask that is "according to His will."

To ask for what is according to God's will is to ask for the very things God wants for us. These are the things He knows we need, the things that are truly good for us, the riches of His grace that He wants us to have.

How do we know what is according to God's will? We look in the Bible. There God tells us what He most wants for us.

When I first understood this principle and wanted to pray in accord with God's will, the Holy Spirit took me to Romans 8:29 and reminded me that God wanted me "to be conformed to the likeness of his Son." Then I did a very simple thing. I said, "God, please conform me to the image of your Son." That was the first prayer I consciously prayed in accord with God's will. God heard me and began in me the process that answered that prayer. He's still working at it today.

After that, I found many things to ask for that were in line with God's will for me. I asked for wisdom, faith, virtue, love, joy, godliness, prayerfulness, Spirit-filledness and much more. I know God heard those prayers. I began to see the difference it made in me. What I usually observed was a definite but gradual change in the right direction.

If you want to grow spiritually and claim the riches God has for you, simply ask for those things in accord with God's will. He will hear, and you will receive what you ask of Him. God has promised to give what you ask for in accord with His will.

And if what you ask for happens to be outside of God's

will and you don't receive it, thank God! What's outside of His will isn't good for you anyway.

Reflect

Think about the patterns you practice in prayer. Are you used to approaching God with confidence that He will hear and respond, or do you pray just hoping something will happen?

What things can you ask God for right now that you know are in line with His will for you?

Are you so confident that you "know that [you] have" what you have asked of God and are watching for the answer?

Pray

Praise God for the wisdom by which He knows what is best for you, and for the power to do what He promises.

Confess if you find that, because of weakness in your prayers, you have failed to claim the riches God has promised you.

Ask God for spiritual riches that you know are "according to His will" for your life.

Thank God for what He will give even before you actually receive it. If you can honestly do this, it's a sure sign that you really trust God to deliver on His promise.

Act

Add to your petitionary prayers — if you haven't done so already — the most important things that you think God wants to give you. Be ready to pray for those things long-term.

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.

The Gift of Grace

BY JESSICA WEBSTER

I was dreading clinicals. They were early, I was tired, and I didn't feel prepared. It had been a hard week for me. I had four tests that week and was physically drained. The nursing program was beginning to overwhelm me, and I was questioning whether or not I was supposed to be doing this.

I had a little, old lady assigned to me as a patient that morning. She was in her 90s and had a pretty complicated diagnosis. My job for this particular clinical rotation was to get her health history, take her vital signs and do a head-to-toe assessment. I washed my hands before entering her room. Before I knocked on her door, I put on a fake smile to hide my discouragement and fatigue. When I knocked on the door, I heard a quiet, "Come on in."

I opened the door and took a good first look. She was skin and bones, pale and disheveled. Her bed was rumpled and her thinning hair was standing on end, but her eyes were bright. I introduced myself and began my well-rehearsed, "I'm a nursing student" speech. She kindly let me assess her and take vital signs. She silently watched me. I normally would have made small talk to make things less awkward, but nothing seemed to come to mind. I was wallowing in my own self-pity.

I couldn't focus on her when I was feeling so sorry for myself. I had to take her blood pressure two times, because I didn't get it right the first time. I dropped my papers on the ground. On top of that, I knocked her glass of water off the table, spilling it everywhere and making a mess. I couldn't seem to do anything right. Trying to hold back tears, I cleaned up the mess and continued.

After my assessment, it was time to get her health history. I asked the first question, and waited for an answer. Some time passed and, to my surprise, she had a different agenda. She ignored my question altogether and burst into song: "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound..."



At a moment of discouragement, God removed Jessica Webster's doubts about her career choice and filled her with peace. She recently celebrated completion of an associate degree in nursing.

I was caught off-guard as she continued with her slow, Southern drawl: "Was blind, but now I see."

She ended, and just sat there smiling at me. I didn't know what to do. After awhile, she spoke. "Honey girl, you're going to make a great nurse." I was stunned. *How did she know?* Tears filled my eyes, and she grabbed my hand and patted it. She started humming the same tune as she caressed my hand.

"Sing with me," she said as she patted the bed beside her. She started "Amazing Grace" again as I moved to sit next to her on the bed. I couldn't help but smile. My whole attitude changed as she and I sang

together of God's amazing grace. God used this sweet, little lady to turn my frown upside down. I know she didn't feel good, but I also know she heard the voice of the Holy Spirit that morning.

God knew exactly what I needed to hear, and gave me hope in the most unexpected way through a willing spirit. He reassured me that this was where I needed to be. I was supposed to be a nurse. He removed my doubts and filled me with peace.

We ended our song, and she opened her arms to me. I hugged her frail body and thanked God for this darling lady who had given me the gift of hope.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13 NIV).

Jessica Webster is a member of the Cedar Lake Church in Michigan. She is working as program director at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Michigan. She just completed her associate degree in nursing at Southern Adventist University.



Convocación histórica de adiestramiento en Indiana

POR CARMELO MERCADO

En toda iglesia, los miembros deben ser adiestrados, de tal manera que dediquen tiempo a ganar almas para Cristo. ¿Cómo puede decirse de la iglesia: “Vosotros sois la luz del mundo”, a menos que sus miembros estén realmente impartiendo luz? Despierten y comprendan su deber los que están encargados del rebaño de Cristo, y pongan a muchas almas a trabajar. — Servicio cristiano, p. 78

En el mes de abril de este año tuve el privilegio de asistir a una gran convocación que se llevó a cabo en el gimnasio de la academia adventista en el estado de Indiana. El propósito de esta convocación era preparar y animar a los miembros de las iglesias en Indiana para que pudieran efectivamente ganar almas para Cristo. Cientos de personas asistieron al evento que duró dos días. El instructor invitado para esta ocasión fue el renombrado pastor y evangelista Alejandro Bullón. Fue realmente impactante ver la manera en que los hermanos de Indiana, tanto hispanos como de habla inglesa, escuchaban con entusiasmo al pastor Bullón enseñar los principios bíblicos de cómo conducir a una persona a Cristo.

Conociendo la historia del desarrollo de la obra hispana en el estado de Indiana, me quedé maravillado de cómo ha bendecido el Señor los esfuerzos de evangelismo. Recuerdo cuando el pastor Rubén Rivera, sintiendo el llamado de Dios, vino a la ciudad de Indianápolis en el año 1992 para evangelizar a la población hispana, que en esa época comenzaba a crecer en la ciudad. El pastor Rivera llegó a reunir a doce hermanos para orar y trabajar para Cristo. Ya han pasado veinte años, y ahora por la gracia de Dios, hay dieciocho congregaciones hispanas y 1,274 miembros en el estado.

La Asociación General ha tomado una iniciativa especial con el propósito de alcanzar a las multitudes en las grandes ciudades del mundo. Las cinco asociaciones de la Unión del Lago han aceptado el desafío y han comenzado a implementar sus estrategias en distintos contextos. Al haber visitado muchas de las ciudades e iglesias en nuestra Unión veo que tenemos un gran desafío por delante. Pero al repasar la historia de la obra hispana en Indiana y al escuchar al pastor Bullón, me doy cuenta que la solución es relativamente



Hermanos en Indiana asisten al entrenamiento laico presentado por el pastor Alejandro Bullón.

simple: enseñar amor y compasión hacia los demás. Uno de mis relatos favoritos en la Biblia es el encuentro que Jesús tuvo con la mujer samaritana. Al leer el relato en el libro de Juan, capítulo 4, uno comprende que lo que impactó a la mujer fue que a pesar de que Jesús

conocía su pasado, él le demostró un amor supremo, y fue ese amor lo que la impresionó de tal manera que ella quiso traer otros a Cristo. La siguiente cita de Elena de White ilumina muy bien este punto: “Un espíritu bondadoso y un trato benigno y persuasivo, pueden salvar a los perdidos y cubrir multitud de pecados. ...Dejad que Cristo se manifieste diariamente en vosotros, y él revelará en vosotros la energía creadora de su palabra, una influencia amable, persuasiva, y a la vez poderosa para restaurar en otras almas la perfección del Señor nuestro Dios” (*Servicio cristiano*, p. 298).

Mi oración es que el Señor nos ayude a ganar a otros por medio del amor.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

Transformed By Grace

BY SERENA HUDSON

It was a time in my life that is hard to share, a time filled with uncertainties and selfishness. Satan would rather I felt shameful about my experience and suppress it. He wants to fill me with doubt and keep my story from being told. Why would he do this? Because my story is a story about how he failed. It tells the truth of God's love and sheds a light on the lies Satan has so many people believing. Hiding those years and what happened in them would also hide the truth of God's mercy and grace for me. Those years of my life contain the stories of my faith, and I choose to rejoice in them.

The seed of salvation was planted in my heart at a young age. I cannot remember the time I first learned about God, because He was always a part of my life. My parents were both baptized in the church and active members. We attended every Sabbath and participated in church activities. We were a happy, little Christian family.

When I was in my early teens, my parents had a struggle with our church and stopped attending. They did, however, let me go to an Adventist boarding academy. It was in my teen years there when my struggle for faith began.

It all started my sophomore year after I was baptized. When I finished my baptismal studies, I was eager to be baptized. It was a symbol of my love and devotion to Christ, and my announcement to the world that I accepted Him as my Savior. My friends and family joined in the celebration. It was a time filled with joy, but the enemy was not happy with my declaration. In the months that followed, I was attacked with thoughts of worthlessness, hatred, greed, envy, bitterness and resentment. Eventually, those feelings led me onto a path of depression and self-destruction.

I was 16 when the attacks on my self-worth finally broke me. I tried to cut my wrists. It was superficial, but it opened a door which gave the enemy a stronger hold on me. I didn't understand why I did it, but I was aware of being driven by feelings of worthlessness, self-pity and self-condemnation. When I admitted my actions to my best friend, she told the girls' dean.

I was taken to see a psychiatrist. After talking with me for 15 minutes, the psychiatrist prescribed an anxiety medication. I remember thinking how great it would be to have a pill that would make all my bad feelings go away. I called them my "happy pills." I followed the doctor's orders and took them faithfully, hoping the pills would be the answer to all my problems, but they didn't work for me. I had trouble remembering things, and I learned, months later, they had affected my memory and increased my risk of suicide.*

Without hope, my depression grew stronger. I became withdrawn and dark, displaying my feelings with a wardrobe of black, heavy chains and accessories. I listened to dark music about suicide and hatred. It was no secret I was unhappy and angry at everything. I replaced all welcome attitudes

with warnings and walls. Comfort was a treasure I felt only with those closest to me. I was confused about who I was, and could only focus on how I felt.

My low self-esteem developed into a state of deep confusion, but I didn't know about what. I know now that confusion stemmed from conflicting beliefs of my identity. Inner voices told me I was worthless, useless, unloved and unwanted. Those feelings were so powerful, it was hard not to believe them. However, I had been born again in Christ; as His child, I knew His voice. He was telling me that those feelings were a lie. Still, it was hard to believe when there seemed to be so much evidence to the contrary.

It was around this time when I started Bible studies with our pastor. We focused on the truth of my identity. He would email me, call me or stop by work or my dorm just to give me daily Bible verses that affirmed who I was in Christ. They were my daily truths and promises. Later, they would save my life in a way I never could have imagined possible.

Even with all the wonderful things I was learning about my identity in Christ, I still struggled with depression. In fact, the more I studied and tried to follow Christ's will, the deeper the depression. In the fall of my junior year, I was admitted to the hospital for my first, real suicide attempt. I spent the next week in the psychiatric ward undergoing evaluations and participating in group therapy. I don't remember much, but I do remember it was snowing. They put me in a room with padded walls and all my belongings were taken from me. I was given something like scrubs to wear. I remember thinking I was crazy — crazy, insane crazy, and feared they would never let me out! I was afraid and alone, but they did have good cinnamon rolls.

They concluded I was just depressed, and I was released after a week. It was Christmas, and I spent the whole vacation at home sleeping. My suicide attempt was not a topic of discussion, but it was all I could think about. The fear of returning to school haunted me. Everyone knew, and I feared they would think I was crazy, too.

At the end of the break, I somehow managed to get into the routine and finish my junior year. That summer I stayed with my sister a lot. Although I had always been against drugs, I started smoking and drinking. I learned quickly that

But with Christ, I never have to be afraid, feel alone or feel helpless, because He is always with me. I know who I am. I am a child of God. My acceptance of His grace is my peace and His joy.

drinking smothered my thoughts and made me feel happy for a while. Cigarettes muted my anxieties by giving me something to do when I felt tense or stressed. Smoking made me feel like I had some control of my feelings. I put on a facade of a happy girl, but, in the months after my suicide attempt, I became a cutter. When I felt I hadn't done something right or that I hadn't lived up to the expectations of myself or others, I became filled with self-disgust and cut on my wrists as punishment.

It was good to get back to school my senior year when I was more active in school functions and participated in gymnastics, a mission trip and even attended prayer conferences, though I still struggled with depression. Just before graduation, I accepted a summer job. It started out great. I was done with high school, and had my whole life ahead of me. I remember feeling so free, but I was more of a prisoner than ever. Later that summer, I tried to commit suicide again. This time, my years of cutting gave me the confidence to cut much deeper. As I watched the blood make a pool on the floor, I thought, *Finally it's going to be over.* I was exhausted from years of fighting and trying to understand what was wrong with me. Words truly cannot explain how empty and defeated I felt at that moment. I lay down and went to sleep, thinking I would never wake up, but God sent someone to find me.

Two good friends cleaned me up and bandaged my cuts. As I sat there, letting them care for me, I remember feeling numb and very heavy. I was so overwhelmed by all the emotions I felt that they canceled each other out. I sat in silence. Then my friends started praying for me, and something very amazing happened. At that moment, I physically felt a weight lift from my shoulders. I felt a peace flow over me, and I knew I was being filled with the Holy Spirit. I felt His claim on me as He healed my heart. It was the most amazing moment of my life. I will cherish it always.

I spent the next few days praying for strength and praising God for being faithful to His promise to me. I prayed for guidance to find the right path and change my life. I stopped drinking and smoking, and didn't read or watch anything that didn't focus on God. The hardest thing was giving up some of my friends who still chose to do those things. I did not want those things in my life anymore, so I

cleaned out my lifestyle and went forward in faith. That summer was the summer of my healing.

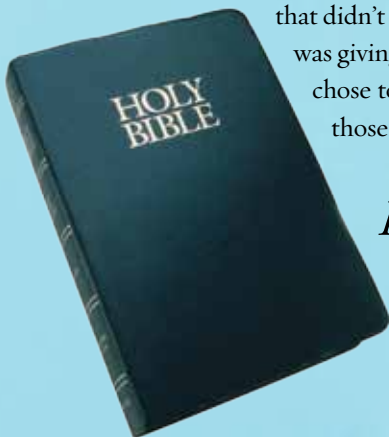
I left for college, clinging to my Bible and my newfound faith. My feelings of depression were gone and, for the first time in my adult life, I felt happy. I can't begin to explain what that was like. I was born again and I felt like a newborn, having to learn things most people already knew.

Allowing myself to be happy was something I wasn't used to. Letting go of mistakes and forgiving myself was only possible with God's grace. Accepting new friends and allowing them into my heart was challenging; I was used to shutting people out. I remember moments of pure panic and the fear that would come with it. I would run to my dorm room, grab my Bible, pray like crazy and read Psalms, my favorite book of the Bible at the time. I praised God and, by focusing on Him, my fear subsided and the panic dissipated.

I understood salvation, and my faith was strong. I didn't know there was so much more I had to learn until God showed me. My hardest struggle was yet to come. The following summer I went back to my previous job. During the first few weeks, I talked about people behind their back, told secrets I promised to keep and said things about people that were hateful and hurtful. I didn't like that I was acting this way, and decided to take it to God in prayer. I prayed simply for forgiveness, and asked God to make me loyal.

A few days later, I got into an argument with a friend. I felt angry and started to yell. In the middle of the yelling, I fell to the ground and started convulsing and screaming. I felt like I was half-conscious and separated, but trapped in my body. I was unable to communicate. My body was not under my control. Another friend heard me screaming, and came to see what was going on. She saw me on the ground convulsing and screaming, and went for help. The pastor came to my side and started asking me a series of questions. I remember trying to answer them but clenching my teeth so hard I could hardly get the words out. He asked me, "Are you a child of God?", "Who is your heavenly Father?", "Are you loved by Jesus?", "Have you accepted the blood of Jesus?" With each answer I gave, I gained more and more control of my body. I remember asking my friend to read me the Bible. When he started reading it, my hand reached out and tried to grab it from him and throw it. I remember fighting my own hand

I left for college, clinging to my Bible and my newfound faith. My feelings of depression were gone and, for the first time in my adult life, I felt happy.



and making it cling to the Bible instead. When the convulsing finally stopped, they anointed me.

In the days that followed, I tried to understand what that event was. I thought maybe I had a nervous or mental breakdown. But that didn't seem to fit. It took me time to accept the truth about what happened. My struggle was demonic. These things are seen in movies and made out to be entertainment, portrayed as some kind of science fiction or fairytale that can't happen in reality. This is Satan's design. He doesn't want the truth known and would rather we believe his lies.

My experience is evidence that, no matter how hard he tries, he is powerless against God's grace. The Bible verses my pastor shared with me when I was in academy taught me the truth about who I was in Christ. By having faith in that truth and having Christ in my heart, I was able to stand against Satan that night. He made a desperate attempt to scare me into losing my faith. All those years, of giving Satan the satisfaction of breaking me down, gave him a hold on me, but my rebirth in Christ made me His always and forever, no matter what. I had learned what faith and grace are, and now I learned loyalty. In praying for God to make me loyal, I made myself willing. He answered my prayer and showed me how loyal I was. In the face of darkness, when my body was not under my own control — in the scariest moments of my life, Christ gave me strength to be loyal, and I was. When I called out His name, He showed His grace by answering my plea. He came and cast out the demon.

I've been healed. That horrible, desperate, hopeless feeling of "I can't do this" and "I'll never be better" is gone. I have hope and faith. I would describe my life now as beautiful, even though I have daily struggles with feeling worthless. If I falter and I don't remember to allow myself to see who I am in Christ, that will bring on depression for sure, every time! I have to cling to Him every day. There are multiple "as needed" moments throughout the day when I have to call out to God for more grace. I constantly send up little prayers asking God for direction, for understanding, to help me see where He's leading me, and what He wants to teach me moment by moment. I have to keep going back and reminding myself, and read those promises that my pastor gave me in academy. I have to tell myself, "Okay, this is how I feel, but I know the truth — I am a child of God!"

When I lost my baby, I really questioned God. I was angry and I got bitter. I was praying, "God, let me understand, let me understand, let me understand..." for a solid month. It was the deepest depression I had been in since my teen years. And then, suddenly, one day when I was crying on my knees,

I asked God, "Why?" I reminded Him of my decision to follow Him and His plan, and I cried out, "Why are you punishing me? Why did you take this baby from me?"

And then I imagined, *What if I was sitting down with God, having this conversation with Him?* And then I realized, *Would I really have the audacity to argue with God and to think that I knew better than Him?* And it hit me: I finally knew what it meant to give it to God.

I really had peace after that. When I have a struggle and I don't understand why God let something happen, I no longer ask, "Why?" I pray for peace instead of understanding. Now I know "the peace that passes understanding" (see Philippians 4:7).

Recently, I told the Lord that I really wanted a garden. I love working in the yard and wanted to create a good place for outside family time. I wanted to plant some privacy bushes, but we could not afford them. When a neighbor found out, she provided a whole bunch of them for free. And I said, "Thank you, Lord!"

Working in the garden has taught me a lot. The time when you don't see a plant blooming is the time when the roots are growing the most. And when the plant is strong and the roots are well grounded, it blossoms. And the more a plant can take in the nutrients from the soil, the water, the air, the sunlight for photosynthesis — the more all those things are taken in balance, the more beautiful the blossoms.

And I think that's how it is with us. We need to develop deep roots with God, and we should take in all the blessings that God has placed all around us. We may have periods of quiet times and we may think nothing is happening, but our faith is growing stronger. Even the times when I felt I wasn't doing anything and I wasn't moving forward, those were the times I was growing the most. I asked God to bless my garden and make it a spiritual haven for my husband and me, and our new baby boy.

I still have days when I struggle with depression. Satan will never let go of the idea that he can deceive me. But with Christ, I never have to be afraid, feel alone or feel helpless, because He is always with me. I know who I am. I am a child of God. My acceptance of His grace is my peace and His joy.

Serena Hudson is a pseudonym selected by the editors to protect the author's identity. Story used with permission.

*In 2004, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration found that among children and adolescents thoughts of suicide and/or attempts doubled for those taking anti-depressants, although no suicides occurred among the study group. The National Institute of Mental Health has since concluded that the benefits of antidepressant medications likely outweigh their risks to children and adolescents with major depression and anxiety disorders. —Source: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov> (retrieved May 11, 2012)



A Friend Led Me to Christ

BY JUANITA EDGE

“E ven though I was a Christian, I knew something was missing in my life,” said Burnetta Fidler, who was baptized on June 25, 2011, at Wisconsin Camp Meeting.

Several years ago at her uncle’s funeral, Burnetta reconnected with Jane Gerndt, a childhood friend who brought Burnetta with her to church several times when they were schoolmates. Jane again invited Burnetta to attend church with her.

“I was elated,” said Burnetta. “Jane is the one who made the difference.”

“She was the trigger in my coming back to the Lord. It was a miracle that we reconnected.” Jane and Burnetta spent hours on the phone. Soon after their reconnection, Burnetta began attending Bible studies with a group of ladies at the Antigo Church in Antigo, Wisconsin. When they finished those lessons, they continued through the Sabbath school lessons. “Some new people joined us,” said Burnetta, “so we went through the Bible study lessons again. I got a double dose, but it was good. What I missed the first time, I picked up the second time.” She also borrowed some DVDs from the church and went through those at home.

Before Burnetta’s mother died, she told her, “If you ever decide to get back to church, go to the Seventh-day



Burnetta Fidler was baptized at Wisconsin Camp Meeting in 2011 by Rowell Puedivan, pastor of the Antigo Church. She is now a witness to her family.

Adventist Church. They follow the Bible to the tee. Other [churches] pick and choose what they want you to hear.”

“Changing my life hasn’t been easy,” said Burnetta, who is the only Adventist in her family. “I have to be careful because it is dangerous being around bad habits. I remember as a little girl learning the words of a song: ‘O, be careful little eyes what you see,’ and ‘O, be careful little ears what you hear.’ I do have to be careful. But I’m also able to witness to my family. The other day my brother, who now calls me ‘The Church Lady,’ said he didn’t have a Bible. Well, I went and bought

him one. Everyone should have a Bible.”

“When I get down, I pray. When I get a few extra minutes, I turn on Three Angels Broadcasting Network. When I sit down in the evening, I pick up my Bible and start reading. I just want to stay close to Jesus.”

Juanita Edge is the communication director of the Wisconsin Conference.

Answered Prayers

BY JUANITA EDGE

“M y wife and I began fasting and praying in 2010, and I wouldn’t change this habit for anything,” said Horace Gentle, member of Emmanuel Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin. “It has changed the way I live, think and make decisions.”

While reading the book, *40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming*, by Dennis Smith, Horace and his wife, Patricia, became convicted they should fast and pray. They chose to fast on Fridays, eating only a little fruit if needed between Thursday supper and Friday supper.

As the book suggested, they called people on their prayer list and asked them how they could best pray for them. "One of the people I chose to pray for was my granddaughter who lives in



Horace and Patricia Gentle became convicted they should fast and pray. Horace says this has literally changed the way he thinks about everything.

Arizona," said Horace. "I prayed for God to impress upon her heart to turn back to Him. That was all. Within a year, she started going back to church." The Gentles continue to add names to their prayer list as God brings people and needs to mind.

Horace says fasting and prayer have literally changed the way he thinks about everything. He believes it is essential to his life, and has no plans to quit.

Juanita Edge is the communication director of the Wisconsin Conference.

Courage to Stand

BY DEB POMPLUN

When digital TV took over, Three Angels Broadcasting Network was the only programming I could view. I was fascinated and watched it all the time. My daughter christened it, "God TV."

I work at a J. C. Penney store, and our biggest sales are on Saturday. I struggled with whether I should work on that day. I earn the most during these sales, so felt I couldn't commit to Sabbath. I believed, but couldn't bring myself to tell my boss. Something had to change if I was going to live *sola scriptura* [by Scripture alone].



When Deb Pomplun (right) met Juanita Edge (left) at a J. C. Penney store, it changed her life. A simple statement by Juanita helped Deb have the courage to take a stand for God.

One day, a lady came in and asked about upcoming sales. Her name was Juanita Edge. I told her it was on Saturday. She replied, just as easily as can be, "Well, I wouldn't come in on Sabbath just to save money." It got me thinking, *That was so easy for her. Maybe it doesn't have to be a big production. Maybe you just say, "This is how it is," and that's it!*

I changed my availability through the computer. I would no longer work on Saturday. It worked — for a while. Then, once again, I found myself scheduled for a Friday night.

This time I told my manager I was keeping the biblical Sabbath and could not work then. He apologized for scheduling me on Sabbath! I've had Sabbaths off ever since.

Others said, "Surely, you'll work Saturday sales."

I simply said, "J. C. Penney or the Word of God. Isn't the choice obvious?"

Look at me! I thought, *I'm just like Juanita, calmly saying, "This is what I believe."* She was that little bridge that carried me from watching "God TV" to acting on what I believe.

On November 19, 2011, I was baptized in the Madison Community Church. Now I do my best to follow Jesus and the Bible.

Deb Pomplun is a member of the Madison Community Church in Madison, Wisconsin. Juanita Edge is the communication director of the Wisconsin Conference.



Bruce Powell

Michael J. Goebel, chief executive officer at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, hands the 2011 Employee of the Year plaque to Gleda Sejmanovic, a switchboard operator at the hospital for more than 40 years.

Gleda Sejmanovic: A source of inspiration and information for more than four decades

Almost every day, Gleda Sejmanovic runs into people who have known her for years, but have never seen her face.

“The only thing people know about me is my voice,” she said. “I kind of like it that way.”

And just like that, she ducks down a small staircase to her office. No one knows where that is either.

A switchboard operator at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Gleda has connected callers to patient rooms and answered all kinds of questions from employees inside the hospital for more than 40 years. Every weekday, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., she sits next to two other switchboard operators a few feet away from the emergency room in the lower level of the hospital.

Gleda may be on the phone most of the time, but, in between calls, much of her life has played out in the hospital where she has worked for almost 43 years. That’s where so many of her

stories take place. It’s where she met the love her life, Enver Sejmanovic, and spent 20 years sitting side-by-side and talking to her best friend, Elba, about everything.

“This place has become a big part of my life,” said Gleda, looking out her window. “It’s who I am. In a way, I grew up in this hospital. I have a hard time thinking about leaving.”

For her work ethic and serving as an example to all Adventist Midwest Health employees, Gleda was named the hospital’s 2011 Employee of the Year.

A Seventh-day Adventist and Kentucky native, Gleda moved to Indiana when she was 11 years old. She was attending an Adventist camp meeting in Cicero, Ind., back in 1969, when recruited to come to Adventist Hinsdale Hospital for a housekeeping job. Six months into that job, the 20-year-old decided to give the switchboard a try.

Today, she’s still there. The quiet solitude of the job has always appealed to Gleda. Hour after hour, she answers questions, fixes problems and calms people down. Through the years, the job has even gotten a little easier. Today, she simply connects callers with the press of a button whereas when she

started, Gleda had to plug and pull at a series of jacks and cords while sitting in front of a huge panel. In fact, that’s what she was doing when she first spotted Enver, a maintenance electrician, outside her office in 1978.

“Oh, my lands, I thought to myself, *He is so handsome*,” she said about her future husband, who has worked at the hospital for almost 40 years himself. “Then my co-worker put a bug in his ear that I was interested in him, and he asked me out on a date. We got married four months later. I would love to see him all day if I could.”

But it’s more than the job and more than even Enver that’s kept Gleda in front of her switchboard all this time. It’s also the hospital’s mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ.

“I’m so blessed to work here,” she said. “God has placed me here for a reason. The hospital’s mission and values are my mission and values. They mean so much to me. I never have to explain myself or my beliefs. I know our CEO is a good Seventh-day Adventist Christian man who understands. He is an inspiration to all employees.”

Michael J. Goebel, chief executive officer at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, said Gleda’s attitude is an inspiration to other employees around her.

“Since the day Gleda stepped foot on our campus, she’s had perfect attendance,” Goebel said. “She never misses a day or comes in late. She has a huge impact on people’s lives and her fellow employees keep in touch with Gleda long after they leave the hospital. She really does love the mission of our hospital, and is a shining example of our standards of behavior.”

Gleda was recognized at Adventist Midwest Health’s annual Employee of the Year celebration, held in February. She received a plaque and a \$1,000 check.

Sheila Galloro, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

CONEXIONES EXTRA

Bienvenida

POR DON LIVESAY

Estimados miembros de la Unión del Lago:
Bienvenidos a *Conexiones Extra*, un suplemento trimestral del *Lake Union Herald*, diseñado para la inspiración y elevación espiritual de los miembros de las iglesias hispanas de la Unión del Lago. Me complace reportar que en cada una de nuestras asociaciones hay una federación de jóvenes hispanos muy activa, reuniones campestres hispanas, una variedad de eventos de entrenamiento de testificación para laicos, y una gran cantidad de reuniones evangelísticas hechas por pastores y laicos.

En el 2010 la Unión del lago patrocinó el primer *Conéctate*, un congreso de jóvenes bilingüe, el cual trajo a 800 de nuestros jóvenes para recibir entrenamiento, inspiración, y compañerismo cristiano. Este año del 8 al 10 de junio tendrá lugar en la Universidad Andrews, el Segundo *Conéctate* con un enfoque en una relación salvadora con Cristo y una vida de servicio para Él.

La misión de alcanzar al mundo para Cristo incluye nuestra creciente población de latinos de diferentes países. Uno de mis grandes gozos como líder de la Unión del Lago, es ver el gran enfoque de ganar almas en la comunidad hispana. En los últimos cinco años la población hispana en la Unión del Lago ha aumentado un once por ciento; mientras que la población general aumentó un uno por ciento. Actualmente tenemos un promedio de más de 500 bautismos por año de la comunidad hispana con un



Don Livesay

aumento neto de 1700 en un período de cinco años. Podemos alabar a Dios por los dinámicos pastores y líderes laicos que con entusiasmo trabajan con el Espíritu Santo para completar la misión que Dios nos ha dado.

Ustedes establecen tendencias para la iglesia en Norteamérica. Aunque este crecimiento maravilloso de la comunidad hispana es bueno, también debemos reconocer los desafíos que enfrenta la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día hispana en Norteamérica. Vemos en nuestro alrededor señales del pronto regreso de Cristo. Oro para que cada uno de ustedes busque ser utilizado por Dios

para redimir muchas almas en su comunidad para Él, para retener aquellas que se nos han unido, y recuperar las que se han alejado.

Don Livesay es el presidente de la Unión del Lago.

Aunque ande en valle de muerte no temeré

POR STEPHANIE SMART

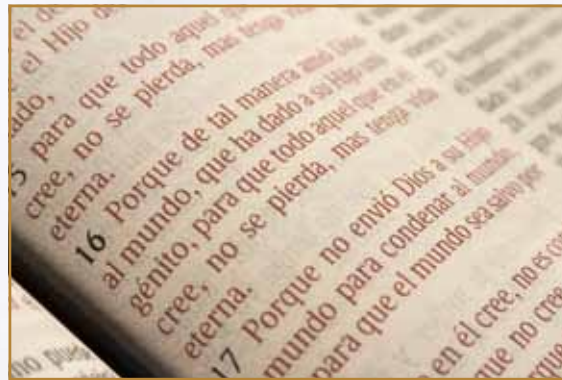
Cuando Julia Muñiz se mudó a la ciudad de Buchanan en el suroeste de Michigan no fue bajo las mejores circunstancias. Después de perder su casa, Julia junto con su esposo y dos hijas se relocalizaron en Buchanan para comenzar de nuevo. Como en muchos casos este tipo de cambios causa estrés en la familia, y los Muñiz no fueron la excepción.

Julia se sentía desesperada y frecuentemente lloraba. Fue en uno de esos momentos de desesperación y llanto mientras manejaba, que notó la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día de Buchanan. Ella quería acercarse a Dios en busca de paz y felicidad en esos momentos, pero no se atrevía a entrar a la iglesia. Ella notó que la gente que salía de la iglesia estaba muy bien vestida y por vergüenza no se atrevía a entrar.

Un día Julia tuvo el valor de parar en la iglesia y preguntarle a una de las personas que estaba allí cómo era esta iglesia. Ella le explicó que quería saber más acerca de la iglesia pero que sentía que su vestuario no era apropiado para entrar. La persona con la que Julia habló tomó su información y al poco tiempo el pastor Juan Carlos Buitrago y su esposa estaban visitando a Julia en su hogar.

Después de varias visitas y estudios bíblicos, Julia finalmente se bautizó en la Iglesia Adventista. Su conversión y su nueva relación con el Salvador trajo cambios importantes y drásticos a la vida de Julia y su familia. “cuando empecé a buscar al Señor, todo cambió... todo era más alegre” dice Julia.

Pocos meses después de su bautismo la felicidad y fe de la familia Muñiz fue puesta a prueba cuando Julia fue diagnosticada con cáncer. Julia dice que su reacción inicial al recibir la llamada de su médico fue “llorar y patear el sillón”.



En ese momento su esposo solo le dijo” ahora es que tienes que alabar al Señor.” Su confianza y fe en Cristo la demostró cuando inmediatamente escogió alabar al Señor por todas las bendiciones en su vida.

Julia fue al consultorio de sus médico al siguiente día con el resto de su familia para confirmar su diagnóstico y el

tratamiento. Después de esta consulta su hijas lloraban, pero Julia sonreía. Cuando le preguntaron cómo podía sonreír en ese momento tan difícil ella contestó con las mismas palabras que había dicho a su médico durante la consulta “Jesús’ got my back”.

Poco tiempo después Julia fue operada. Su fe durante este tiempo la mantuvo fuerte. La operación fue un éxito. Descubrir que estaba libre de cáncer no fue una sorpresa para Julia. Ella dice que desde el momento en que decidió confiar en Dios supo que Él la sanaría.

Este fue uno de muchos milagros que Julia y su familia experimentaron en sus vidas, desde emergencias médicas hasta accidentes automovilísticos en la familia. Julia continúa asistiendo a la Iglesia Adventista de Buchanan donde sigue creciendo en fe y compartiendo lo que Dios ha hecho en su vida.

Stephanie Smart es instructora de Español en Great Lakes Adventist Academy y estudiante de comunicación en Andrews University.

Indiana a la vanguardia con Comienzos Saludables

POR ANTONIO ROSARIO

A Sabía usted que hay evidencias de que las calorías consumidas en la mañana son quemadas más eficientemente que aquellas que se consumen más tarde en el día? Por lo tanto las personas con sobrepeso perderán libras mucho más fácilmente si se abstienen de comer en las noches. Esa es la cápsula informativa sobre salud #1 del programa Comienzos Saludables. La finalidad de esta versión abreviada del programa CHIP es ayudar a las personas a entender los principios de salud que les pueden ayudar a realizar cambios en su estilo de vida. Se ha demostrado que implementar estos cambios reduce el riesgo de ciertas enfermedades degenerativas como la diabetes, la alta presión arterial y la arterioesclerosis. Esto es posible al implementar cambios en el estilo de vida por medio de la educación, la motivación y el apoyo.

Los promotores de este programa nos aseguran que hasta un 75 por ciento de todas las enfermedades que afligen a las sociedades más acomodadas pueden ser prevenidas al optar por un estilo de vida más saludable. En muchos de los casos, estas enfermedades pueden ser revertidas al implementar los simples cambios que son esbozados por este programa que tiene como lema “Healthy by choice, not by chance” (Saludable por elección, no por casualidad).

Las iglesias adventistas hispanas del área de Indianápolis van a la vanguardia al aprovechar esta iniciativa de salud de Comienzos Saludables. En el verano del 2010 se celebró una linda ceremonia de graduación en la Iglesia Adventista Central Hispana de Indianápolis, donde 48 personas recibieron sus certificados al completar felizmente el programa. Este programa atrajo a varias personas de la comunidad. Una de ellas fue Hilda Velázquez. Con lágrimas de alegría, recibió su diploma y al agradecer a Dios mencionó que “Comienzos Saludables” trajo un cambio drástico en su salud y su matrimonio. “Después de todas las percances de salud que tenía, la ansiedad y la depresión, ahora puedo sonreír y disfrutar la vida”, testificó Hilda. Ella y su esposo continúan asistiendo a la iglesia y se preparan para ser bautizados.

La Dra. Elaine Rivera, MD, instructora del programa, expresó su gran satisfacción al realizar el programa. “Mi experiencia como facilitadora de Comienzos Saludables en



Participantes de la caminata en el “Día de la movida”

la Iglesia Adventista Central Hispana de Indianápolis fue extremadamente grata. Me gocé al ver la energía y el entusiasmo de los participantes en cada presentación. Fue una experiencia maravillosa en todos sus pormenores”, dijo la Dra. Rivera.

Este grupo de participantes se mantiene muy activos. El 25 de septiembre del 2011 se organizó

una caminata en el “Día de la movida” que auspició el departamento de Ministerio de Salud de la División Norteamericana. La finalidad de ese evento era motivar a los miembros de las iglesias adventistas de los Estados Unidos a caminar en ese día un millón de millas a fin de fomentar un estilo de vida más saludable.

El entusiasmo ha continuado y varios de ellos al manifestar su deseo de entrenarse para ser instructores del programa. Este sueño se convirtió en realidad cuando el 26 Febrero de 2012 bajo la dirección Susan Landers, RN, Directora del Programa CHIP de la Asociación de Indiana, 22 personas completaron el Curso de Certificación para Instructores de Comienzos Saludables.

Recientemente Wanda Rosario, RN, y sus asociados en el programa lanzaron el siguiente desafío a toda la hermandad de Indianápolis: “Caminemos 10,000 pasos al día”. Más de 65 personas respondieron y a la fecha en que escribimos este informe este grupo ha completado más de 11 millones de pasos por alrededor de diez semanas. Norma Chavarría quien antes de involucrarse en el programa CHIP padecía

de problemas de artritis y dolores en las articulaciones, alaba al Señor por haber mejorado de su condición de salud. El caminar los diez mil pasos al día ha restaurado su salud. Norma dice: "Ahora camino sin dolor. Hago mi rutina diaria con energía. Camino, corro, y cuido a los nietos sin ninguna dificultad".

Ahora el grupo se prepara para hacer su aporte en la gran movilización de 50 grupos pequeños en la Iniciativa Evangélica 2012-2013 que impactará a la gran metrópolis de Indianápolis.

El pastor Antonio Rosario es el coordinador hispano de la Conferencia de Indiana.

Anuncios

POR CARMELO MERCADO

El campamento hispano de la conferencia de Wisconsin se llevará a cabo en el Campamento Wakonda del 15 al 19 de Agosto. El orador principal será el pastor César Cárdenas.

Todos están invitados. Cada día habrá actividades espirituales, físicas y deportivas para niños, jóvenes y adultos. Para más información llame al 414-446-5964 o escriba al correo electrónico eveliimiranda@msn.com.



El Pastor Cesar Cardenas será el orador principal del campamento hispano de Wisconsin.

Ministerio Femenino Anuncia Retiro de Damas

POR JOSEFINA SÁNCHEZ

El Departamento Hispano del Ministerio Femenino de la Unión del Lago, a través de su coordinadora, la Sra. Wanda Rosario y el equipo organizador, con mucho amor y dedicación han escogido el lema "Reflejemos su Amor", para su Retiro de Damas que se llevará a cabo en la Universidad Andrews el fin de semana de Julio 6-8 de este año 2012.

En este tiempo en que las personas están buscando algo a qué aferrarse, o alguien en quien encontrar un amigo, alguien que les extienda la mano, y que les brinde una sonrisa, qué bueno es ser ese alguien y reflejar a Jesús, nuestro modelo y ejemplo.

La motivación principal para realizar este evento, es ayudar a las damas de nuestras Iglesias y otras que no lo son, a pasar tiempo con Jesús. A través de los temas, seminarios y otras actividades que se llevarán a cabo; se espera que las damas presentes puedan experimentar un vivo y santo deseo de reflejar a nuestro amado Señor y a salir motivadas con la firme disposición de dar a conocer a otros el amor de Dios y su sacrificio en favor de la humanidad.



Dra. Annie Perez, oradora principal del retiro de damas.

La oradora principal para nuestro retiro es la Dra. Annie Pérez. La Dra. Pérez es consultora, profesora para la universidad de Phoenix en la Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias naturales y es directora de un consultorio llamado "A State of Mind".

Te invitamos a inscribirte por medio de la directora del ministerio femenino de tu iglesia local. ¡No te quedes en tu casa! Ven a recrearte tanto espiritual como físicamente y a disfrutar de esta experiencia única en tu vida. Habrá regalos, camaradería cristiana y muchas cosas

más.

Josefina Sánchez es la asistente administrativa del vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago, en Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Jason Lemon

Carl Wilkens was the only American to remain in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide; however, he was quick to point out that he couldn't have done it without an immense amount of help and support from his Rwandan friends.

Former ADRA director speaks on social consciousness

Andrews University held its first Summit on Social Consciousness from April 11 to 14. The theme for the Summit was "Lessons from Rwanda." Carl Wilkens, a former Adventist Development and Relief Agency director in Rwanda, was the keynote speaker. Organizers hoped to bring awareness to injustice in the world and seek healing and reconciliation through the Summit. The event included a prayer meeting with testimonies from survivors of the Rwanda genocide, a film showing an interview with Carl Wilkens and his wife, Teresa, and breakout sessions.

Wilkens was the only American to remain in Rwanda during the genocide. He lived in Rwanda from 1990–1996, with his wife and three children, and built schools and operated clinics. When the genocide began, Wilkens and his wife made the decision for him

to stay behind, alone, to try to protect the two young Tutsis who worked for them. During the genocide, Wilkens worked to bring food, water and medicine to stranded people around the city of Kigali, Rwanda.

In his keynote address on April 14, Wilkens recounted some of his experiences in Rwanda. An estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed during the 1994 genocide, which erupted between the ethnic majority Hutus and the ethnic minority Tutsis. He emphasized the importance of telling these stories because he believes that stories move people to service, which can ultimately change the world. His address included a particular call to action in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which had 300,000 members in Rwanda in 1994. "We need to talk about these things and consider how our infrastructure responds to these situations," he said, pointing out the need to learn from Rwanda to better prepare for similar situations in the future.

In spite of all the violence, Wilkens chose to look beyond the genocide. "Rwanda is so much larger than that three-month window of genocide," he said, describing the strong sense of love and community he saw in the Rwandan people. "Our losses and our sorrows do not dominate our lives. We have this hope that we will be together again one day." An offering was collected at the end of the service for Life Lifting Hands, a nonprofit organization that provides education to orphans and donates cows to poor families in Rwanda. The Summit concluded that evening with a concert by the Girls of Mercy.

On the final day of the Summit, university leaders and pastors made a statement about the genocide and led the congregation in a litany. "This Summit was a fitting gesture of affirmation and support from our University community to them," said Christon Arthur, dean of the School of Graduate Studies & Research and one of the main coordinators of the event. A large number of Rwandans live in southwest Michigan, and several were in attendance at the Summit. "By reflecting on their tragic loss, we affirmed their humanity and dignity, condemned the atrocity, and acknowledged their pain," he explained.

Wilkens' book, *I'm Not Leaving*, is based on records of his daily experiences during that period. He was featured in Frontline's "Ghosts of Rwanda" and the American Radio Works documentary, "The Few Who Stayed: Defying the Genocide." For his efforts, Wilkens was awarded the Dignitas Humana Award from St. John's School of Theology Seminary and the 2005 Medal of Valor from the Simon Wiesenthal Center. He is the co-founder of the nonprofit educational and professional development organization, World Outside My Shoes, and now works full time giving lectures on his experiences in Rwanda.

Ashley Meyer, student news writer, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Wisconsin Academy students train for service

Wisconsin—Wisconsin Academy sent 25 students to Nicaragua for a 12-day mission trip on March 11. They constructed two Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries/Maranatha One-Day Churches, repaired and painted an existing church, operated daily open-air medical clinics in three communities, and conducted six vacation Bible school programs.

"This is a great opportunity for the students," said Jimmy Carter, WA chaplain and organizer of the mission trip. "Helping students discover the beauty of serving others is a high priority at Wisconsin Academy."

When the team arrived in Chinandega, Nicaragua, they received word that their building supplies were being held at the border. Immediately, they began praying. God tested their faith with a seven-day wait while they worked on other projects. When the supplies did arrive, everyone was eager to work hard and make up for lost time.

"The highlight of my day was getting up early to build a church in one day," said Jair Aguilar, class of 2013. "We did it in one day! I got to be the translator for the project. It took us two hours to finish the first half of the roof, and only one hour to finish the second half. We got better as we progressed. When we finished, I got to read a Bible text at the church dedication."

Vanessa Bohner, class of 2012, said, "I really feel like I did something important today. I was part of a team that put up a church!"

As students saw needs, they were quick to respond. At evening worship, Hannah FitzGerald, class of 2013, told about her visit to the One-Day Church site. Addressing her peers, she made an appeal. "They have an unfinished shelter that is just posts in the ground with a partial tin roof. If each of us gives just



Noemi Flores tests vision before selecting appropriate glasses for one of the more than 500 patients seen in the three medical clinics held by the Wisconsin Academy students and medical staff in Nicaragua.

three dollars of our spending money, we can buy the rest of the tin and finish their roof." The students eagerly pitched in, and soon had the money. A few days later, the students learned the church needed more chairs. Again, they donated from their limited spending money and bought the church 22 new chairs.

While waiting for building supplies, students brightened up the existing Chinandega Church with 57 gallons of paint, applied by hand. Walls formerly covered with moldy, peeling paint are now dressed with bright birds, butterflies, palm trees and flowers. Melody Romero, class of 2012, designed the artwork. "It was nice to do something I'm good at and know other people can enjoy," she said. "I'm so glad I got this opportunity."

Five days of vacation Bible school were also held in three locations — three near the One-Day Churches and two at the Chinandega Adventist Elementary School. "I felt there was nothing much I could do to help with the VBS," said Ken'yun Neal, class of 2012, "but I decided to do my best. Then, I met Al-leito. We didn't speak the same language, but we bonded with laughter, smiles and soccer. He looked sick, but he was so happy. He touched me and helped me decide that no matter what I'm doing to help others, I'm doing it to the fullest of my ability."

The medical team saw more than 100 patients per day, yet they were never able to see everyone who came. Students served as interpreters for the trained medical team, performed initial assessments, conducted eye exams, ran the pharmacy and distributed clothing. "Being here really makes me grateful for everything I have," said Melanie Roman, class of 2013, who served on the medical team, "especially the opportunity to go to school. I want to go to college and become a doctor and, someday, be able to do mission work. I've always thought about going as a missionary. Now I'm really sure!"

To learn more about the mission trip or for information about Wisconsin Academy, visit <http://wisacad.org>.

Juanita Edge, communication director,
Wisconsin Conference



Shawna Conrad plays games with a group of school children attending one of the vacation Bible school programs led by Wisconsin Academy students in Nicaragua.



Surrounded by bowing angels, Christ (portrayed by Andrews University student Nathaniel Sevilla) lifted His eyes to Heaven as He was bathed in the Father's glory in the final moments of the Passion Play on April 7.

Huge crowds attend 9th Annual Easter Passion Play at Andrews University

The ninth annual production of the Easter Passion Play at Andrews University attracted 7,500–8,500 attendees on Sabbath, April 7. Using the talents of more than 900 volunteers from both the campus and community, the production was designed to give guests the sense of being a witness in the drama of the Easter story.

Visitors embarked upon an indoor-outdoor walking experience through the last week of Jesus' life before His crucifixion. For many, it was an unforgettable experience.

"I really enjoyed volunteering as an animal handler," says Shelley McLarty, a senior biology major who participated in the marketplace scene. "I got to meet lots of people, and I especially enjoyed watching people's faces as they experienced what an open market could be like. That interactive aspect is my favorite part of the play."

People traveled from as far away as New York and other surrounding states to see the production. "Many

volunteers invited guests who were from a different faith affiliation or those who didn't claim any faith at all," says José Bourget, associate chaplain at Andrews University. "Our volunteers believe, as we do, that this is primarily a Gospel-sharing event. Something that people curious about the Gospel want to understand."

To keep the play fresh and powerful, a few changes were made in this year's production. A prayer tent was added, and the resurrection scene gained 30 angel performance artists, representing a small selection of the heavenly hosts who waited to praise and greet the risen Savior. Students raised funds and sewed their own costumes on short notice for the scene.

Most significant, however, was the decision to further tap into the resources of Andrews' student body. "Andrews University is full of many people with different gifts. As a University event, we wanted to increase opportunities for these gospel gifts to be shared in relevant ways," says Bourget.

Four members of the Andrews Gymnastics team performed aerial acrobatics with silk, in the angels' choreographed presentation, during the resurrection scene. Additionally, music majors and members of

the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra recorded the music for the scene. Entitled "Revelation Song," the selection was sung by Emily Ferguson and arranged and conducted by Joshua Goines, both students at Andrews University.

Many were touched by the play. Claire Jordan, a young girl struggling with a life-threatening condition, attended the production with her grandmother again this year. Last year, she came and expressed a desire to meet "Jesus," but, unfortunately, it could only be arranged for her to meet a student portraying Gabriel. This year, Claire was able to meet both "Jesus" and "Gabriel," along with the rest of the angels. With the help of one of the angels, Claire was even able to participate in the angels' choreography, which was a beautiful moment for all who witnessed it.

"I believe there is tremendous need for people to know our risen Savior walked among us. They should wonder, *What did His world smell like, look like, sound like?*" says Bourget. "They should get a picture of His joys and struggles, friends and foes, and, ultimately, the majesty of Emmanuel who will soon return."

Next year's Easter Passion Play is scheduled for Sabbath, March 30, 2013. Learn more at <http://passionplay.andrews.edu>.

Ashley Meyer, student writer, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication,



A tax collector (portrayed by Andrews staff member, Fred Guerrero) harassed the crowd, demanding taxes for entry into Jerusalem during the 2012 Easter Passion Play on the University campus.

[YOUTH NEWS]

Southern Indiana tornado relief volunteers inspired by children

Indiana—The simplistic beauty of selfless service is readily depicted in the New Testament account of the widow’s mite (see Mark 12:41–44). This attitude of giving still rings true today, especially in the hearts of children.

Working in the Jeffersonville disaster warehouse yields a constant reminder of the mounting disaster our world has become. Despite the storms of life, the experience has allowed some, including me, to look in the face of tragedy and see glistening expressions of God’s grace.

Several children recently visited the volunteer headquarters. Their expressions held a light of the simplest kind of love. The twinkles in their eyes pulled me in, and I realized that their tiny hands held plastic baggies which contained sundry change and notes they had scribbled with crayon and marker.

After overhearing the news about the desperate needs of the victims of the March 2 tornadoes in Indiana, one Indianapolis toddler ran for his piggy bank. He reappeared in the living room with all of its contents, \$2.43.



Debbie Burns

“Mommy,” he asked, “can you give this to the kids? I have to do something!”

Zippered plastic bags arrived at the headquarters, symbols of the altruistic hearts of children. Two four-year-old twin sisters donated the \$25 Christmas gift cards they had been given. Their notes read, “Hope you get your house fixed.”

Volunteers stood around this scene of gargantuan generosity and marveled as they fought tears.

How can one not be moved by the innocence of children who give all they have to help another child?

Jesus says, “Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”

(Matthew 18:3 NIV). Could this be what He was thinking about?

Seeing the living testimonies of the pure in heart, one couldn’t help but believe that it was their greatest joy to serve the disaster victims — to give them hope for tomorrow, and point them to our great hope for a heavenly home to come.

Debbie Burns, member, Evansville First Church, and volunteer, Indiana Conference Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response team

While other relief agencies and churches are leaving the disaster site in Indiana, Debbie Burns works to spread the word about the relief effort’s needs in southern Indiana. To learn how you can help, read the online version of this article at <http://www.herald.lakeunion.org>

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Madison Church is on a mission

Indiana—Members at the Madison Church have chosen to harness their talents for ministry. This contributed to the re-genesis of their church, which was about to close its doors.

It all goes back to the 1950s and Joe and Cecile Friedmans’ enthusiasm for the Lord and their desire to start a church. Within four decades, the little company that became the Madison Church had

grown to 109 members. When the local Adventist nursing home closed about 12 years ago, a number of people relocated, seeking new employment. As the membership declined, the church family looked to the Lord for direction.

“We were not looking to move to Madison,” Lori Starr said as she told about a transitional period her family encountered three years ago. Her husband, Kevin Starr, accepted a new job in Louisville, Ky., so the Starr family prepared to move. Their plans, however, hit a snag when their home didn’t sell and they couldn’t find a new house to buy. A year-and-a-half passed.

“Have you considered moving to Madison?” Peter Neri, a family friend and former Indiana Conference ministerial director, asked.

“No, we want to move to Salem,” Lori replied.

“You might consider it. That little church in Madison needs you,” Neri encouraged.

Exploring the possibility, the Starrs looked at a particular house in Madison three times and came to the decision they shouldn’t buy a house if the old one hadn’t sold. They agreed to wait two months before taking their home off the market.



The Madison Church family has grown by 300 percent in the past two years. Social events like the Valentine's Banquet are held at the Starr farm to provide an opportunity for the church family to get better acquainted with the new members.

"During that two-month period, we again looked at the house in Madison. This time we made an offer," Lori said. "It was the first offer we had made on a house that was accepted."

Sunday morning, about a week after they made the offer, a lady drove up the gravel way to the Starr residence still listed for sale. She asked to look around, then announced matter-of-factly, "I'll buy it."

Neri heard the news, got excited and made a call. "Don't close the church! New members are on the way!"

During the one-and-a-half years the Starrs searched for a home, God was preparing the hearts of 15 people in Kentucky who faithfully studied the Bible together, watched video recordings and requested a Bible study course. When their studies got to the topic of the Sabbath, they knew "they needed to find a Sabbath-keeping church," according to Bill Craig, who led the Bible studies every Wednesday night at their home church in Kentucky. In March 2010, the group attended the Madison Church for the first time.

"When people from Kentucky started to visit our church," said Craig, "Kevin and Lori opened their home every



Children play together on the Starr farm at a church social. The young people at the Madison Church are actively involved in ministering to the children in the church.

Sabbath for lunch and fellowship. Visitors asked questions at the dinner table. We would start studying the Bible right there."

Attendance in Madison continues to grow. The youth at Madison Church have fun serving the Lord as they lead the Cradle Roll children's Sabbath school class. "It gives the youth a purpose as the little children depend on them each week to teach them about God," Lori said.

Three teenage sisters began attending with their mom about a year ago. The girls have fun as they keep the *Signs* boxes stocked at the post office, dollar store, flea market and a gas station. People who see the girls refilling the boxes often ask, "Are you responsible for putting out these good magazines?" The girls' cheerful spirits and genuine smiles confirm the answers to their questions.

"I love them! I look forward to reading them each month," the trio is often told.

Some of the youth help with worship programming, the monthly nursing home ministry and the newly-initiated card ministry. In 2009, the Madison Church members blanketed three zip codes with Bible study cards. It took 27 weeks to study with the 52 responses. "We are still

studying with many of the interests," Lori said.

The Madison Church also hosted several CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) Express programs. CHIP students are excited about their lifestyle changes, and members enjoy bumping into their new friends at the grocery store. "Even the hospital is helping!" Karen Starr, another member, said about the health facility that not only offered a meeting room, but also gave their CHIP program a significantly reduced price on blood work. This discount increased the number of people who could afford to attend.

"Not everybody can preach a sermon, but we all have talents we can use," Karen said. "We [members] don't feel that it's the pastor's responsibility to keep the church going. It's ours."

"The Madison Church has been doing very well," Eric Freking, district pastor, said. In two years, the church has grown around 300 percent.

"Just think, with your witness and involvement, your church can be the next miracle church in the Indiana Conference. Praise the Lord!" affirms Van Hurst, Indiana Conference president.

Kortnye Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference



Shelley Wheeler

When David Wheeler viewed the overgrown land behind the Glendale Church, he didn't imagine his vision for a garden and orchard to generate funds for Indianapolis Junior Academy students would bring Glendale Church members and the community together.

Glendale orchard brings community together

Indiana—David and Shelley Wheeler joined the Glendale Church in Indianapolis after a 2009 evangelistic series. After Sabbath services, they occasionally noticed church school students who stood at the back of the chapel with paper buckets.

“Oh, how I didn't like that. It just felt wrong that these kids had to stand in the back with flimsy buckets and beg for money. I wanted them to have their own money for their education, and so they could afford to go on school trips,” David said.

Around the same time, the church received a letter from the neighborhood association which complained about thick brush, poison ivy and mangled tree limbs in the back of the church property.

This land is an asset that could become a liability, David thought.

David's idea was to put the land into production to generate funds for Indianapolis Junior Academy students.

“I had this sense of urgency — not to get started next year, but right now,” he recalls.

“This is the kind of thing people will look forward to every year, like Girl

Scouts cookies!” David vividly described spring with an orchard full of light-colored blossoms and sweet, church-grown fruit so ripe the juice flows down your arm and off your elbow, accompanied by the furious slurping sounds of a recipient, unwilling to waste even one drop.

“The land could pay for itself. It would take three to five years to get production out of the trees,” he explained to the church board.

“It's a great idea,” was the general consensus at the meeting. “We're all for it, if you can make it happen.”

David and Shelley trimmed shoulder-high grass, cut scruffy trees and sold the timber as firewood to raise seed money for the new project.

In the spring of 2010, they began to develop an orchard. Approximately 50 trees were planted: pear, cherry, plum and several variations of apple, such as Gala, Granny Smith and Sweet Delicious.

“We stopped counting how much the fruit trees cost when it got to \$6,000,” David casually said, and chuckled as he relived his excitement for the project.

A small, faithful group from the church helped with weed control and some of the planting. A portion of the land was set aside to plant ground-based fruit, such as watermelon and cantaloupe.

“I didn't have equipment to till the soil for watermelons. The machinery is expensive,” he explained. “As a group, we prayed somebody would be placed in my path to do this work for us.”

Three days later, David was on his way to work. “I forgot a part for my spray gun, and couldn't do the job without it. Traffic was bad, so I took an unusual route home,” he remembers.

Along the way, David noticed a man doing work with a tractor, had the impulse to pull over, and hopped out of the car. He flagged the man down. The farmer silenced the roaring motor.

“Sir, can I talk to you?” he tried to project his voice so the man, likely deafened by ambient tractor noise, could understand him. The man descended

from the tractor cab, knocked the dust off his Levis, and approached David.

“I told him about our project at the church. The man was a Christian and easily responded, ‘Well, sure, I'll help!’ recounts David. “It was exactly what our group prayed for.”

In 2011, the melon patch only reached 20 percent production.

“The small pears were succulent,”

Shelley says, “but fruit with the word ‘water’ in its name needed a lot more liquid.”

The Wards began saving for a well. “It seemed like the whole church contributed,” David shared. “There were a lot of \$5s and \$1s and some \$20 bills, and, then, a number of people gave large gifts for us to make the \$2,850 purchase.”

On Sept. 19, 2011, Glendale had their own water source.

Members anticipate that the melon patch will generate a sellable product next year, and speculate that perhaps a few peach and nectarine samples may be available.

“Our neighborhood association already wrote us a letter back,” David said. “In their letter of commendation, they wrote, ‘What a grand idea! We look forward to purchasing your produce.’”

Two acres of land were cleared for production. The west acre holds 50 fruit trees that await the first days of spring. Ten thousand square feet of soil sit on the east portion where watermelon and cantaloupe vines will get a second chance to flourish. The remnant, about one-third of an acre, will be developed into a reflective, park-like place, and possibly hold a greenhouse for red and concord grapes.

The two-acre property, once deemed an eyesore by the neighborhood, now exudes natural beauty. The Wheelers' dream of “what could be” has brought members at Glendale together, and attracts the community to a small piece of Heaven on Earth.



Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference

Local elders lead Green Bay evangelistic meetings

Wisconsin—"I've heard these topics presented many times, but this time I finally got it," said one woman who attended the elder-led evangelistic meetings held March 9-31, in the Green Bay Church. This sentiment was echoed many times by visitors and church members alike.

Several months ago, the eight elders decided to hold lay-led evangelistic meetings with the assistance of their two pastors. For the presentations, they used ShareHim materials, each choosing topics he felt a passion to present.

None of the elders had any official training in preaching. Doug FitzGerald is a dairy farmer. Brian Davis is a refrigeration contractor. Curt Eckstein works with graphic arts and design. David Stonebrook is retired from semi-trailer repairs. Richard Wilde recently started a medical/dental equipment business. Dan Guido is involved in environmental work for the State. Glenn FitzGerald is an elementary school teacher. Keith Sopp works for the Department of Motor Vehicles as a motorcycle safety and training instructor. "Some of the elders will tell you they were not very comfortable with the idea of getting up front and speaking," says Dan, "but they didn't back down."

"The two topics I preached on were the Sabbath and the change of the Sabbath," continues Dan. "It was powerful for me to be the one to deliver these messages, as I grew up in a Catholic household. I was very honest in telling them where I came from. I told them what I had learned, and that I felt it was important for them to know about these things, too."

Glenn, the head elder, said, "I think this was a very logical thing to do economically and for local impact. Personally, public speaking is not my favorite thing to do, but it turned out



Several months ago, eight elders of the Green Bay Church decided to hold a lay-led evangelistic series of meetings. None had any official training in preaching, but they know the Lord and their Bibles. "Every one of these guys far exceeded my expectations," said Bill Ochs, pastor. "I think I'm sold on the idea of our lay people holding outreach meetings." From left (back row): Keith Sopp, Dave Stonebrook, Glenn FitzGerald and Bryan Davis; (front row): Bill Ochs, pastor; Richard Wilde, Jenniffer Ogden, former youth pastor; Curt Eckstein, Doug FitzGerald and Dan Guido

wonderful. Each evening, we prayed we would not stand in the way of the message. We just wanted to be faithful servants."

"We were very different from each other," continued Glenn. "We each had our own speaking styles and personalities, and the people seemed to appreciate us for who we were and what we were sharing. We knew our only qualifications were that we knew the Lord and we knew our Bibles."

"We tried to keep the meetings brief, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending by 8:00 p.m. Bill Ochs, pastor, introduced each of us; we had prayer, special music, then each elder shared a bit of his own background and experience with the evening's topic as he began. It was just really good."

"Every one of these guys far exceeded my expectations," said Ochs. "They did an incredible job. I think I'm sold on the idea of our lay people holding outreach meetings. Each brings their family and friends. It really helps build a crowd."

Each of the six people who were baptized at the end of the meetings

had previously-established friendships with people in the church. One lady had her first contact with Seventh-day Adventists ten years ago. She and her husband had hired contractors, James Hopkins and Jon Perlberg, members at Green Bay, to build their house. While building, Hopkins and Perlberg told her about Three Angels Broadcasting Network and invited her to church. After ten years of listening to 3ABN programming and visiting church sporadically, Kris Guido invited her to join the "women only" Sabbath school class. "Once she joined our class, she started coming every week," said Kris. "The class seemed to give her strength and hope, and she started staying for church." She was baptized on March 31.

"On the last night, more than 100 people came forward and committed themselves to having a deeper walk with Jesus," said Ochs. "The Holy Spirit moved in a powerful way."

Listen to audio recordings of the presentations at <http://www.greenbaysda.org>.

Juanita Edge, communication director,
Wisconsin Conference

[UNION NEWS]

Mission Wings trains missionary aviators

Michigan—Mission Wings is a world-class organization of Christian aviation professionals with their hearts on fire for spreading the Gospel. “God is the leader of [our] intense mission during these last days,” says Randy Beckermeyer, founder.

After working with Adventist World Aviation’s Pathfinder airplane and other missionary aircraft projects, Beckermeyer began to ask missionaries how long it would take to train and launch a missionary into the field? The response was about 12 years. *That’s far too long*, he thought. Beckermeyer then felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit to start a training center with the specific purpose to produce missionary aviators, men and women who can fly as well as legally maintain the aircraft used in the Lord’s service.

As a student in Aviation Management at Eastern Michigan University, Beckermeyer was delighted to discover he could easily enlist the support of his professors who were intrigued by the goal Beckermeyer was undertaking. They became an indispensable information resource for Mission Wings in the important processes and procedures to establish the ministry as a non-profit corporation, which was important to help finance the training

program since the total cost to put a missionary in the mission field could be as high as \$500,000.

The training starts with private and commercial pilot licenses with an instrument rating. While gaining the 450 flight hours required to fly in many foreign countries, the missionary pilots earn their high performance, complex and possibly tail wheel endorsements. To provide income while accumulating flight time, candidates often get a Certified Flight Instructor license. In addition, each pilot must complete and



Mission Wings is a world-class organization of Christian aviation professionals who desire to spread the Gospel. The organization helps missionaries complete training debt-free, so they can more quickly use the tools God has given them. Pictured is Lee Louder, an instructor with Benz Aviation, who taught Great Lakes Adventist Academy student, Holly Ann Brassington, how to fly a glider.

Douglas Gruesbeck

obtain an Airframe and Powerplant (A & P) license so they can legally maintain and repair the aircraft they are operating.

The flight training of missionary pilots starts in a glider, the most inexpensive, basic training source, before advancing to a powered aircraft. Glider training allows the pilot to learn how to use the aerodynamic energy, wind and thermals. It also prepares the pilot for complexities, such as more difficult types of flying and emergency procedures, power, electrical, instrument or engine failure. Glider training is thus essential for the safety of the missionary pilot. The Private Pilot Glider license also reduces the hour requirement for the Private Pilot license.

The next major step for the missionary aviator is to learn to maintain their aircraft by earning their A & P license. Once completed, they spend time in the Mission Wings maintenance facility, maintaining current mission aircraft, building new aircraft or modifying old aircraft donated for exclusive use as mission aircraft. The final benefit is that Mission Wings finds and modifies an aircraft for the missionary aviator to use while in the mission field.

A Mission Wings pilot gets training to fly, training as an airplane mechanic, and the use of a customized airplane, fully outfitted for bush (off-airport) operations. Normally, missionary operations do not include airplane mechanics training nor result in operating customized aircraft in the bush.

The goal of Mission Wings is to help missionaries complete all their training requirements debt-free so their focus can be on where the Lord is leading them to use the special tools He has given them. This is accomplished through partnerships with Mission Wings benefactors.

When people ask him what Mission Wings is all about and Beckermeyer tells them the story, their hearts are touched and they want to help. With 40 years of experience in aviation, Beckermeyer has been able to invite a number of his pilot and mechanic contacts to help Mission Wings build, repair and modify the aircraft that will be used by the missionary aviators.

For additional information about Missionary Wings, visit <http://www.missionwingsforgod.org>.

Catherine Gruesbeck, communications director, Cedar Lake Church





Elizabeth Hansany



Elizabeth Hansany



Elizabeth Hansany

At the Go Fish Conference, the children were not only taught how to minister, they also received tools to use in their ministry. Each child received a ministry "tackle box" in which to store all their ministry supplies.

Go Fish Conference trains children for now and eternity

Lake Region—The Motor Cities Adventist Children's Ministry Association sponsored the first-ever Go Fish Conference for children in the Motor Cities area. It was held March 3-4 at Peterson-Warren Academy in Inkster, Mich.

Six-year-old Elijah Rodgers was the guest speaker who questioned all with his sermon, "Why Waste God's Time?" He challenged the children to give themselves completely to God and use their time wisely.

The goal of the Go Fish Conference was to train and encourage children from grades 1-8 to become fishers for Jesus, to lead individuals to Him. They were trained in three of the six areas: storytelling, preaching, health and fitness, outreach evangelism, creative and music ministries. Everyone had their favorite stations, but all wanted to complete the obstacle course in the exercise station and learn how to twist balloons to tell a story. One of the 100 children in attendance said, "I

have learned a lot. I can't wait to share what I have learned with my friends."

The children were not only taught how to minister, they also received tools to use in their ministry. At the preaching station, leaders gave them Bibles. At the Bible study station, they received Bible study guides that they could use with others. Some discovered how to write their own prayer song and how to sing Scripture songs. Others learned how to make nutritious snacks and how to use honey and lemon to make a natural cough syrup. Each child received a ministry "tackle box" in which to store all of their ministry supplies.

The Pathway to Peace team from Wadesboro, N.C., conducted a workshop for the parents called, "Rescue Your Children." The presenters exposed some of the challenges youth face today, and encouraged the adults to take an informed, active role in training their children — not only in their own homes, but in their church as well. One parent said, "My eyes have been opened about what the children are being exposed to through the media. Now that I know, I will do a better job raising my children."

Motor Cities Adventist Children's Ministry Association envisions children ministering in their homes, churches and in the community as never before. They envision them being used of God as they share with others about His love with some of the tools provided in their ministry tackle box. They also envision them going door-to-door, uplifting truth. They envision healthy instruments to be used of God, "rightly trained for action." And they envision that wherever the children attend church, truth will be taught and the Bible will be their textbook.

The Association exists to help prepare ourselves, our children and the world for Jesus' soon return. The Go Fish Conference planners pray that the seeds planted during the recent children's training conference will count for eternity.

Teresa Rodgers, president, Motor Cities Adventist Children's Ministry Association, and organizer, Go Fish Conference

View a Go Fish Conference video montage at <http://you.tube/y-wPL1K9r8I>.



Arthur E. Nowlin and Kim Logan-Nowlin host the "Making It Work" program on the Three Angels Broadcasting Network's Dare to Dream urban network.

In the new "Making It Work" program, the Nowlins will provide a solid Christian foundation and share practical experiences as parents to a generation facing crises, degradation and deterioration.

Family Life directors host new program on 3ABN Dare to Dream urban network

Lake Region Conference family life directors Kim Logan-Nowlin and Arthur E. Nowlin host a new program for Three Angels Broadcasting Network's Dare to Dream urban network called, "Making It Work." With 30 years of combined service to families in their private practice in Detroit, the Nowlins will deal with every aspect of family life, offering practical, Bible-based tools to strengthen parents and connect them to their loving Father.

Kim and Arthur frequently team as keynote speakers for seminars and workshops. Their radio and cable television programs, "Speak for Success" and "Make It Last Forever," have revealed to countless families and individuals the concepts behind "Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges," a dynamic philosophy intended to bridge the gaps, restructure the foundation and reestablish the roots in relationships. Their solid Christian foundation and practical experience as parents of three children gives strength to a

generation facing crises, degradation and deterioration.

In their Christian family counseling private practice and substance abuse clinic, the Nowlins guide married couples into restored relationships, counsel individuals, and conduct individual and group substance abuse sessions for ex-offenders under the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Both are certified HIV counselors. They have been featured in *Essence* magazine, *The Michigan Chronicle*, *The Michigan Front Page*, and several other news magazines and papers.

Their book, *The Attitude Adjustment of the Christian Man and Woman*, addresses the complexities of relationships and provides practical techniques to free individuals from pain or past disappointment, to bring a new, fulfilling spirit, emotional and psychological stability, and sense of well-being. Kim recently released *Refusing A Direct Order: A Testimony of Christian Stewardship*, which "offers hope to those who may be buried in darkness and needing a way to find the light...", she writes.

As an active member of City Temple Church, Kim contributes to praise and worship, leads a sign language choir (God's Hands of Praise), is minister of music and a stewardship leader. Arthur has served as the City Temple family

life leader, religious liberty leader and as a deacon, and was president of the Motor City Youth Federation for 11 years. The Nowlins have three children.

To learn more about the Nowlins' ministry to families, visit <http://www.familylifelrc.com>. You can view segments of "Making It Work" at http://youtu.be/bP_zYTb0nPo. The entire program can be viewed on iPad or iPhone, by downloading the TVU app. Use the Dare to Dream (D2D) code, 5569.

Kim Logan-Nowlin, co-host, "Making It Work," and Lake Union Herald staff



The new "Making It Work" program on the Dare to Dream network will offer practical, biblical tools to strengthen parents and connect them to their loving Father.



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

Andrews University

2012 Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy Workshop: Registration is open for this workshop scheduled for **Aug. 5-10**. (Registration closes July 25; limited to 60 participants.) The workshop, sponsored by the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, focuses on the skillful use of natural remedies, water and nutrition in times of illness and health. This five-day workshop involves 30 hours of lectures and demonstrations along with hands-on labs. All participants who successfully complete the workshop will receive a certificate of achievement. Graduate credit is available for M.A., M.Div. and MAPMin students. Fee charged; repeat attendees and spouses are entitled to 50 percent workshop fee discount (labs only if not full). For additional information, visit <http://www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw/> or email fran@andrews.edu.

Lake Union

Offerings

- June 2** Local Church Budget
- June 9** Multilingual Ministries/Chaplaincy Ministries
- June 16** Local Church Budget
- June 23** Local Conference Advance
- June 30** NAD Outreach Project

Special Days

- June 9** Women's Ministries Emphasis Day
- 13th Sabbath Offering**
- June 30** Southern-Asia Pacific Division

Michigan

The annual **Health Professionals' Retreat** will be held at Camp Au Sable **Sept. 14-16**. Guest speaker will be Tim Riesenberger, an emergency medicine physician from Seattle, Wash. Riesenberger has volunteered his time for medical mission service in 48 countries on six continents through the Islita Foundation, and is a well-loved speaker for GYC, ASI and AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism

Network). Michigan Conference Health Ministries is partnering with AMEN, a national organization of Christian physicians and dentists whose purpose is to share Christ in their workplace through medical evangelism, to sponsor this family retreat. For registration information, please call 517-316-1527 or email schristie@misda.org.

North American Division

The **Madison College Alumni Association Homecoming** will be **June 22, 23 and 24**, honoring classes 1942, '47, '52, '57 and '62. Also invited are those who attended Madison College or Madison College Academy, and the Anesthesia School. We will have activities and meals beginning Friday evening through Sunday morning at the Madison Academy campus. For more information, contact Henry Scoggins, president, at 615-919-7767, or Jim Culpepper, secretary/treasurer, at 615-415-1925.

First NAD Adventist Muslim Relations (AMR) Training & Networking Weekend: Are you interested in reaching out to your Muslim neighbors? Have you ever wondered how our Adventist theology of mission can be applied to the Muslim context in North America? Would you like to be trained by practitioners who will present field-tested, fruitful practices they have discovered? If so, this first NAD AMR training and networking weekend is for you! Dates: **July 26-29**. Location: Heritage Academy, Tenn. Space is limited, so register early to reserve your place. For more information, contact

Heidi Guttschuss at Heidi.NADAMR@gmail.com or 404-558-4682.

Frederick (Maryland) Seventh-day Adventist Church 100th Anniversary Celebration will take place **Oct. 5-6**. Event begins Friday evening, 7:00 p.m., with light supper, fellowship and communion with God. Sabbath includes: Sabbath school, 9:15 a.m.; worship service, 11:00 a.m., with Lonnie Melashenko; lunch; historical tour of former church sites; and a 3:30 p.m. organ concert by acclaimed organist, Van Knauss. For more information, contact Ann Damazo at 301-662-5366 or Alberta Reed at 301-662-6769; email fredricksda@gmail.com; or visit website <http://fredericksdachurch.org>. Please contact us if you are planning to attend.

Wisconsin

8th Annual Wisconsin Academy Motorcycle Rally Location: Milwaukee-area dates: **July 20-22**. Registration cost includes meals, rally T-shirt and tac pin. Benefits Wisconsin Academy. For more information, visit <http://www.cruisin4christ.org/>.

Lake Union Camp Meetings

ILLINOIS

Chicagoland Convocation: May 12 Wheaton College*, 501 College Ave., Wheaton, Ill.; <http://www.illinoisadventist.org/convocation>; 630-856-2874. *This is not a program of Wheaton College.

Family Camp Meeting: July 25-28 Camp Akita, 1684 Knox Rd., Gilson, Ill.; <http://www.illinoisadventist.org>; 630-856-2874

Campestre Hispano: Aug. 31-Sept. 2 Camp Akita, 1684 Knox Rd., Gilson, Ill.; <http://www.illinoisadventist.org>; 630-856-2854

INDIANA

Indiana Conference Camp Meeting:

June 10-16 Indiana Academy, 24815 State Road 19, Cicero, Ind.; <http://indysda.org/camp-meeting-2012>; 317-844-6201

Hispanic Fellowship Day: June 16 Cicero SDA Church, 24445 State Road 19, Cicero, Ind.; <http://indy.sda.org>; 317-856-5770

Campestre Hispano: Aug. 31-Sept. 3 Timber Ridge Camp, 1674 Timber Ridge Rd., Spencer, Ind.; <http://indy.sda.org>; 317-856-5770

LAKE REGION

Lake Region Conference Camp Meeting:

June 15-23 Camp Wagner, 19088 Brownsville St., Cassopolis, Mich.; 773-846-2661, ext. 113

MICHIGAN

Campestre Hispano: May 25-27 Camp Au Sable, 2590 Camp Au Sable Dr., Grayling, Mich.; <http://www.misda.org>; 517-316-1562

Cedar Lake Camp Meeting: June 15-23 Great Lakes Adventist Academy, 7477 Academy Rd., Cedar Lake, Mich.; <http://www.misda.org>; 517-316-1512

Upper Peninsula Camp Meeting:

July 26-29 Camp Sagola, 2885 State Highway M69, Crystal Falls, Mich.; camp.sago.la@gmail.com; <http://www.misda.org>

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Conference Camp Meeting:

June 15-23 Camp Wakonda, W8368 County Road E, Oxford, Wis.; <http://www.wi.adventist.org>; 920-484-6550

Campestre Hispano: Aug. 15-29 Camp Wakonda, W8368 County Road E, Oxford, Wis.; <http://www.wi.adventist.org>; 414-446-5964

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jun 1	Jun 8	Jun 15	Jun 22	Jun 29	Jul 6
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:13	9:17	9:21	9:23	9:23	9:22
Chicago, Ill.	8:19	8:24	8:27	8:29	8:30	8:28
Detroit, Mich.	9:02	9:07	9:11	9:13	9:13	9:11
Indianapolis, Ind.	9:07	9:11	9:14	9:16	9:17	9:16
La Crosse, Wis.	8:40	8:45	8:49	8:51	8:51	8:50
Lansing, Mich.	9:10	9:14	9:18	9:20	9:20	9:19
Madison, Wis.	8:30	8:35	8:38	8:41	8:41	8:40
Springfield, Ill.	8:20	8:25	8:28	8:31	8:31	8:30

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

Weddings

Krystal D. Green and Eric J. Eskildsen were married March 18, 2012, in Cedar Lake, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Ralph Williams.

Krystal is the daughter of Horace Green of New York, N.Y., and Ann Marie and Lincoln Vitalis of Palm Coast, Fla., and Eric is the son of Peter and Debra Eskildsen of Edmore, Mich.

The Eskildsens are making their home in Cedar Lake.

Anniversaries



James and Carolyn Palmer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 18, 2012, with a dinner and testimonial program by friends and family, special music, video of their 50 years together, and special remarks by Jerome Davis and Charles Joseph at the The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, Munster, Ind. They have been members of the Independence (Ill.) Church for more than 50 years.

James Palmer and Carolyn Thompson were married Feb. 24, 1962, in Chicago, Ill., by Eric Dillett and C. Dudley. James was a postal clerk for the U.S. Postal Service until his retirement in 2004; Carolyn was an educator in and Superintendent of Education for the Lake Region Conference until her retirement in 2000.

The Palmer family includes Philip and Ingrid Palmer of Nashville, Tenn.; Cynthia and Cecil Currin of Lansing, Ill.; and three grandchildren.

Obituaries

BUSCH, William, age 91; born March 19, 1920, in Flint, Mich.; died Sept. 25, 2011, in Oscoda, Mich. He was a member of the Glennie (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Laura (Richel); son, Paul; daughters, Christine Curran, Berniece Baldwin and Pauline Smith; brothers, Richard and Harold; sister, Gloria McGuire; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held in summer 2012, with private inurnment.

DREW, James W., age 69; born Oct. 14, 1941, in Eudora, Ark.; died June 21, 2011, in Lincoln Park, Mich. He was a member of the Ecorse (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Olivia (Thomas); sons, Stephen, Deon and Ramon; daughters, Rhonda and Dayna Drew; brother, Calvin; sisters, Lillie Gaston, Jeanette Knox, Willie Williams and Billie Eichelberger; and 14 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by William E. Hughes and Larry Davis, and interment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

HARRIS, Redderick M., age 85; born Feb. 15, 1926, in Plant City, Fla.; died Feb. 3, 2012, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Anne (Krapalek); son, Ronn; daughters, Deborah Frey and Michel McGervey; sister, Tommie Carlier; and one grandchild.

A private memorial service was conducted, and inurnment was in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Stickney, Ill.

MEYERS, Shirley F. (Speckem), age 72; born June 7, 1939, in Marianna, Ark.;

died Feb. 14, 2012, in Dowagiac, Mich. She was a member of the Niles (Mich.) Westside Church.

Survivors include her husband, Terry; daughters, Donna Lee, Diane Stauffer and Teia Adams; sisters, Mary Lee Ferguson, Geraldine Strong and Lorene Cummings; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by William Dudgeon and Darrel le Roux, and interment was in Mission Hills Cemetery, Niles.

NELSON, Clarice G. (Counsell), age 95; born Dec. 23, 1916, in Burr Oak Twp., Iowa; died March 5, 2012, in Clear Lake, Wis. She was a member of the Clear Lake Church.

Survivors include her sons, LaVerne and Wesley; daughters, Alice Garrett and Connie Serl; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Curtis Denney, and interment was in Clear Lake Cemetery.

PETERSON, Kenneth A., age 81; born Aug. 20, 1930, in Muir, Mich.; died Feb. 4, 2012, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. He was a member of the Cedar Lake (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Larry, Don, Mark, Marvin and Darrell; daughter, Dawn Lyke; 13 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Mickey Mallory, and interment was in Cedar Lake Cemetery.

PHILLIPS, Valerie N., age 56; born March 7, 1955, in Stoneham, Mass.; died Dec. 18, 2011, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs. Valerie was Dean of Women in Lamson Hall at Andrews University and loved by everyone.

Survivors include her brother, Kevin; and sisters, Kathleen Phillips and Karen Carey.

Memorial services were conducted by

Dwight K. Nelson and Bill Knott, with private inurnment.

RICHEL, Jean M. (Shoup), age 92; born Dec. 14, 1919, in Montrose, Mich.; died April 7, 2012, in Kettering, Ohio. She was a member of the Pontiac (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Samuel E. and Roger L.; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Chris Ames, and interment was in Montrose Cemetery.

RICHEL, Raymond R., age 88; born Nov. 19, 1923, in Glennie, Mich.; died March 9, 2012, in Centerville, Ohio. He was a member of the Pontiac (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Jean (Shoup); sons, Samuel E. and Roger L.; brothers, Claude, Kenneth and Wilbur; sisters, Marcene Busch, Irene Kindell and Laura Busch; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Christopher Ames, and interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

ROSS, John J., age 92; born March 25, 1920, in Pittsburgh, Kan.; died March 27, 2012, in Parma, Mich. He was a member of the Bunkerhill Church, Stockbridge, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Roberta J. (Hakes); sons, John P. and James E.; daughter, Patricia A. Lykins; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Kevin Scott, and interment was in Cook's Prairie Cemetery, Clarendon Twp., Mich.

TRIPPEL, Audrey (Scholer), age 85; born July 11, 1926, in Queens, Long Island, N.Y.; died Feb. 23, 2012, in Bolingbrook, Ill. She was a member of the Southwest Church, Orland Park, Ill.

Survivors include her son, Scott; daughter, Susan Robinson; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Russ Sorensen, and interment was in Mt. Vernon Cemetery, Lemont, Ill.

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

Miscellaneous

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in business, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through online and on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit <http://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies>.

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.

DIABETES, CANCER, HBP, WEIGHT LOSS: Many success stories come from Home for Health Lifestyle Center. They offer hands-on healing experience great for anyone desiring a lasting improvement in health and deeper Christian walk. Sessions last 1-3 weeks, are quality, empowering and family-friendly. For more information, visit <http://www.HomeforHealth.net> or call 606-663-6671.

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PODIATRISTS are now signing up on Facebook to network, for dinner devotional at national meetings, to advertise for associates/partnerships (position available in Maryland) and to sell practices. Please tell every SDA

podiatrist you know to visit our page and "like us" on Facebook at: Seventh-day Adventist Podiatrists, or email Podiatry11@yahoo.com.

COUNTRY LIVING SEMINAR JULY 15-22: Simple, practical living in the country. Devotionals focus on rural life and last day events. Cost \$370. Lifestyle Renewal Seminar, July 1-8: Focus on lifestyle change, health education, hands-on cooking and exercise. Cost \$370. Upcoming seminars: 14-day Lifestyle Renewal, July 22-Aug. 5. Cost \$740. Location: Wildwood



Camp Meeting Sale

Worthington Fri-Chik and Low Fat Fri-Chik
\$2.99 ea \$31.91 case

Loma Linda Big Franks and Low Fat Big Franks
\$3.39 ea \$38.89 case

Worthington Dinner Roast
\$8.39 ea \$45.65 case

Cedar Lake Chops
\$3.39 ea \$40.68 case

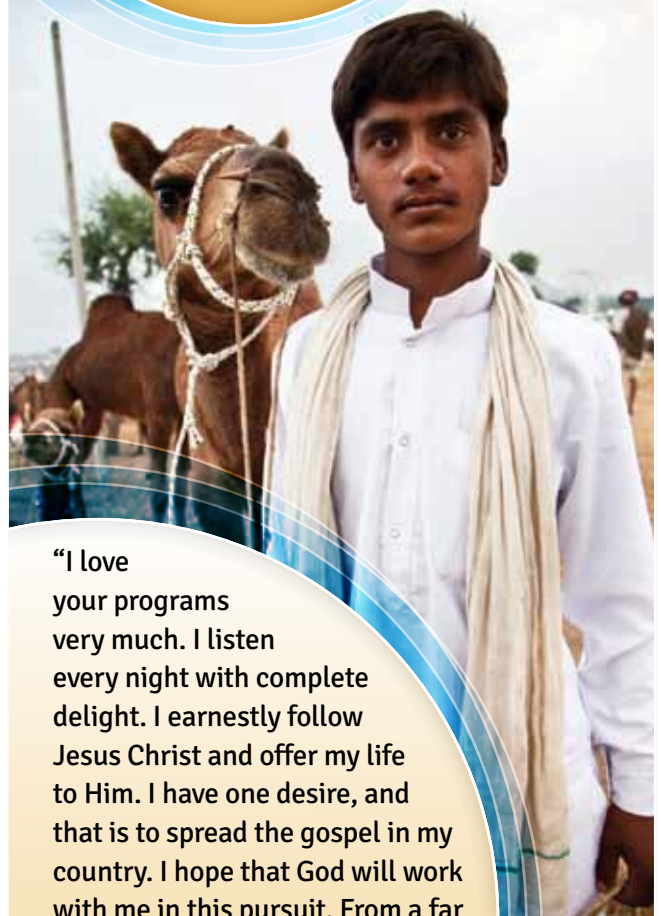
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June 3rd - June 24th



AWR travels where missionaries cannot go



"I love your programs very much. I listen every night with complete delight. I earnestly follow Jesus Christ and offer my life to Him. I have one desire, and that is to spread the gospel in my country. I hope that God will work with me in this pursuit. From a far distance, but with a heart that is near, I bid you farewell."

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Health Retreat, Iron City, Tenn. For more information, contact Charene at 931-724-6706 or visit <http://www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org>.

Employment

UNION COLLEGE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM seeks chair for its MPAS program. Minimum requirements: deep commitment to Christ, enthusiasm for College mission, three years patient care experience, appropriate degree and certification, abilities to communicate and lead the team. Preferred qualities: graduate PA academic experience, familiarity with ARC-PA accreditation, strong project management skills, doctorate or willingness to pursue one. For more information, contact Malcolm Russell at marusel@ucollege.edu or 402-486-2501.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is searching for a qualified candidate to join our Leadership Department as an Associate Professor. Must have an earned doctorate degree and demonstrated leadership

skills. For additional information and to apply, please visit http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

QUIET HOUR MINISTRIES is seeking a chief financial officer. Qualifications include strong knowledge of accounting (including trust activity), finance and a passion for ministry. CPA, leadership and investment experience a plus. Salary range is \$61,400-\$72,000 plus benefits. Send résumé and cover letter to Andrea Griggs at AndreaG@qhministries.org.

PLUMBER NEEDED: Berrien Springs, Mich., plumbing firm seeks a licensed journeyman plumber or experienced apprentice plumber for full-time employment. Primary focus is new construction. Accepting résumés by mail: FPI, P.O. Box 216, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; fax: 269-473-2905; or email: fennerplumbing@sbcglobal.net.

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Abiding in Christ

BY DONNA JACKSON



Abiding in Christ — consistently? Hmm... Despite years of loving God, disappointing reality checks have come more frequently than I like to admit. I read the references in John 14-17 and 1 John 2, 3 that portray a rich picture of the Oneness of God: the members of the Trinity abiding in One another and of Them wanting to abide in us — the followers of Jesus.

Recently, while asking God to allow me to bring delight to His great heart, I caught a glimpse of just the tiniest crack in the door behind which unfolded a profound mystery — the intimacy, unity, respect and passionate love flowing between the members of the Trinity. Then, in that backdrop, I pondered the invitation of Jesus to have oneness with Him and His Father and His Spirit. *But how, really, could I be a part of such a fellowship? Why, really,*

would They want me to be part of Them and They a part of me?

In the midst of such pondering, I was driving to work and a little behind schedule. A driver cut in front of me, and I automatically responded, anger and disdain instantly welling up and bursting forth. "Jerk!" Normally, at this point, I would guilt myself into confession with shame. But, this day, just as quickly as the air was broken with my disdain, I sensed an ever-so-slight pull-back into a place of peace and joy. All the venom of anger and contempt for another human was gone. I laughed and cried out to Love, "O, Lord, You are so sweet. You pulled me back into Yourself with such a tender, gentle touch. You know that I am sorry. Thank You, thank You! I love being in Your midst."

Donna Jackson is the Ministerial Spouses Association leader for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

Honoring God

BY RANDALL ULANGCA

God's timing often seems slow but, as far as my birth, I learned things went way too fast. When my mom went into premature labor at six-and-a-half months, doctors worried my lungs were not yet fully developed and that I might suffer respiratory complications the rest of my life, if I survived at all. I weighed 2 pounds and 14 ounces at birth and spent almost two months in neonatal intensive care.

Through the prayers of many people, God performed a miracle. Seventeen years later, I am healthy and my lungs work exceptionally, evidenced by the fact that I play a wind instrument, the trumpet. Realizing that God's miraculous power made this possible reminds me to keep my fingers pointed at Him even when my trumpet is pointed at the audience.

Making music in a secular environment can be especially challenging for an Adventist musician. While I attend a Christian high school, it is not one that shares my Adventist beliefs. I remember turning down performance opportunities with the Indiana State School Music Association honor bands because they conflicted with my convictions about God's gift of the Sabbath. I recall how terrible I felt for not helping my high school band perform secular pieces at Friday evening concerts, even though the band director explained my convictions to everyone.

Wrestling with my beliefs in these situations has been difficult, but God has taught me that though I sacrifice much for Him, He blesses me even more. When I was 14 years old, I auditioned for the Fort Wayne Youth Symphony because it was the only major music organization in our city that did not rehearse or perform on Saturdays. I had a couple strikes against me. First, because I refused to participate in competitions and secular concerts on Sabbath, I had nothing on my résumé except church performances. Second, I was an elementary school student



Randall Ulangca

competing against more experienced high school students. Being dubbed "Trumpet 5" meant there were at least four other trumpet players vying for the same chair.

You are not out until the third strike, but I was as close as you can get. That's why I consider it a miracle to have won that chair! I believe God honored my faithfulness to His Sabbath by enabling me to win a place in the only city orchestra that did not rehearse or perform on Saturdays. Today, I am the first trumpet player in the Symphony and one of this year's concerto competition winners.

God promises: "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land..." (Isaiah 58:13, 14, NIV).

As I reflect upon God's miracles in my young life, I know He is the reason for my joy, and I give all the glory to Him!

Randall Ulangca, 17, just finished his junior year at Blackhawk Christian School in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He serves as a worship leader on guitar and vocals with the youth praise team at Fort Wayne First Church. To listen to Randall play the trumpet solo in Johann Baptist Georg Neruda's Concert in E-flat major for Trumpet and Strings (Allegro Movement) with the Fort Wayne Youth Symphony, see <http://youtu.be/LW511ryTkNO>.

Send Me!

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Alison Vilag is excited about missions. She has been on two short-term mission trips with her church's youth group.

In 2009, during her first mission trip, Alison helped plant oil palms in Peru to help the mission place there become more sustainable, she says. She also assisted with construction, vacation Bible school and "even pulled out teeth," says Alison. "It was a very life-changing experience."



Alison Vilag

The following year, Alison's youth group went to Brazil. After these trips, she became more open to serving long-term. Though familiar with Adventist Frontier Mission's work, she never thought she'd join them as a missionary.

"I remember when I was little being so excited when AFM publications came to the mailbox," she says. "Just reading about the missionaries and seeing their pictures made me excited. ... I thought it was the coolest thing, but I just didn't think it was for me."

Last September, Alison talked with John Baxter, then personnel director at AFM. He told her of the needs in the Philippines and asked if she'd be interested in a student missionary position. Unsure of the idea, Alison prayed about her decision for several weeks.

"I was praying about the decision one day and asked for guidance before starting the application process," recalls Alison. "It was crazy. Fifteen minutes after praying, John called and asked how the process was going. I really don't think that was a coincidence."

Alison "kept getting green lights," she says, and was accepted for the position after her interview. She has since spent her time fundraising and preparing for training in July. In August, she will leave for the Philippines to be a student missionary on the island province of Palawan, and remain on the island until next June. Sponsored by AFM, she will home-school the fifth-grade daughter of a missionary family and assist the mission team.

"I'm looking forward to building friendships, making connections and all the blessings that will unfold," says Alison. "I'm excited to see how God will teach and use me, and give me the experience to lead for Him for the rest of my life."

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

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