

Lake Union HERALD

NOVEMBER 2012

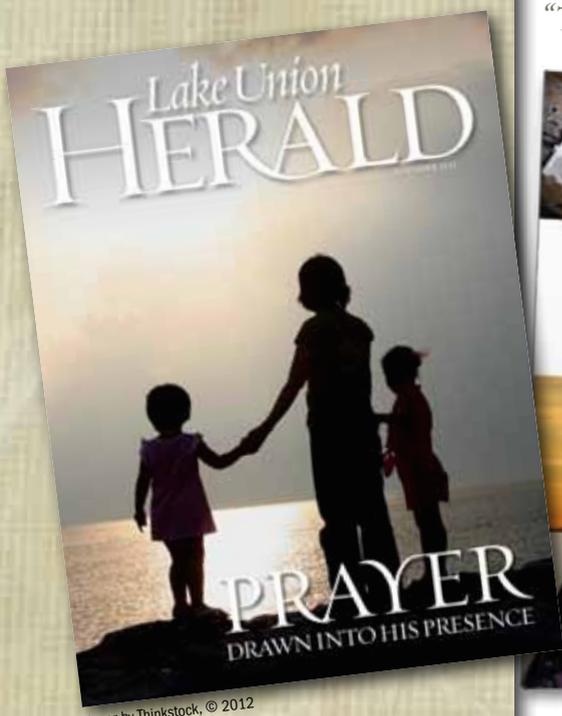


PRAYER

DRAWN INTO HIS PRESENCE

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

12



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In every issue...

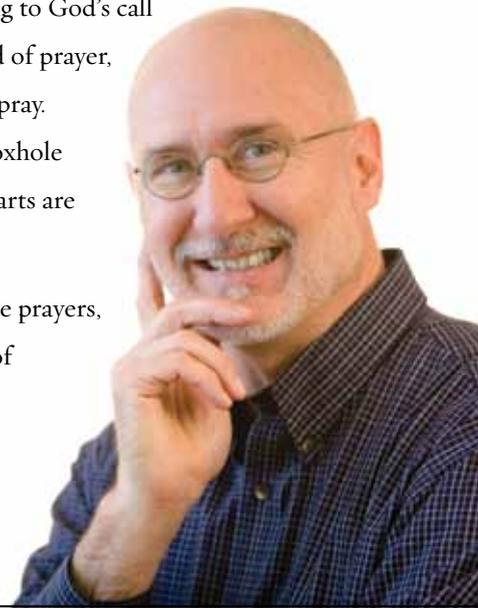
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In this issue...

It's exciting to see how many are responding to God's call to pray. More people are recognizing the need of prayer, and some are experiencing a deep longing to pray. For others, life seems more and more like a foxhole experience where even the most calloused hearts are desperate to pray.

Whatever your experience, we trust that the prayers, stories and lessons in prayer will be a source of encouragement to you.


Gary Burns, Editor



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The *Lake Union Herald* (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, MI, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$12.00. Vol. 104, No. 11. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: *Lake Union Herald*, P. O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.



Staying to Make a Difference

A few years ago, I encountered a wonderful example of mission focus in a local church. In preparation for a donation of a new church building, we met with a group from three churches to contemplate how best to plan for this opportunity.

That evening we heard an exceptional story of an older couple who had considered moving into the area, way before there was any knowledge of a new church being donated. They described how they found no warmth and little friendliness when they entered the church; no one connected with them to make them feel welcome. They were really unimpressed. *Who would want to attend a church like this?*

But here's the good part: They prayerfully evaluated what they had experienced. They decided that it was an opportunity — a chance to make a difference. *Could they help this little congregation of nine to 15 attending members become what God wanted it to be?* They decided to move to the area, became members of that church and went to work.

Hearing that story really warmed my heart. They got it! They understood John F. Kennedy's famous challenge (paraphrased): Ask not what your church can do for you. Ask what you can do for your church. But, amazingly, they were not the only people who felt that way. That evening two other couples told a similar story. They came, they saw a church that was not as it should be, and they stayed to engage in making it better.

The result was that the church was coming to life. Even before construction began on the new building, one could walk in and feel a quick connection — making it easier to belong. Mission was taking place. The new church building was not the catalyst to this revival. It was simply a nicer, better and bigger home for a growing, developing church with mission.

By the time we came to the Lake Union, the church that formerly drew nine to 15 people now had an attendance of more than 100. Evangelism was taking place. Mission was happening.

Often, good things happen because of individuals who participate in God's vision, resulting in the accomplishment of His plan. As my wife, Barbara, and I are privileged to visit many churches around the Lake Union, we often see examples of this principle. Virtually every time we see a church that is a safe place for those who have been touched by the Holy Spirit and are seeking God's people and His truth, it is because a core of the members are on a mission and have taken the lead to create a godly climate. Hopefully, those who are seekers will feel an immediate belonging, while those who do not find a connection will stay to make a difference.

The Son of God came into this world to seek and save the lost. He came into a religious system that was not about mission but, rather, about pride, exclusivity and selfishness. It was neither a safe place for sinners nor their Savior, but He stayed and gathered a group from which to build His church. He taught them, nurtured them, corrected them and empowered them to become a part of His salvation process for a lost world.



Coping with Financial Distress

BY MADLYN HAMBLIN

Our country today is filled with gloom and doom regarding financial matters. Thousands and thousands are without work; home foreclosures and business failings are at an all-time high. For many, credit card debt is out of control. Many of us are uncertain concerning our financial futures.

There is no shortage of books and articles on making ends meet or how to become a millionaire. However, for many, the line between needs and wants is extremely blurred, which can be a factor for financial failure when times are tough.

Financial distress, for some, may mean not taking that exotic vacation this year or buying that new SUV. For others, it is far more critical — not being able to make mortgage payments, having trouble keeping up with taxes and insurance and, sometimes, even skimping on the necessities like food and clothing. Others may skip their commitment to God in tithes and offerings.

When I was young, it seemed my parents were always in financial stress. Having three children and an elderly grandparent living in our home was hard in the 1940s and 1950s. Dad and Mother were determined their children would have a Christian education, and this determination was successful; my sister, brother and I all have been educated in Christian schools through college.

When times were tough, I recall my parents kneeling in the living room, morning and evening, praying and asking God to meet our family's needs. God never failed them then, and I believe He will not fail His faithful children in this day and age.



Madlyn Hamblin

Of course, we cannot expect God to drop dollars out of the sky if we are not wise stewards. Using money wisely, for many, is not easy. There are so many temptations to spend, spend, spend. And, sometimes, our commitment to “pay God first” is overridden with what we determine as our “needs.”

So, how do we cope with financial distress?

1. Acknowledge God's ownership of our wealth. Because we are God's creations, we first of all need to acknowledge God's ownership of our wealth, which comes in many

forms — a healthy body, talents, abilities, time and, yes, material possessions. The word, wealth, as I am using it here, is not necessarily mega millions. It is having enough to meet our needs and some of our wants. Acknowledging God as our number one priority is the first step in a healthy financial future.

2. Make a commitment to be honest with God. When we make this commitment, I believe He will meet our needs — not necessarily our wants, but surely our needs. The psalmist says, “*I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread*” (Psalm 37:25 KJV).

3. Take responsibility for your actions. If you've been an unwise steward, confess this to God and immediately begin to change your bad habits. Create a budget. Live *below* your

Always remember that money is a gift from God in order to help other people.



When times were tough, Madlyn Hamblin's parents knelt in prayer, morning and evening, and asked God to meet the family's needs. He never failed. From left: Letta (Sterling) Lewis, Madlyn (Lewis) Hamblin, Marian (Lochinaw) Lewis, Dianne (Lewis) Barnum, Ted Lewis (on his father's lap) and Virgil Lewis

Virgil and Marian Lewis were determined their daughters, Madlyn and Diane, would have a Christian education.

means. Negotiate a reduced balance to pay off loans and credit card debt. Begin the process to pay off debt.

4. **Make savings a priority.** If you save \$1, \$5 or \$10 a week, you will probably not miss that amount and, with compounded interest, your money will grow. For example, Gladys Holm never made more than \$15,000 a year at her job as a secretary. When she died, she left more than \$18 million to a children's hospital. She learned how to invest, was a systematic saver, and watched her money grow beyond her wildest dreams.

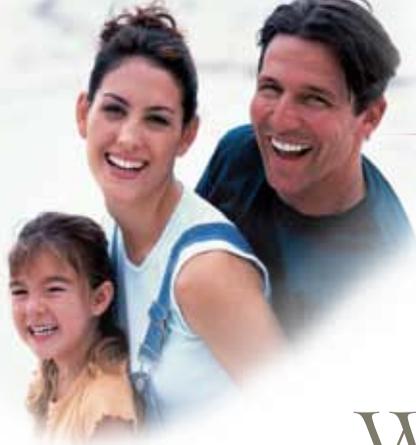
5. **Spend only what you can afford.** If you are a person who goes shopping when you are down in the dumps, then don't go shopping. Even touching an item you want can encourage you to spend what you don't have.

Always remember that money is a gift from God in order to help other people. *Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble* (Psalm 41:1 KJV). I think

often of what Doris Gothard, a retired corporate manager, said in a financial seminar that I attended this past spring. "If you have financial troubles today, there is no need to panic! We all have some bad money habits, but it is quite possible that the cure you need most is the help you will receive from faith in Jesus Christ." God's Word is full of assurances: *But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day* (Deuteronomy 8:18 KJV).

It's true, companies go out of business, stock market funds disappear, but God never fails. Look to Him in obedience to His Word, and He will meet your needs.

Madlyn Hamblin is the author of five books and directs the Communication and Health Ministry Departments of the Jackson Church in Michigan.



What To Do When We Aren't Talking

BY ARTHUR NOWLIN AND KIM LOGAN-NOWLIN

When communication has broken down in a relationship, it becomes critical to take a new approach to those sensitive issues causing distress. It becomes essential to implement a change in how the communication is processed, and to use cautious judgment when evaluating the content of our dialogue. There also is a need for a risk-taking experience toward rebuilding the communication between the two parties. Who will be the one to start the healing journey?

Sometimes, the journey can be difficult with many obstacles. At other times, there may only be a few issues to resolve. The significance of timing depends on the elapsed period before the initiation of the resolution. This is critical because it is a high priority that our issues are clear for recall and can be addressed.

Time is critical when unresolved issues exist in relationships. If discussion is not implemented toward reestablishing the communication in an appropriate time frame, frustration continues to manifest itself through anger, resulting in low self-esteem issues, and leads toward misinterpretation of actions. The slightest annoyance can be perceived as a direct attack on the partner's mind, body and spirit. The need to correct this behavior only will come about when one partner comes out of his or her comfort zone and addresses the communication breakdown.

Healing Steps

How do we begin the healing without a positive communication process? We begin by doing what we need to do: communicate! The initial step towards effective communication is developing the ability to reason out the process within our inner-self, and learning what can be done



to improve the exchange process. We have broken it down into four points.

1. Developing effective communication may call for a self-inventory to determine how the communication is delivered, such as body language, voice tone and self-control. Don't act on impulse during conflict. If your feelings

are negative, take time to regroup.

2. Look at taking a risk and opening the communication with the belief that your efforts will establish change.

3. Don't be discouraged if the engagement does not go in the direction you expect. What becomes important is the positive actions demonstrated. Continue to focus on resolving the differences. Sometimes change is a slow process.

4. If the process of communication remains stagnate, don't hesitate to obtain a qualified mediator to assist in eliminating the barrier.

Remember that, in the process of relationships, positive communication can enhance the opportunity to enrich the dynamics of continuous and healthy growth.

Arthur Nowlin, LMSW, CAAC, and Kim Logan-Nowlin, Ph.D., LPC, BCPC, are the directors of family ministry for the Lake Region Conference. Arthur serves as deputy director of Substance Abuse Outpatient Programs, and Kim is director of Kim Logan Communications Clinic. They have co-authored *Attitude Adjustment of the Christian Man and Woman*. They may be contacted at 313-898-8200, or visit <http://www.kimnow.com>.

*Processed fibers
don't produce expected
beneficial effects.*

Preventing Holiday Pounds

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

*Fiber-rich foods
assist with weight
management.*

As we approach the wonderful holiday season, many will want to avoid adding two to five extra pounds from consuming all the holiday goodies. Wise food selection is essential along with continued engagement in regular physical activities.

Years ago, the English physician, Denis Burkitt, proposed that fiber-rich foods helped reduce the risk of overweight along with protection against heart disease and diabetes. Fiber-rich foods help to satisfy your hunger, so it is easier to eat fewer calories and better manage your weight. Two major studies of American men and women suggested that people who eat high-fiber diets tend to have lower body weights than those who eat low-fiber diets. Reviews suggest that for every additional daily 10 grams of fiber consumed there is a seven percent drop in caloric intake.

Fiber-rich foods do take longer to chew (for example, carrot sticks versus cake). When we slow down the rate at which we eat, we give our bodies a better chance to let us know when we're full. Fiber also expands as it absorbs a lot of fluid. When fiber swells in our stomach, it helps us to feel more satisfied. Compared to the same amount of fiber-free or lower fiber foods, higher-fiber foods are more satiating and tend to have fewer calories. An apple has 45 grams of fiber and 75 calories while a piece of apple pie and ice-cream has 1 to 2 grams fiber and about 600 calories.

Many companies claim high fiber content for their processed foods due to the added processed fibers. Kellogg's Fiber Plus cereal products and their nutrition bars contain 9 to 10 grams of fiber per serving, but this fiber comes from chicory root fiber, soluble corn fiber, guar gum, cellulose, etc. In addition, General Mills Fiber One cereals and nutrition bars also

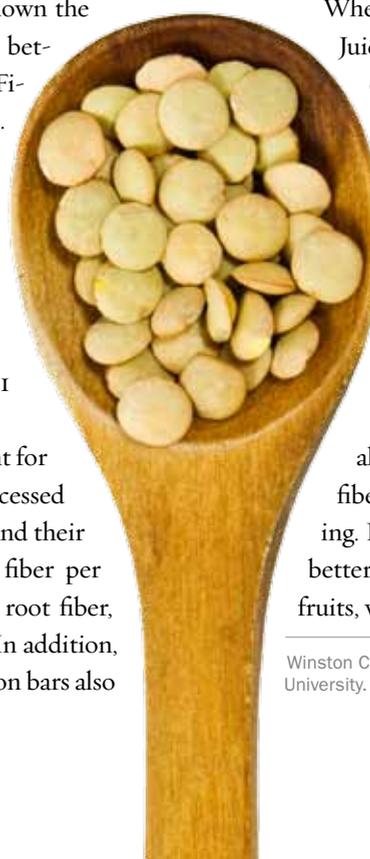
get much of their fiber from processed chicory root fiber or inulin. These added processed fibers have little effect upon satiety or the ability to maintain a healthy weight and do not have the same beneficial effect upon health as that seen with fiber-rich foods.

When polydextrose and other fibers were added to muffins, they had little or no effect upon satiety. When four different fibers were incorporated into chocolate bars, no differences in satiety, hunger or food intake at the next meal were observed compared with the chocolate bars with no added fiber.

When a Naked Blue Machine Boosted 100% Juice Smoothie made from fruit juices with added Fibersol-2, a processed fiber product, was consumed for breakfast, it did not satisfy people's appetite anywhere near as much as when the people ate oatmeal, blueberries and nuts. People felt fuller when eating the whole foods even though both meals had the same calories and same amount of fiber.

Clearly, the added fibers in processed foods do not typically affect satiety and overall food intake. The claims made for such high-fiber foods with the added fiber may be misleading. For improved satiety and calorie control, it is better to consume high-fiber whole foods such as fruits, vegetables, beans and whole grains.

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





PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

Teach Us to Pray

THE EDITORS

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples” (Luke 11:1 NKJV).

And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” (Matthew 6:5–13 NKJV)

So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! (Luke 11:9–13 NKJV)

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened (Luke 3:21 NKJV).

Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray (Matthew 19:13 NKJV).

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed (Mark 1:35 NKJV).

And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him (Luke 9:18 NKJV).

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:

- Consider the difference between asking, “Lord, teach us to pray,” and asking, “Lord, teach us *how* to pray.” What was it about Christ’s prayer life that prompted the disciple’s request?
- What all does it mean to “not be like the hypocrites” when we pray?
- What is the significance of Jesus placing His hands on the children when He prayed for them?
- When we pray to receive the Holy Spirit, can we expect Heaven to open and for the Spirit to descend?

The Lake Union Herald editors

Interceding for the Unsaved

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. —Romans 10:1 NIV

The Bible clearly requires us to pray for persons who are not saved. In 1 Timothy 2, we are reminded that God wants all persons to be saved, and we are urged “therefore” to pray for everyone. Jesus modeled prayer for the unsaved when He prayed, “*My prayer is not for [my disciples] alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message*” (John 17:20 NIV, adapted). And the apostle Paul was praying for the unsaved when he prayed his heart’s desire for the Israelites (see Romans 10:1 above).

How shall we pray for those who are not saved?

First, we should pray that *the unsaved will be drawn by the Father*. Jesus said, “*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him*” (John 6:44 NIV).

Second, we should pray that *those who hear the gospel will understand it*. Jesus warns that the evil one will come and snatch away the gospel seed sown in a person’s heart if it is not understood (see Matthew 13:19). The spiritual understanding and enlightenment required must come from God, who is moved to respond to the prayers of His people.

Third, we should pray that *unbelievers’ eyes will be opened so that they can see the light*. As we pray this prayer, we will once again be contending with the adversary: *The god of this age [who] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ* (2 Corinthians 4:4 NIV). Opening spiritual eyes is, of course, God’s business. But releasing God’s power to open blinded eyes is prayer business, to which God calls us.

God honors prayer for the unsaved. A Lighthouse*, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, prayed for a young man who had run away from home and joined a gang. The young man returned home and made a commitment to Christ. Later, his grandfather gave his life to Christ shortly before he died, also in response to prayer.

Another Lighthouse in western Michigan saw four families come to the Lord after eight months of weekly meetings to pray for their neighbors.

This is prayer-evangelism, evangelism in which God moves in the hearts and lives of people in response to the earnest prayers of believers. Who among those who will believe in Christ are you praying for?

Reflect

Do you care enough about the unsaved to pray earnestly for their salvation?

Would you care more if it were your own children or family members who were unsaved? Remember that all unsaved persons are wayward sons and daughters of God’s family. God does not want *anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*. (2 Peter 3:9 NIV).

Pray

Praise God, who so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall ... have eternal life (John 3:16 NIV).

Thank God for those who prayed for you and helped to open the door of salvation for you.

If you do not have a burden for the unsaved, *ask* God to put such a burden on your heart.

Commit yourself to partner with Jesus Christ in praying for persons yet to be saved.

Act

Put the list of unsaved persons for whom you pray in a place where you will see it every day. Pray that the Father will draw them to Himself, that they will understand the good news of salvation in Jesus, and will have their eyes opened to the light of God’s goodness. Continue to pray for them daily.

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.

*A Lighthouse, as referred to in this devotional, is a person, family or small group who commits to praying for, caring for and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with their neighbors, co-workers, friends or family members.

Sharing Hope from My Hospital Bed

BY KRIS GUIDO

Who would ever think that a visit to the doctor for shortness of breath and aching muscles would lead to admission to the hospital for cancer? Within 24 hours, Dhvani Vaishnav, my physician, requested I go directly to the hospital for further testing. Umang Gautam, the oncologist, met with my husband, Dan, and me to explain the next steps in diagnosing the type of lymphoma I had.

Jeffery W. Keller, the surgeon, consulted with us. He wanted to biopsy a lymph node from under my arm. He explained how several nerves surround the lymph node and that damaging a nerve would limit muscle control of my arm. We prayed the Lord would guide the surgeon's hands. I was not afraid, for I know a mighty Physician.

After surgery, the surgeon's eyes lit up as he explained the nerves were completely out of his way as he removed four lymph nodes. I smiled, "That's because Jesus was holding the nerves back for you. You performed surgery with God's hands next to yours."

Throughout treatment, I had several admissions to the hospital. One morning, during respiratory therapy treatment, the therapist read I had Stage 4 cancer. She asked if I was at peace. I exclaimed, "Oh, yes! I have peace because of my Savior, Jesus Christ. He died for me so I can live life to its fullest, knowing some day He is coming again to take us home. But until then, I live with this Great Hope in my heart."

The therapist, also a Christian, talked about the second coming of Christ. I asked if she believed the dead in Christ are asleep until Jesus comes.

She said, "Yes." I was so excited. I asked her if her church teaches that the dead sleep.

She stated, "I don't know what they teach. I just know it's what I read in my Bible." I finished my treatment and prayed with her.



Kris Guido and her husband, Dan, live and witness for Jesus in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

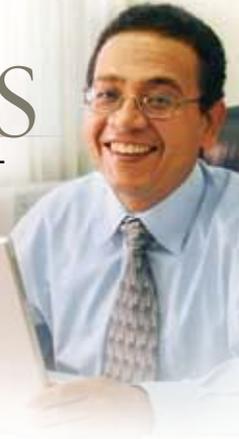
A chaplain from the hospital visited me. I shared with him some of the ministries I am involved with, one being bookmarks with Bible verses for different needs, such as hope, fear, strength, praying Scripture over our young adult children, sharing God's plan of salvation and several more. I shared my gratitude for all Jesus has done for me in my life. I told the chaplain of my oldest daughter's renewed

life and how she has served Him. I told him how my husband and I met and now serve the Lord. Tears welled up in this chaplain's eyes, and he asked if I would pray. So I prayed for his ministry and asked the Lord to bless him so he can serve others. Before he left, I gave him a bookmark on strength. Something was bothering this brother in Christ. I pray he found peace in the Scriptures I shared with him.

I prayed with several nurses and nursing assistants. It's amazing how sharing the love and joy that Jesus has put in my heart can be such a blessing to those who take care of the sick every day.

I choose to trust God and claim His promise: *Perfect love casteth out fear* (John 4:18). Worry would only draw attention to the disease, infect my mind and cloud my thoughts so that I couldn't see Jesus clearly. I want to magnify God, sharing His loving mercy and peace.

Kris Guido is a member of the Green Bay Church in Wisconsin. Readers may contact Kris at krisguido@new.rr.com.



Epidemia de obesidad infantil los Hispanos a la cabeza

POR MANUEL ALVA

Para este mes invité al doctor Manuel Alva, médico en la ciudad de Berwyn, estado de Illinois, con especialidad en gastroenterología y hepatología, para que escribiera el último artículo de la serie sobre la salud. —Carmelo Mercado

Los restaurantes de comida rápida forman cadenas de industrias muy populares en la sociedad moderna. Este tipo de comida al igual que el consumo de bebidas endulzadas son uno de los factores principales del problema masivo de la obesidad en los niños. Un combo grande de comida chatarra (hamburguesa doble con queso, papas fritas, bebidas y postre) puede contener 2.200 calorías, las cuales requerirían un maratón para ser quemadas. Otra posible causa de la obesidad es la vida sedentaria que llevan los niños en la actualidad, con juegos de video o computación que no requieren ninguna actividad.

Los problemas de sobrepeso y obesidad en niños y adolescentes son más comunes ahora que hace unos diez años, especialmente entre nosotros los hispanos. Esto contribuye a problemas sociales y psicológicos en el desarrollo de los niños. El índice de obesidad, de problemas cardíacos y hasta de problemas psicológicos en los adultos se ve reflejado en los niños debido



Los doctores Manuel y Ester Alva al concluir sus clases de salud en Chile.

principalmente a la alimentación que impera en la sociedad moderna. El mecanismo de propaganda de los restaurantes de comida rápida hace que este índice tenga más relieve, creando así graves problemas de salud en los niños. El gran poder de la influencia publicitaria crea un desbalance en los valores nutricionales que los niños necesitan para su desarrollo, causando así los problemas antes mencionados.

Según estudios realizados, a los tres años de edad los niños hispanos son más propensos a la obesidad que los niños afroamericanos y blancos. Aunque se desconocen las causas, es posible que se deba a factores culturales. Las consecuencias pueden ser irreversibles y hasta lamentables. Los hábitos alimenticios que hemos adquirido con el tiempo y la vida moderna, se han transformado en hábitos que atentan contra la salud.

El uso de algunos alimentos chatarra, tales como hamburguesas, salchichas, papitas fritas, queso en todas sus formas, enlatados, bebidas gaseosas y dulces ha llegado a ser común en muchos hogares. Este tipo de alimentación es muy popular por lo sencillo de su elaboración (sometida a procesos industriales). En muchos casos es de fácil conservación ya que no

necesita refrigeración y su fecha de caducidad suele ser larga. Además, su precio relativamente bajo, su amplia distribución y la presión publicitaria lo hace fácilmente accesible. No hay que olvidar, sin embargo, que con frecuencia, lo barato sale caro.

Los niños y jóvenes de nuestra iglesia necesitan enseñanza a través del ejemplo y el dominio propio, que como adultos les podemos dar. No les enseñemos a comer chatarra y a estar ociosos. Demostrémosles con amor cómo vivir cuidando el templo del Espíritu Santo. Decidamos obedecer las leyes naturales (descritas en *El Ministerio de Curación*, p. 89) que rigen la salud de nuestro cuerpo y que fueron diseñadas por el mismo Dios de amor que nos creó y dio su vida por nosotros (Éxodo 15:26).

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



What to Pray?

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO PRAY

BY RACHEL N. LEMONS

Have you ever come before God wondering what to pray? Feeling devoid of emotion and strength? Feeling as useless as a glove with no hand to fill it? You wonder if you should beg and plead with God for the object of your prayer, or if you should stand quietly in His presence and accept His will.



Recently, I found myself at a crossroads in a particular situation. I had been praying and praying about this situation. In fact, I took 40 days and prayed evening, morning and at noon about the situation, in accordance with Psalm 55:17 and Daniel 6:10. I thought God was very clear in the beginning; but, as the situation progressed, I became very unsure. I found myself at a standstill when approaching God during my prayer time; I found myself wondering what to pray.

This pause, these moments of indecision, were creating a small chasm in my relationship with God. A chasm that was being filled by doubt, discouragement and despair. But, in an effort to fight for my relationship with God, it was in these moments that I pressed forward and asked for His guidance and direction in knowing what to pray.

What Is Prayer?

Prayer is the lifeblood of our relationship with God. It replaces the face-to-face communication that the first family once had with Him in the Garden of Eden. It's our power source; it's where we find strength. Even in the moments when we are unsure about what to pray, it is important that we still muster up the strength to fall into the arms of God.

Prayer is so much more than a moment in time; it's a conversation. It's a learning experience. This explains the way that we can *pray without ceasing* (1 Thessalonians 5:17 NKJV). It's asking God for a Schwinn bicycle and expecting a shiny, red gizmo with shiny, silver spokes but getting a box full of bike parts accompanied with an instruction manual instead. So, when you find yourself facing a moment of doubt or discouragement (and we will all find ourselves there at one time or another), when things don't seem to be working out as they should, when you think you've followed God's appointed path but you don't see Him working things out, what should you do?

Pray for God's Presence

The safest place we can find ourselves is in the presence of God, for it is there we can most clearly hear His voice. In fact, Moses received the instructions for his mission in God's presence (see Exodus 3:4). As he carried out this mission — leading a group of stubborn, former slaves with poor sense of [spiritual] direction, he knew the importance of continuing on in the presence of God. In fact, he knew it was vital to him being able to carry out the mission.

Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight.

And consider that this nation is Your people. And He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest" (Exodus 33:13, 14 NKJV).

This is an amazing promise: When we are in God's presence, we find rest for our souls. We are able to take a spiritual break because we don't need to plan out all of the details of our lives. We can rest knowing God has worked out our salvation for us. We can rest in this assurance: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9 NKJV).

In fact, when we don't know what to pray, simply being in a state of prayer will bring us into God's presence. Ellen White assured the young by saying, "Prayer, whether offered in the public assembly, at the family altar, or in secret, places man directly in the presence of God" (*The Youth's Instructor*, February 15, 1900).

Be Still in the Presence of God

Once we have found the perfect place, how should we act in God's presence? Psalm 46:10 advises us to quiet our drive for activity: *Be still, and know that I am God* (NKJV).

The best way we can conceptualize being still is by physically staying in one place. But to be spiritually still means to bask in the presence of God with a full appreciation of who He is.

There was a time in my life I had a looming prayer request that felt like my shadow, as it was with me at all times. At this time, I thought praying was like placing an order for fries — the ticket was sitting back in the kitchen, but I hadn't gotten my food yet. I continuously brought the request before God. I journaled the prayer. I fasted and prayed. I even brought two or three together in His name. And although I saw small progress, I never noticed any significant change as a result of my prayer.

Eventually, my focus on my prayer request began to wear me down, causing me to have pent-up frustration toward God. I became so focused on the request that I hardly paid attention to the Grantor of the request. In the midst of being miffed, I shared my feelings with a friend who, after listening to my complaints, asked me, "Have you ever tried spending time with God without asking Him for anything?"

Well, what's the point of that? I thought to myself. *That's like sitting on Santa Claus' knee as a kid and not asking for a present.* However, his words, eventually, rang true for me. As simple as it sounded, I had never done it before.

This is what it means to be still in the presence of God — enjoying God for who He is instead of what He can do.



Being still in the presence of God is carving out a time each day where we simply learn to love and appreciate God as a friend and a Savior, realizing that if we were to walk away from our prayer life with a closer relationship with Jesus and nothing else, He alone would be enough.

Praise God in the Midst of the Storm

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1 NKJV).

When in doubt about what to pray, praise is always the right answer. We have the tendency to be fair-weather Christians. We'd prefer to bless the Lord in the good times but let a word of complaint continually be in our mouths. I've learned, during the past few months, that the reason we withhold our unconditional praise is because of our lack of unconditional trust. We have become so comfortable with the concept of God as our Friend that we've forgotten He is the omnipotent, omnipresent Creator of the Universe. If we would take time to remember how He's worked in the past, it would be much easier for us to remember who He is.

I love the way God reminds Job of His credentials to run the universe in Job 38–41. He poses the question, *"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"* (Job 38:4–7 NKJV) And, in an instant, I turn God's questioning from Job to me.

Trust that Our Creator-God Is Sovereign

When we acknowledge who God is and what He has done, we are able to praise Him through the storm, and even praise Him *for* the storm because, ultimately, He is sovereign over all of the situations in our lives. He is not surprised at the way things are turning out. The loss of a job or the death of a

dear family member did not take Him by surprise. This is not to say that He is not understanding or compassionate. The psalmist explains, *"His understanding has no limit"* (Psalm 147:5 NIV). Nonetheless, He is not oblivious to the things that are happening; in fact, He knew they were coming. He knows the beginning from the end, and we must learn to acknowledge that and praise Him through the storm.

You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created (Revelation 4:11 NKJV).

When we find ourselves at a standstill and don't know what to pray, we should take time to acknowledge to God that we know He is totally and completely able to care for us. Many of us are used to setting goals and working hard to accomplish them. We're not accustomed to taking "no" for an answer, and we pride ourselves in having pulled ourselves up by our own bootstraps. But being in relationship with God allows us to call "shotgun" and take our places in the passenger seat.

Initially, the feeling will be most uncomfortable and we'll attempt to grab the wheel and put the car into drive. But once we realize that God is adept at doing His job, we will realize the privilege we have to allow someone so loving and with so much foresight to take control of our lives. It's especially important, when we don't know what to say, to pray a prayer of trust. It is in these moments that we should let God know we are willing to trust Him with complete and total control of our lives.

Acknowledge that Life Is a Series of Spiritual Battles

The Apostle Paul gives us insights into what's really going on: *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places"* (Ephesians 6:12 NKJV).

As Christians who live in this world, but not of it, it's easy to become sucked into the trap of lumping all the goblins, witches and warlords into the category of fantasy books and teenage-vampire-heartthrob movies. However, to do this is to lose sight of the real, live battle that wages on around us. Paul is quite clear to identify the spiritual fight in which we are engaged, whether we choose to acknowledge it or not. Even Peter gives explanation for the hardships in our lives when he says, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy" (I Peter 4:12 NKJV).

I mention the hardships in life because, most often, when we stand in prayer not knowing what to pray, it is in a moment of hardship or in the midst of God's silence. It's seldom in a moment of God's goodness, mercy and blessing that we feel as though God is silent; it is usually in the midst of trials. So, in these moments, when you're unsure of what to pray, pray a prayer of acknowledgment of the spiritual battle that wages around you. Thank God that it's a battle that He has already won. As Peter advises, rejoice in the midst of your trials and suffering that you're taking part in Christ's suffering.

Thank God for Fighting for You

Growing up, one of the great benefits of having an older brother was knowing that he was fighting for me. I never worried that a negative word would be said about me in his presence without him defending me. And we know that Jesus is a friend who sticks closer to us than a brother (see Proverbs 18:24).

Whenever I'm in the middle of a particularly fierce storm, I love to visit the verses mentioned above in Exodus 14 and II Chronicles 20. When facing a brutal enemy or a troubling situation, it always gives me a sense of peace and calm when I realize I don't need to worry about fighting my battles because God is fighting them for me.

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace" (Exodus 14:13, 14 NKJV).

Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you (II Chronicles 20:15, 17 NKJV).

When you don't know what to pray, thank God for fighting your battles for you. This will help you place your problem in perspective when you compare it to the size of your God.

Hold On

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9 NKJV).

As a prayer warrior in training, I know the most tempting and appealing thing to do, when I don't know what to pray, is to let go; but this is the moment when I know I must hold on.

I am currently pushing through a trying time in my life. One evening, as I was having worship, Isaiah 40:31 flashed in my mind; the words were beautifully appropriate and spoke to my situation. *But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint* (NKJV).

Rest assured that in the moments when you're at a loss for words and don't know what to say, God knows your heart. The Holy Spirit can turn even your most primal cry into beautiful words that move God's heart (see Romans 8:26).

Most often, when we don't know what to pray, it is because we are in the middle of distress, indecision and unrest. It is because we want God to come down and be a part of our human story. We want our God to be as real as our pain.

Psalms 66 assures us that God is a God of action! It is here that we see an active God who quickly jumps off the sidelines and onto the court — like a zealous parent, eager to get into the action at his son's basketball game. Isn't that what we all want? We want a God who gets involved. We want a God who will fight our battles. We want a God who is in control.

Our God is all of that, and more! When we are in the middle of life's storms and we don't know what to pray, we can rest assured that our God, the God who specializes in giving beauty for ashes (see Isaiah 61:3), hears every moan that passes through our lips and counts every tear. His ear stretches past audible limits and enters our hearts. When we acknowledge to God our inability and inadequacy to approach Him in prayer, He can pick us up and take us where He wants us to be.

Rachel N. Lemons is from Maywood, Illinois. She currently serves as the director of communication at Middle East University, in Beirut, Lebanon. Rachel recently authored the young adult devotional book for 2013, *Fish Food: What if God values relationship more than religion?* The devotional book was published by Review & Herald Publishing Association.

I Don't Know How to Pray

A PRAYER WALK WITH GOD

BY GARY BURNS

As a longtime leader in prayer ministry and coordinator for prayer ministry in the Lake Union Conference, I have a confession to make:

I don't know how to pray.

I don't know when I should pray.

I don't know what to say when I pray.

I pray!

I don't pray as well as I should.

I don't pray as often as I should.

I don't even want to pray as often as I should.

I still pray.

I pray because God draws me into conversation with Himself. My prayer life is as dependent upon God as my physical life — every breath, every heartbeat. Granted, it requires my cooperation; but without His active involvement, my prayer life would die.

PRAYER IS A CONVERSATION INITIATED BY GOD.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself" (Genesis 3:7–10 NKJV).

Notice what prompted Adam to run and hide. *"I heard Your voice...."*

Adam and Eve already had fashioned a covering for themselves to replace the righteous robe of light. They had "prepared" to meet their Maker. But when they heard the voice of God, they hid themselves. God was seeking a conversation of reconciliation, but they sought only to avoid the encounter. That's what sin does to us. It blocks the only path to recovery and reconciliation. If God Himself did not step in, if He did not initiate the conversation, Adam and Eve would have forever and irrevocably fled the presence of God.

God is ever seeking to connect personally with us — to call us into life-changing and life-saving conversation. We call it prayer, but we often make it a game of hide-and-seek.

Our favorite family reunion place is Wallowa Lake, in the Eagle Cap Wilderness of northeast Oregon. One year I was listening to the stories of my aunts and uncles as we sat by the ice-cold stream under the giant Douglas firs. I was supposed to be watching my busy, little, diaper-clad nephew, Sean, but the stories were so entertaining I didn't notice when he wandered off.

When my dad's sister returned for her firstborn, he was nowhere to be found. Below us was the deep, glacier-formed lake, and above was the "Alps of Oregon," where my older cousin and his new bride spent more than a week without seeing another soul. We all spread out, calling my little charge's name: "Sean, Sean!"

Even though he was still in diapers, Sean was a fast, little toddler, and I wasn't sure just how far he had gone. Since most were looking toward the lake, I decided to head for the forest. "Sean, Sean!"

I was not aware, but he heard me. And just like Adam, he was hiding. "Sean! Sean!" He heard me getting closer — too close for comfort. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw this white, puffy triangle dart behind a tree. I had him!

Heading straight for the tree, I called out again. He tried to make a run for the next tree, about ten yards away, exposing him to plain view.

"Sean! I see you!" I called at him.

About two yards from the next tree, he stopped, put his hands over his ears, turned around, and said, "I can't hear you!"

This is what I have often done when God calls out to me in prayer. God revealed Himself in the Garden as the ultimate Seeker, the ultimate Initiator of relationship and reconciliation. *For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost* (Luke 19:10 NASB). His quest began in the Garden, and His seeking continues from generation to generation.

Prior to the world's first murder, the Seeker came to save Cain from himself — to offer hope and the way to reconciliation.

So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it" (Genesis 4:6, 7 NKJV).

Cain ignored the counsel of God. In effect, he placed his hands over his ears as God called out to him in conversational prayer. "I can't hear you!" And the result was murder! But the Seeker seeks on.

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth..."

And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!" (Genesis 4:9-11,13).

Yet, God responds to Cain's prayer with hope. *And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him* (Genesis 4:15 NKJV).

PRAYER IS AN INVITATION TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE.

We long for, and yet run from, the presence of God. Though hiding in the bushes, Adam and Eve did not want to leave the Garden. God had to physically remove them, an act that must have been agonizingly painful for Him.

So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life (Genesis 3:24 NKJV).

Ever since that day, we've been trying to get back. Joni Mitchell expressed it in her 1969 song, "Woodstock."

I came upon a child of God

He was walking along the road

And I asked him where are you going

And this he told me

I'm going on down to Yasgur's farm

I'm going to join in a rock 'n' roll band

I'm going to camp out on the land

I'm going to try an' get my soul free

We are stardust

We are golden

And we've got to get ourselves

Back to the garden'

The trouble is, we can't "get ourselves back!" And we've tried a plethora of self-induced and artificial means to get there. Eastern religions have attempted to reach Nirvana — according to Oxford, a transcendent state in which there is neither suffering, desire, nor sense of self.

Religious practitioners attempt to "get back" through chanting, vibrations and various forms of mind manipulation that might be described as self-hypnotic "praying." The use of opium, heroin, LSD, ecstasy, marijuana and other "feel good" drugs, even bizarre and elaborate sexual encounters, all are failed attempts.

But for every counterfeit, there is a true. God has provided a way.

And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him (Genesis 5:24 NKJV).

By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God (Hebrews 11:5 NKJV).

Whatever Enoch did, it was described as walking with God. It must have been, in some ways, very similar to the experience that Adam and Eve had in the Garden.

"Enoch's walk with God was not in a trance or a vision, but in all the duties of his daily life. He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world; ... In the midst of a life of active labor, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God. The greater and more pressing his labors, the more constant and earnest were his prayers. ... he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart" (*Gospel Workers*, p. 51, 52).

The terms "meditation" and "contemplation" have been hijacked to describe an artificial and contrived way to reach a higher state of consciousness. However, in the purest sense, they are, in fact, biblical principles. In order for there to be a counterfeit, there must be the true. A counterfeit \$20 bill must look a lot like the real one. Some, out of fear, would have us avoid anything resembling the counterfeit. They would have us avoid quiet time with God — to not *meditate* on God's attributes and spend extended time *contemplating* the life of Christ, letting our *imagination*s put ourselves in His story (see *The Desire of Ages*, p. 668). But in doing so, they rob us of the very blessing God intends us to have. Prayer that can be described as quiet, receptive and open to listening is avoided by some so they do not have to face God, or themselves. They fill their minds with noise and distractions to avoid the quiet. Their moments of prayer amount to nothing more than fig-leaf petitions and platitudes, a one-way monologue that avoids any real encounter with God. We also must be willing to be still and listen.

Elijah's experience gives us more insights into how God seeks to talk with us. *And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earth-*

By His grace, He continues to give me a longing for Himself, and is teaching me, step by step, to be receptive to His voice, as I learn to walk with Him in prayer.

quake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice” (1 Kings 19:11, 12 NKJV).

God’s voice is there to guide us. *Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left (Isaiah 30:21 NKJV).*

To His disciples, Jesus describes the confidence we can place in His guidance: *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me (John 10:27 NKJV).*

PRAYING IN GOD’S PRESENCE CHANGES OUR PERSPECTIVE.

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him” (Jude 1:14, 15 NKJV).

As with Enoch, hearing God’s voice, gives new perspectives on the world around us. We become more discerning of the insidious nature of sin, and our hearts recoil at its intrusion. That experience only comes through intimate, sustained communion with God.

When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 668).

To the readers of *The Review and Herald*, November 10, 1885, Ellen White urged, “I wish I could impress upon every worker in God’s cause, the great need of continual, earnest prayer. They cannot be constantly upon their knees, but they can be uplifting their hearts to God. This is the way that Enoch walked with God.”

PRAYING IN GOD’S PRESENCE STRENGTHENS FAITH.

There are times when we need to bring our children before God’s throne and there are just no words. In response to His invitation, we are to come boldly to His throne of grace (see Hebrews 4:16). I let Revelation 4 guide my imagination, and picture myself responding to God’s voice to “Come up

here.” I approach His throne with my arm around the shoulder of my child. Being in God’s sovereign presence, at the Throne of Grace, reminds me that His love for me and them has no limits. I know He is able to do immeasurably more than I could ask or imagine (see Ephesians 3:20), and that my children are completely safe in His care. I am confident that all of their needs will be met in Him. That encouragement leads me to transform my prayers on their behalf — from nail-biting and hand-wringing to prayers of faith, using the words of Scripture. Here are some examples:

I praise You, my God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because You have blessed [Josie] in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For You chose [Josie] in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in Your sight. In love You predestined [her] to be adopted as Your [daughter] through Jesus Christ, in accordance with Your pleasure and will — to the praise of Your glorious grace, which You have freely given us in the One You love (Ephesians 1:3–6, adapted).

Father, I pray that You would give [Tyler] the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that he may know You better. I pray also that the eyes of [Tyler’s] heart may be enlightened in order that [he] may know the hope to which You have called [him], the riches of Your glorious inheritance in the saints, and Your incomparably great power available to [him] when [he] believes (Ephesians 1:17–19, adapted).

Father, I pray that out of Your glorious riches You will strengthen [Ryan] with power through Your Spirit in [his] inner being, so that Christ may dwell in [his] heart through faith. And I pray that [Ryan], being rooted and established in love, may have power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and that [he] would know this love that surpasses knowledge — that [he] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:16–19, adapted).

I still confess that I really don’t know how to pray. There have been times when my walking has led me far from the presence of God, far from any real encounter with Him, sometimes for years. Yet, I am grateful He continues to initiate our conversations. By His grace, He continues to give me a longing for Himself, and is teaching me, step by step, to be receptive to His voice, as I learn to walk with Him in prayer.

Gary Burns is the communication director and prayer ministries coordinator of the Lake Union Conference.

1. “Woodstock,” © Siquomb Publishing Company; a song written by Joni Mitchell in response to the famous gathering by the same name in the summer of 1969.

Our Prayer

BY KALICIA MORRISON

Dear precious heavenly Father,

We come before You with thankfulness in our hearts for the many blessings You have given us. We thank You for the Sabbath day, which You have created for us to lay aside all the burdens of our week and to simply sit at Your feet to learn from You.

Often, when we come to Your feet, we have more petitions than praises. When we send a thank-you card to someone, the whole purpose of the card is to show appreciation — not to ask for more! So Lord, today, right now, this is our thank-you-card prayer.

We don't want to ask anything; we only want to praise You for blessing us with the privilege to know Your truth, and for the opportunities You continue to give us to share Your truth with those around us. We thank you for this community of believers, for our loved ones, and for the extended family we have through the blood of Christ. We rejoice in Your willingness to send Your only Son to give us the opportunity to one day cast our crowns at Your feet. Lord, we all are looking forward to that soon-coming day when we will stand blameless in Your perfect presence.

Father, Your plan of salvation will ever be our theme of study! Thank You for speaking to us, personally, through Scripture, for providing us with the weapons necessary to fight against principalities of darkness. Thank you for sending angels to invisibly battle for us.

Lord, You are so good to us! The psalmist declares, "*Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order*" (Psalm 40:5 NET). You think of us, and bless us so often that we can't

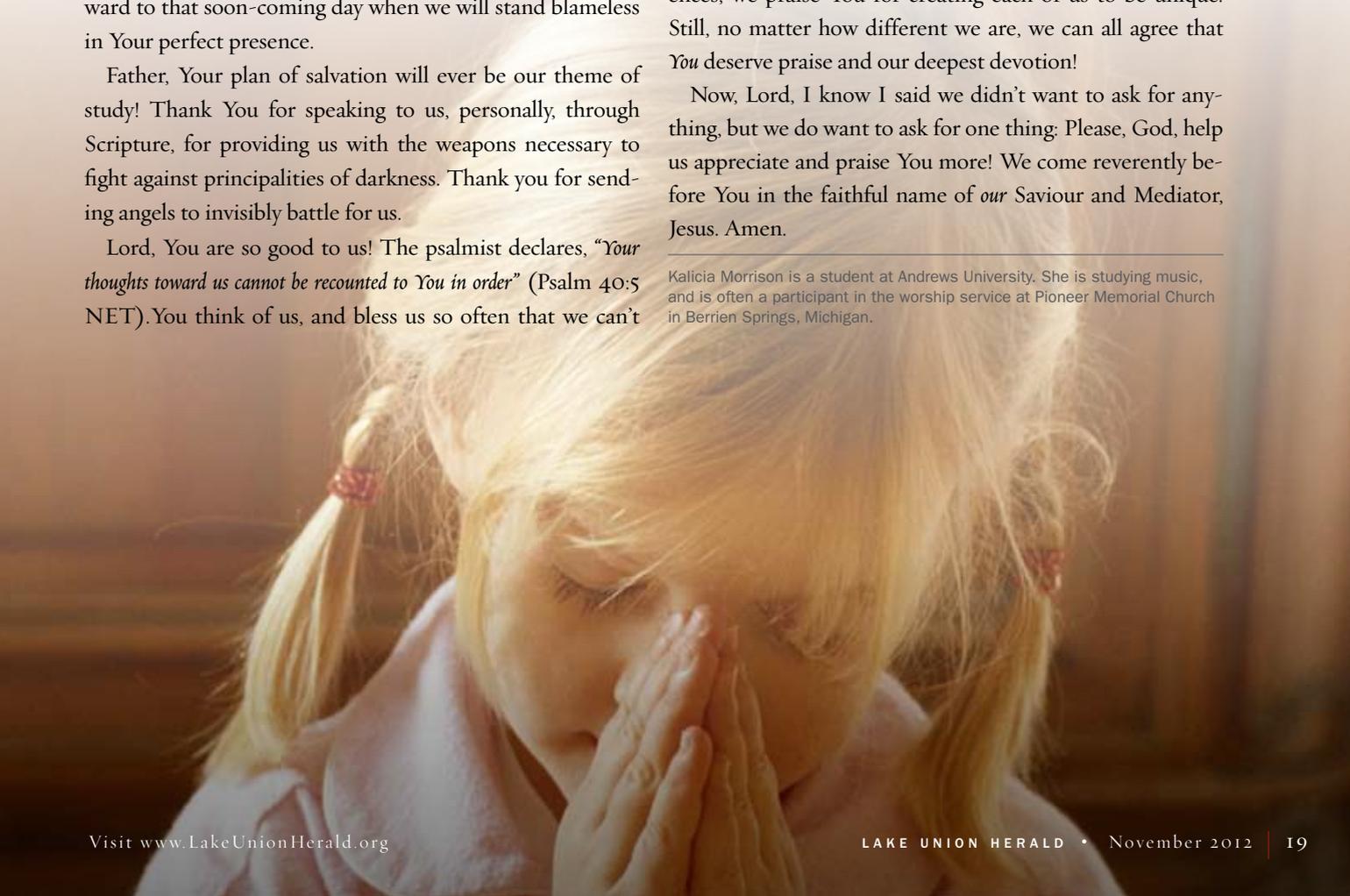
even count these in order because You work simultaneously! You are amazing, God!

There is no other artist who paints two masterpieces every day — one with sunrise and one at sunset. There is no other doctor who can heal simply by speaking! Lord, we are grateful for all of the incredible healings in our congregations and families throughout this past year. We thank You in advance for the healing You will bring to those among us who are ill. Lord, we mourn with those among us who are suffering loss, but we praise You for the comfort, peace and hope You give, even now. Lord, *You* are *worthy* to be praised. There is none like You! You are the *only* true and living God!

As we come before You with different pasts and experiences, we praise You for creating each of us to be unique. Still, no matter how different we are, we can all agree that *You* deserve praise and our deepest devotion!

Now, Lord, I know I said we didn't want to ask for anything, but we do want to ask for one thing: Please, God, help us appreciate and praise You more! We come reverently before You in the faithful name of *our* Saviour and Mediator, Jesus. Amen.

Kalicia Morrison is a student at Andrews University. She is studying music, and is often a participant in the worship service at Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.





Mission trips impact lives

The youngster was like many other patients April Pangilinan treated on the mission trip. Dirty but smiling, she arrived with her brother, sister and mother to the clinic set up by the Adventist Midwest Health medical mission team in the Costa Rican village. Pangilinan immediately thought of her own family because the three children were the same age as her younger siblings: eight, seven and four.

Although the entire family's clothing was tattered and worn, Pangilinan, a nurse, noticed that the middle girl, unlike her brother and sister, had no shoes on. In her broken Spanish, she asked the girl why she wasn't wearing shoes. The little girl responded with a giggle, saying she didn't have any.

Pangilinan finished triaging the family but couldn't stop thinking about the girl as she continued seeing other patients.

"Her feet were covered with callosities and sores," Pangilinan said. "This little girl didn't know any better. She could get parasites and die from the simple fact of not having shoes. I started crying."

She popped into three local shops, asking where she could find children's shoes. At the shoe store, Pangilinan bought two pairs in different sizes, one the girl could wear now and another pair to grow into. She raced back to the clinic, found the little girl in line to see the pediatrician and gave her the shoes. The little girl responded with a hug.

"It was an honor for me to be able to give her the shoes," Pangilinan said. "She had no idea how she impacted me."

Chief nursing officer Shawn Tyrrell encourages her nursing leaders and staff nurses to participate in an Adventist Midwest Health's mission trip because she knows firsthand the impact it can make on their lives and,



Adventist Hinsdale Hospital nurse April Pangilinan, center, is pictured with the children of one family she connected with on Adventist Midwest Health's 2012 medical mission trip to Costa Rica.

ultimately, the lives of the patients treated at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. Tyrrell recalls her 2011 mission trip as a life-changing experience — spiritually and professionally.

"In Costa Rica and other Central American countries, people just don't have the same access to healthcare that we have here," Tyrrell said. "When I signed up for the trip, I looked forward to caring for patients who might see a doctor or nurse just once or twice in their life. But on the trip, as I cared for patient after patient, I realized they were the ones who were blessing me. God taught me so much through that experience."

The little girl's small act of gratitude impacts Pangilinan even months later as she makes her daily rounds as a post-surgical nurse treating patients at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.

"Here in the U.S., we are privileged to have so many material blessings," Pangilinan said, "but that doesn't make our patients any less deserving of the best care. Because of my work on the

mission trip, I often think about how I can better care for my patients by getting them a glass of water, for example, or making their bed more comfortable. I don't take for granted anything I can do to help them. The little things mean a lot to my patients, and they mean a lot to me."

Sheila Galloro, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health



A young boy is happy with his new toy, which he received from the mission team.

Andrews Office of Campus Ministries goes mobile

The Andrews University Office of Campus Ministries has gone mobile! Their mobile offices are a new initiative to bring this ministry directly to the students of Andrews University.

From Monday through Thursday, during the weeks of Sept. 10 and 17, the chaplains and their support staff wheeled a cart loaded with an electric teapot and an array of teas, apple cider and hot chocolate and set up camp in one of the campus lobbies. Beside the cart, they placed a large sign announcing their motto: “Keep Calm and Put the Kettle On,” a phrase history students will recognize from its similarity to the World War II British catchphrase, “Keep Calm and Carry On.”

“It’s an easy way of saying, ‘Pull up a seat and let’s talk about something serious and wonderful — Jesus in your life,’” says Japhet De Oliveira, University chaplain. Each day, Campus Ministries set up in a new area, traveling to Buller Hall, Nethery Hall, Architecture North Studio, Physical Therapy Building, Harrigan Hall Main Lobby, Bell Hall, Chan Shun Hall and the Seminary. By going to the students, they have the opportunity to meet and talk with students who may not normally spend much time in the Campus Center where Campus Ministries is located.

“We want to be where the people are,” says Jose Bourget, chaplain. “We get quite a bit of faculty, staff and students who come to our offices, but there are so many more that we now will be able to make connections with by being where they are.”

Influenced by one of his mentors, De Oliveira became impressed with the importance of going into the community. He realized that in order to connect with members, he needed to see them outside of church. “I can’t



University chaplain Japhet De Oliveira (center) chats with students in the Chan Shun Hall lobby, one of eight mobile office locations, during the weeks of Sept. 10 and 17.

preach, teach or connect unless I have a pulse for the community,” he says.

So far, the outreach has been well received. Some students who never had heard of the Office of Campus Ministries nor had an opportunity to meet the chaplains were able to interact with them. Many people expressed their appreciation for the chaplains’ efforts. One department chair even called the office to ensure they would be coming to her department. “We have had some great conversations with students we otherwise would have never met,” says De Oliveira. “Insight into their journey. Clarity on their needs.”

The chaplains intend to repeat the mobile office tour again later in the semester, as well as in selected other locations on individual days. They hope those they meet will be encouraged by their encounter to come to the Office of Campus Ministries for longer discussions.

“I think it’s a really good idea,” says Christina Dunn, a junior animal science major; “I was blessed.”

The mobile offices are one implementation of the new Faith Development program, which includes three elements: Program to Presence, Theory to Tangible and Control to Creative. The mobile office is an initiative of the first element, Program to Presence. With this initiative, the chaplains hope to make Campus Ministries a more palpable presence on campus and in the lives of students, faculty and staff.

Some other initiatives the Office of Campus Ministries is undertaking include submitting regular articles to the *Student Movement*, using interactive texting during chapels and promoting the availability of the chaplains for discussion, as well as regularly walking around campus to connect with students.

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



Probation, Prison, Prayer and a Baptismal Pool

BY OLIVER PAGE

In life, God allows events to happen that shape us for His glory and nurture our spiritual growth. Mishandling a life event does not remove us from God's favor as God is patient, gracious and merciful. When we genuinely search for Him, we will find Him; and He will position us where we can serve Him best.

During his time as a probation officer in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Cory Jackson Sr. was assigned Justin Kryger (then age 15). Justin had committed several felony crimes and had issues with his family, school, community and peers. As time went on, Cory realized Justin was articulate, athletic and possessed great potential; however, he continued to fail at school and was easily led by his peers to prove to himself that he was something he wasn't.

Motivated by Cory, Justin's hard work, in time, earned him a position on his school's honor roll. Nevertheless, as Justin got older, he fell back into the same bad habits as in his younger years. Cory, realizing where Justin's behavior pattern would lead him, if not corrected, sent him to the Kent County Correctional Facility for 30 days.

Sending Justin (then age 17) to prison was a scare tactic to save him from a long stint in the penal system or an early grave. This approach worked and, once freed, Justin decided to do things right and get himself a job. In time, Justin was released from the supervision of the court and contact with Cory ceased.

In June 2012, more than ten years later, Cory (now senior pastor of the Burns Church in Detroit) went into the pastor's office at the church one day. He found a man



Cory Jackson Sr., Burns Church pastor, stands with Karen Kryger and her son, Justin Kryger.

in uniform waiting there. The man turned around and introduced himself as "Navy officer Justin Kryger."

Justin explained that he was now a Navy recruiter (stationed in Las Vegas, Nevada), a father of two, and shared why he was in Cory's office. When served deployment papers to serve in Iraq, Justin made a pact with God. He promised Him, "If you, God, will allow me to be deployed elsewhere, I will give my life to You. I'll find Cory Jackson Sr. and get baptized."

Justin submitted his request to be deployed elsewhere to a senior Navy recruiting officer, who replied, "I'll think about it." Justin thought about this reply and felt it must mean "no." When the recruiting officer returned with an official answer, Justin was informed that his redeployment papers were approved, and he did not have to serve in Iraq. With this good news, he started his search for Cory to honor his pact with God. Justin tried looking on Facebook and Twitter, but soon realized Cory did not have accounts there.

His mother, Karen Kryger, eventually found Cory on a YouTube video clip from a time when he was preaching in Chicago. Justin and Karen assumed they would find Cory in Chicago. So, they tried to make contact with Adventist churches there. They were directed to Detroit. After calling several Detroit churches, Karen received a call from the

Burns Church and learned that's where Cory was the senior pastor.

Reconnected with Justin, Cory visited Grand Rapids, Michigan, to give him Bible studies, share books and explain the significance of baptism. Cory recalls, "At that time, neither Justin nor his family members had been to any church for many, many years. His mother, Mrs. Kryger, initially had contact with the Adventist Church when Justin was a baby; but as a homemaker and wife, events overtook her and she lost the connection. However, she never lost her ability to pray and, through the years, prayed for the protection and deliverance of her son, Justin."

On Sabbath, August 11, a few months after reconnecting with Cory, Justin sealed his commitment to Christ through

the waters of baptism. It was a day of great joy for Justin, his relatives and the Burns Church family. Though it had been many years since visiting an Adventist church, Karen said she felt "at home."

We may never fully know how an experience of probation, prison, prayer and a baptismal pool may strengthen one's relationship with Christ, but we can rest assured that we have been handpicked by God to fulfill His will in our lives. *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and ... whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you* (John 15:16 NKJV).

Oliver Page is editor of *The Herald* newsletter and a member of the Burns Church in Detroit.

Sowing Seeds at Walmart

BY PEARO ACKLES

The ancient wise man said, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days." He added, "In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good" (Ecclesiastes 11:1, 6). I see myself as a seed sower.

John is a pious, hard-working Christian man. Once a construction foreman on large commercial projects in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he now works in retail. Three of his sons are in full-time ministry, and he and his wife are foster parents who often adopt their charges. He awakens at 4:00 o'clock each morning to pray and study. His wife is a leader of a state-wide intercessory prayer organization. John truly loves God.

As Adventists, we are blessed to have so many fine Christian books, magazines and tracts. Sometimes, at Walmart, I give them directly as gifts; sometimes I just leave them at random for anyone. And, sometimes, I even open my mouth and share God's truths verbally. John has been on the receiving end of both, and has read a full-message Adventist book.



Pearo Ackles works as a daily seed-sower for Jesus at Walmart.

I recently have been reading *The Acts of the Apostles*, and am conscious that I should view my secular work as Paul did his tent-making labors: "Paul did not regard as lost the time thus spent. ... As he worked at his trade, the apostle had access to a class of people that he could not otherwise have reached" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 351).

John's work schedule at the retail store prevented him from attending our recent Revelation Seminar, but he loves prophecy and eagerly received each of the lessons. He is convinced that we have "something" with the Sabbath. I urge you to pray for John, and then go sow your own seeds!

Pearo Ackles is a member of the Beaver Dam Church in Wisconsin.

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Field trip raises students' awareness of world hunger

Illinois—"Chicken, veggies, soy, rice... Chicken, veggies, soy, rice..." The Downers Grove School students in grades five through eight chanted those words again and again as they helped package meals at a Feed My Starving Children facility in Naperville on May 22.

Feed My Starving Children is a Christian organization with a goal of feeding God's starving children, hungry in body and spirit. Its vision, with God's help, is to eliminate starvation in children throughout the world by helping to instill compassion in people to hear and respond to the cries of those in need. The Downers Grove students heard and responded. During the hour they spent filling plastic bags with chicken, veggies, soy and rice, the students worked hard, very hard. A spirit of competition with other school groups also in attendance prompted the students to fill as many bags as possible in the allotted 60 minutes.

Before going on the field trip, Roque Huang, a fifth-grader, thought that very little could be done in an hour to really make a difference. Imagine his surprise as well as that of the other students when the hour allotted for meal packaging ended, and it was announced that the students had filled enough bags for 25,488 meals! These meals would feed 70 children for an entire year. The cost of the food that was packaged totaled \$5,607.36. In less than 24 hours, the food would be on its way to Nicaragua for distribution, and lives would be saved.

Very few people, if approached by a starving child, would refuse to help; but because many hungry children are far away, they are seldom thought about and, even more, rarely seen. During the Feed My Starving Children food-packing event orientation, the participants were told about two sports



Last May, Downers Grove School students packaged meals for starving children in Nicaragua.

venues: the United Center where the Chicago Bulls play basketball, and the Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena, Calif. Every day, 18,000 children die of hunger and hunger-related illnesses. This is one child for every seat in the United Center. At the same time every day, enough food is thrown away in the United States to fill the Rose Bowl Stadium. With these two facts swirling in their heads, the students headed back to school. Before the cars transporting the students had even left the Feed My Starving Children parking lot, the students were already talking about how they could become more deeply involved in helping to feed God's children.

In Deuteronomy 15:11, God says, "I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land." The Downers Grove School students obeyed that command, and will never be the same. Ivy Torres, one of the participants, remarked, "It was a life-changing experience." There is no doubt that this is one field trip that is going to be repeated again and again. The students will definitely go to Feed

My Starving Children at least two more times during this current school year; however, they would like to go once a quarter.

Patricia C. Williams, principal,
Downers Grove School



Shawn Sutton, an eighth grader from Downers Grove School, packaged meals with others to feed 70 children for an entire year.



Norris Neube

Capitol City School, in Indianapolis, experienced a 73.5 percent enrollment increase this school year.

Capitol City School experiences growth

Lake Region—The Capitol City School, in Indianapolis, experienced a surge in student numbers for the 2012–2013 school year. School administration and staff can only thank God for His provisions by providing a financial escape for His children when it seemed as though the faithful were financially against the wall. The school qualified as a voucher school a year ago. With many parents learning about the benefit the school had been awarded, the light shined at the end of their Adventist education tunnels.

Boys and girls showed up in ones, twos or threes requesting to join the Capitol City School family of learners. At the end of the 2011–2012 school year, the school had 34 students. With the mobility that happens during the summer, one would have thought the school's student enrollment numbers for the following year would have teetered in the mid-30s. As of the middle of September, the school has 59 students on record — a 73.5 percent increase, and there are still signs for continued growth. God is awesome, and His ways are everlasting. That is why the administration and staff will never cease to praise Him.

In addition, the school administration and staff would like to thank the parents of last year's 34 students for their patience during the introduction of FACTS tuition management service. Although the school enrollment seemed to dip at this introduction, parents who stayed on gave the school reason to continue the course and pave the way for smart, Christian business. The growth experienced is a result of sound financial responsibility, great performance in the state standardized tests (ISTEP+), the existence of an open and sound school building as well as a team of teachers with high morale.

The new parents and students are the fragrance of God's love to His people; He never leaves us alone. School administration and staff pray the Lord will continue to help them maintain this grand relationship among parents, students and staff as together they press forward in preparing the learners for this world and the world to come.

For additional information about the Capitol City School, visit the school's website: <http://capitol22.adventistschoolconnect.org/>.

Norris Neube, principal, Capitol City School

Students trained to share Gospel and health messages

Illinois—As the teachers from across North America and other countries traveled home after the NAD Teachers Convention in Nashville, Tenn., in August, a plethora of ideas formed in the minds of educators eager to start a new year in their Christ-centered classrooms. The teachers at North Aurora School planned for the implementation of their school's spiritual emphasis.

The North Aurora Church and School families, in Chicago, are dedicating this year to training Christian soldiers to serve in God's last-day army. Jesus said, "Say not ye, There are yet

four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35 KJV).

Jerrell Gilkeson and Marlene Alvarez, presenters, gave a powerful seminar at the Convention that illustrated how children can easily use the five Cs of Christianity to share God's message of love and redemption to their friends and family — Creation (Psalm 33:6, 9), Conflict (Romans 3:23), Commandments (John 14:15), Cross (John 3:16) and Coming (John 14:3).

The school began the year with two weeks of group worship. Teresa Smith, principal and teacher for grades 5–8, taught the five Cs of the Gospel story and how to give a Gospel presentation in one minute. Students grasped,

with the eyes of faith, the beauty of our created Earth, the deceptiveness of the serpent and the pain our first parents' choices caused them. They began to understand the perfect law of God and felt horror as they learned how their loving Savior took the punishment for their sins. There was great rejoicing as they imagined how Jesus would come with all of His angels to take them away from this sin-polluted world to live in Heaven for 1,000 years. Then, with hearts full of love, they dreamed of when Jesus with His angels would come back to this Earth in the New Jerusalem. Students were elated as they began to comprehend the tremendous love that Jesus and their Father in Heaven have for them.

The students memorized the verses and hand movements that go with

the five Cs. They were amazed they could share the Gospel in its simplistic entirety with the confidence and courage usually reserved for seasoned soldiers. They are eagerly sharing the Good News with those God places in their path.

During the second week of worship, Heidi Bullock, teacher for grades K–2, taught the students a sound Bible strategy for living victoriously, every day, for Jesus. Students learned from Ephesians 6:10–18 that God has provided every piece of armor needed to protect their hearts, minds and souls from the devil’s fiery darts of temptation. Everyone eagerly put on the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, helmet of salvation and carried the shield of faith. Learning that God gave them the tools to go forth, as Christian soldiers, to their families and friends, sharing the Good News of Christ’s desire to spend eternity with His human family, gave the students a purpose for clasping the sword of the Spirit and covering their feet with the gospel of peace.

North Aurora students are learning the pillars of the Seventh-day Adventist message, including the health message. They are learning to minister to the sick using natural home remedies. The students will be able to relieve the suffering of those with colds, flu, muscle aches and digestion problems.



North Aurora students, in Chicago, are learning to share the Gospel with confidence and courage. From left (bottom): Donnie Rhodes, Kayla Hill, Aaron Gonzalez, Allison Galva, Edward Cervantes, Sofia Rappette; (middle): Isaac Sarmina, Santiago Herrera, Daniel Cervantes, Michael Galva, Laura Herrera, Christopher Cervantes, Iselica Cervantes, Samantha Duthie; (top): Isabella Rappette, Esmeralda Perez, Citlalli Avila, Vivica Cervantes, Olga Romero, Isaac Bahena, Rachel Duthie, Jacob Sarmina, Andrew Rappette

Teresa Smith

Dan Vis, North Aurora Church pastor, is training students in grades 5–8 to give Bible studies. By second semester, students will give Bible studies, teach our health message and share natural remedies with family and friends. North Aurora faculty and staff believe God has placed all our children on this Earth to be educated to shine their light into every darkened home

with the glorious news of our Lord’s desire to see us redeemed and living life joyously. They invite readers to keep all of His children around the world in daily prayer.

Teresa Smith, principal and teacher for grades 5–8, North Aurora School, as shared with Ruth Horton, superintendent of Education, Illinois Conference

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Burns Church makes lasting impact on community

Lake Region—On Sunday, Sept. 2, a local church on the corner of East Warren and Cadillac Avenues in Detroit, on the east side, took charge to make a lasting, positive impact on its immediate environment and surrounding neighborhood.

Under the leadership of Cory Jackson Sr., senior pastor, more than

150 members of the Burns Church, together with several volunteers from the local community and representatives from the non-profit organization, This Hood of Ours, joined forces to clean up eight sites made up of 24 vacant lots or abandoned houses.

The East Warren and Cadillac block is an area that suffers from extreme urban blight. The vacant lots that dot the area have become dumping grounds for garbage, tires, mattresses and anything else that no one else wants. Abandoned or burnt-out houses

hide illicit activity that often takes place under the cover of darkness.

Community residents or passersby often wondered when and if this neighborhood would return to a place of which everyone could be proud. The community has witnessed several neighborhood clean-up or environmental initiatives that fizzled out after a few months. For many residents of the area, hope was on empty, the community spirit evaporated, and opportunities to relocate often unattainable.

But that Sunday, designated



Oliver Page

On Sunday, Sept. 2, nearly 200 volunteers showed up to beautify the neighborhood near the Burns Church, located on the corner of East Warren and Cadillac Avenues. They cleaned 24 vacant lots.



Oliver Page

At the Community Clean-up Day, volunteers collected more than 100 discarded tires and filled two 60-foot dumpsters with 100-plus trash bags and yard debris.

“Community Clean-up Day,” saw nearly 200 volunteers cut grass, trim unsightly branches, pull up weeds, collect

more than 100 discarded tires, sweep curbs, whack hedges and pick up trash to fill 100-plus large trash bags. At the

end of the day, two 60-foot dumpsters were filled to capacity. Surveying the smartened-up neighborhood, volunteer Rose Mary Jackson expressed, “It was a joy not to see grass unkempt and trash everywhere!”

Jackson stated that the mission of the Burns Church is “to go and teach and make Christian disciples.” To achieve this, he said that “the Burns Adventist Church exists to serve this community and connect with our neighbors.”

Through genuine partnership initiatives with the community, it is anticipated that the neighborhood will realize that Burns Church is more than a church building on the corner of East Warren and Cadillac Avenues. “It is our hope for neighborhood residents that each will, in the future, join us in large numbers and focus on taking charge of ‘their’ neighborhood beyond their own respective lots,” Jackson stated.

The Community Clean-up Day witnessed the start of a new partnership and journey between the Burns Church and the East Warren and Cadillac neighborhood. Toya Oglesby said, “The experience allowed me to feel a sense of nostalgia, of camaraderie and pride for the common goal of improving our neighborhood.”

To join this partnership or for more information about future community events sponsored by the Burns Church, contact Cory Jackson Sr. at 313-924-5535 or email him at burnssdachurch@sbcglobal.net.

Oliver Page, communication leader, Burns Church

Beach Sabbath outing provides witnessing opportunities

Illinois— On an early Sabbath morning, Aug. 11, more than 30 youth,

with additional staff, met at the Hinsdale Fil-Am Church for the annual Beach Sabbath ministry. After a circle of prayer, the group headed to River-view Park in St. Joseph, Mich. Arriving at the park, the picnic was set up and, immediately afterward, the song service began. After the song service, a short message about Jesus’ parable

of the hidden treasure was presented and the young people were challenged to come up with their own parable, using the natural things around them. Their parables were very inspirational and impressive — ranging from roots, representing God’s unwavering commitment to us as His children, to branches, representing that though we

may be many, we are still part of God's family tree.

After lunch, everyone headed to Warren Dunes State Park. The leaders set up biblical object lessons and challenges, which they called "The Amazing G-race," that inspired teamwork and faith. It concluded with a hike up the dunes for the last object lesson and a worship talk. Even at the end, when some thought they did not have the strength to climb the large dune, the young people's motivation and encouragement to each other lifted spirits so everyone could push themselves and complete the last task.

The highlight of the trip was the outreach ministry, "Message on a Bottle." A Scripture reading and salutation were typed on a label and placed on small bottles of water, which were passed out to people all over the beach. While doing so, the group had the privilege of meeting another Christian group from Joliet, which worships on Sunday. They had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists and inquired about the church's beliefs. A few were able to talk with them and answer some of their questions about our faith.

As the young people were getting ready to leave, a lady came up to the group in tears. She explained that she lost her five-year-old son on the beach and couldn't find him. Immediately, a prayer group was organized while other staff members took some



The Hinsdale Fil-Am Church youth group enjoyed a Beach Sabbath at Warren Dunes. In the afternoon, they passed out water bottles with a Scripture reading on the label and witnessed of their faith to ones they encountered. From left: Andrey Manullang, Ramsey Ghunim and Stacey Apostol



Trevor Smith, Hinsdale Fil-Am Church associate pastor, leads more than 30 young people and additional staff to the beach in St. Joseph, Mich., for the annual Beach Sabbath ministry, which took place Aug. 11.

kids searching in all directions. About 15 minutes after prayer, the group received word that the child had been

found. The mom's tears were drying up as the group praised God for finding her child. Out of her lips also came the very words, "Yes, praise God."

When the day ended, it truly felt as though all were blessed to be there as a youth group. Not only was there fellowship with each other and with God, but He also gave the group the opportunity to witness of their faith with others. To God be the glory in all that we do, always.

Trevor Smith, associate pastor, Hinsdale Fil-Am Church

Door Prairie Christian School Pathfinders find adventure in the great outdoors

Indiana—For \$35, if you are an adult, or \$22, if you are a student, you can take a ferry boat to nowhere — or almost nowhere!

Seventeen children and eight adults from the Pathfinder club of the Door Prairie Christian School, adjacent to the La Porte Church, on

Boyd Boulevard, excitedly prepared for their hike on a remote island at the northern end of Lake Michigan, opposite of Traverse City. The island, North Manitou, is ten miles long, five miles wide and as rough and isolated a place as one can find on our continent!

Although the island beaches are beautiful, the terrain is wildly overgrown. Each person was equipped with a backpack, up to a quarter of their weight, filled with a tent, a cookstove, sleeping bags and food for three

days. They drudged along pathways barely wide enough for two people to walk side-by-side. As intended, the students learned many new skills, such as how to purify water for drinking, pitch tents, light and cook on their cookstoves, fish and survive in the wild. They also experienced exciting moments that were fun to share.

Megan Rose remembered, "On Saturday morning, at 3:00 o'clock, I woke and looked up to see an array of the most beautiful, twinkling stars such as I had never seen before! I



Harpa Thorlanson Huntress

Pathfinders from the Door Prairie Christian School in La Porte appreciate wilderness camping on North Manitou Island, Mich.

shall never forget it; it made me feel so close to God!”

Ruth Eve recalled, “My favorite part was going swimming to the pier and back, then jumping off of

the bridge. It gave me a real sense of adventure. One could see God everywhere!”

“I really enjoyed walking in the wilderness with 20 pounds on my

back and swimming in water so clear I could see to the very bottom of the lake,” Cloe Owens said.

Miles Manderson stated, “We went fishing and caught three small-mouth bass. What fun! We cooked and ate them.”

As open fires were not permitted on the island, get-togethers were held with flashlights around cookstoves. The weather was truly great — in the low 80s by day and barely below 70 at night.

The members of the Pathfinder club will long remember the experiences of their adventure to the North Manitou Island.

Mary Wadsworth-Cooke,
communication secretary, La Porte Church



Oliver Page

Terence Farris Jr. enjoys ice cream served up July 21 at the annual Burns Church Ice Cream Fellowship, an outreach event which draws hundreds of community guests to the church.

Burns Church serves up fellowship

Lake Region—Ten years and still sweet... What is this phrase referring to? A relationship? Possibly. A girl, age ten? Maybe. A favorite pet? Perhaps. Are you still guessing? It’s the annual Burns Ice Cream Fellowship! On a sweltering Sabbath afternoon in July, this event celebrated ten years of service to the community near the Burns Church, located on the corner of

East Warren and Cadillac Avenues in Detroit.

Everybody loves ice cream and, whenever it is served, it draws the crowds. However, serving free ice cream to the hundreds of community residents that participate is not the primary objective of this annual effort. It is an opportunity for the Burns Church family to reach out, connect and fellowship with the community, and maximize a unique opening for Christian witness.

Throughout the years, hundreds of community residents have returned again and again to participate in the Burns Ice Cream Fellowship. The consistency of the event has resulted in many repeat visitors, positive inquiries about Adventist beliefs, sharing health and Christian literature, openness to spiritual counseling, and registering for upcoming sponsored events at the Burns Church, such as vacation Bible school and tutoring programs.

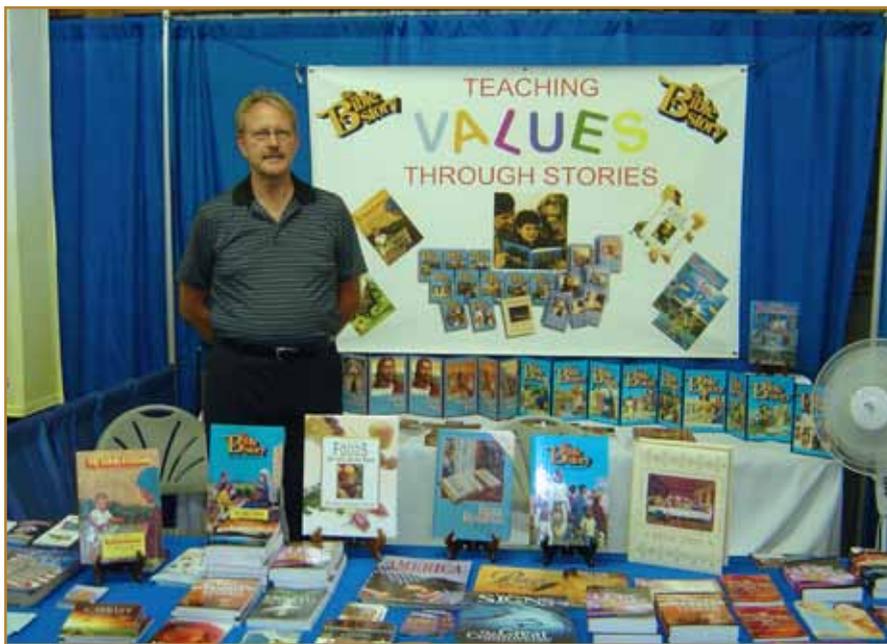
“Forming genuine community relationships and making disciples is a first step in fulfilling the mission of the Burns Church,” according to senior pastor, Cory Jackson Sr. Recently, a community resident needed a

local church to host a funeral service. As a direct result of the relationships formed at the Ice Cream Fellowship, an inquiry was made about the possibility of holding the service at the church. Burns Church honored the request.

Jackson presided at the funeral service, which took place in late August. More than 800 mourners attended the service and, for the majority of the community residents present, it was their first time inside the Burns Church sanctuary, a building they had known from its construction in the 1980s.

Through these fellowship events, the community residents are beginning to recognize the Burns Church as a valuable resource, and our prayer is that they will continue their participation in outreach programs and worship services offered there. Together, Burns Church and its immediate community will “Taste and see that the Lord is good,” and this renewed relationship will last not just another ten years, but a lifetime! Now is the time!

Oliver Page, communication leader,
Burns Church



Patricia Lykins

Ron Newcomb, a literature evangelist, had many opportunities to answer questions about his faith at both the Ingham and Jackson County fairs.

Fair booths provide witnessing opportunities

Michigan—The Bunkerhill Church has supported a fair booth for many years. In recent years, Ron Newcomb, a local literature evangelist, with the support of local church members, has spent most of a week at both the Ingham and Jackson County fairs. “It was another opportunity for God at the Ingham County Fair,” Newcomb said. Since this was his third year, he has gotten to know some of the other vendors quite well. “I always think of the people coming to the fair, but God is working with all the people — including the other vendors. This year seemed like slow-going with less people, maybe because of the economy or something. That’s how our minds work, but I sure am thankful we don’t have to count on that — rather, God gives the increase,” Newcomb stated.

Around the Bunkerhill Church booth were vendors like Mary Kay Cosmetics, Ayers Basement Systems, The Vineyard (a church in Okemos), and the Church of Christ. “Susan, of

Mary Kay Cosmetics, and I were having some good conversations about God and His wonderful love and direction as the week began. She was so excited about how God has been working in her life,” recalled Newcomb.

One day, as Newcomb and Susan were talking, she picked up a magabook titled, *Your Pet and Death*. Since she has pets of her own, this topic intrigued her. Newcomb said, “I thought for sure she would buy it, but she didn’t. Then she picked up a copy of *The Ten Commandments Twice Removed*. She commented that the book sure looked interesting. Wow, I thought. I had not been expecting another vendor who would be with me the rest of the week to pick up a book like that. And then the pastor from the The Vineyard booth said he would like one, also; I gave them each a book.”

Within 30 minutes of receiving the book, Susan returned to Newcomb with a very uncertain look on her face. “She leaned in toward me, ‘Are you kidding me?’ she said, wide-eyed and astonished, ‘I did not know this.’ I gave her words of encouragement and urged her to read on. So she did,” recalled Newcomb.

Another 30 minutes passed by and Susan returned. “‘Really?’ she asked. ‘Saturday is the Sabbath day?’”

At Newcomb’s encouragement, Susan continued to read on. “She was so intrigued and interested that I decided to introduce her to *The Great Controversy*. ‘Dear God, I sure hope I am following your lead,’” Newcomb breathed. “You know what happens when we do the leading. It sure seemed like all went well, but I do not know the outcome of all this. I do know that Susan was wrestling with some newfound Bible truths.”

“Two of the salesmen from Ayers Basement Systems also were engaged in good conversations,” Newcomb stated.

“We ended up with several *Bible Story* leads, and God already has blessed with Bible studies that have been arranged. Between the Jackson County Fair and the Ingham County Fair, we now have more than 25 additional Bible studies,” Newcomb said.

At the Jackson County Fair this year, a Wheel of Health trivia board was displayed, created by Harry Sponseller, of the Glenwood Church. “It was a fantastic drawing card because all kinds of people came to test their health knowledge,” Newcomb stated. Participating in the Wheel of Health trivia board often led to Bible questions. “It was very easy to share the books and literature and to get them signed up for the drawings,” he said.

The Jackson and Bunkerhill churches’ members were very supportive in offering up prayers and giving their time. Newcomb said, “Thank You, church members, for helping God with His work.”

Numerous times, my husband and I have helped with the fair booth; speaking with people can be addictive — a real blessing! If you have not already done so, try working in your church’s booth. You will be richly blessed for standing up for Jesus!

Patricia A. Lykins, communications secretary,
Bunkerhill Church

Announcements



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

Andrews University

Growing True Disciples Lecture Series with George Barna: You are invited to the Andrews University campus, **Nov. 14-15**, for a lecture series with keynote speaker George Barna, founder of The Barna Group, a leading research organization focused on the intersection of faith and culture. This series offers insights into the opportunities and challenges in raising the next generation of believers. It is planned for teachers, Sabbath school teachers, pastors, parents and anyone who works with children. Barna will speak three times. His talk, "Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions," will be offered Nov. 14, 3:00-4:30 p.m., at the Howard Performing Arts Center. That evening, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., he will present "Revolutionary Parenting" at Pioneer Memorial Church. On Nov. 15, from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Barna will present "Intentional Development of a Biblical Worldview," also at Pioneer Memorial Church. For additional information, visit <http://www.andrews.edu/go/barna> or call 269-471-3133.

Howard Performing Arts Center Concerts: Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560. More information can also be found on our website at <http://howard.andrews.edu>. Ask about our Flex Series tickets.

Sat., Nov. 3, 8:00 p.m.: Come and enjoy a wonderful evening of violin and piano pieces, masterfully synchronized by musicians, Carla Trynchuk and Chi Yong Yun.

Sun., Nov. 18, 4:00 p.m.: Violinist Jennifer Koh brings a sensational performance you won't want to miss. In her recital, she explores the history of solo violin repertoire from Bach's six sonatas and partitas to modern-day composers.

Sat., Dec. 8, 7:00 p.m.: HPAC commences the holiday season with Dailey & Vincent: "A Bluegrass Christmas." Headed by Jamie Dailey and Darin Vincent, this Grammy-nominated band's lineup includes the banjo, guitar, mandolin and fiddle. Their brand-new Christmas repertoire will include original Dailey & Vincent music along with traditional Christmas carols with a bluegrass twist.

Sun., Feb. 17, 7:00 p.m.: Charles Reid, the newest faculty member of the Andrews University Department of Music, will be in concert. Reid is being recognized as one of his generation's leading lyric tenors. Pianist Trina Thompson, associate professor of music theory, will accompany him.

Sun., Feb. 24, 7:00 p.m.: The month of February will end with Christian veteran artist, Kathy Troccoli. Her numerous accolades include 22 recordings, 17 number one radio hits, two Dove Awards and three Grammy nominations. During this concert she will perform favorite Christian hits from her memorable career.

Sat., Mar. 9, 7:00 p.m.: Multi-Stellar Award winner Jonathan Nelson is one of the brightest young faces in Gospel music. His Top 10 smash hit, "My Name is Victory," won him a Dove Award nomination as Best New Artist of the Year. This concert is an evening of worship and praise.

Sun., Apr. 7, 7:00 p.m.: The last concert of the season features Christian artist, Laura Story. With hits like "Blessings" and "Mighty to Save," this four-time Dove Award winner continually presents a heart of worship. Join us for an uplifting evening of music and ministry.

Illinois

Downers Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church will welcome Lonnie and Jeanie Melashenko for a special Sabbath on **Nov. 10**. Lonnie will speak to the congregation during the worship hour and in the afternoon to the AY group; Jeannie will present the children's story. A potluck lunch will be served after worship service. All are invited. For more information, please contact Joe Arner at 630-847-1389 or 630-968-4446.

Indiana

'Night of Hope' Christmas Program: Indiana Academy and the Cicero

Church will be hosting their second annual "Night of Hope" Christmas program on **Dec. 8** at 7:00 p.m. in the Cicero Church. For more information, contact Kathy Griffin at 317-984-3575 or kathyagriffin@gmail.com.

Lake Region

Shiloh/Chicago Seventh-day Adventist Academy Alumni Association will celebrate 99 Years at its Alumni Homecoming 2012 on **Nov. 23 and 24**. Honor reunion classes include: 1922, '32, '42, '52, '62, '72, '82, '92, 2002 and '12. We hope to see you then! For more information, contact the Chicago SDA School office at 773-873-3005.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Nov 3** Local Church Budget
- Nov 10** Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)
- Nov 17** Local Church Budget
- Nov 24** Local Conference Advance

Special Days

- Nov 3-24** Native Heritage Month
- Nov 3** Stewardship Sabbath
- Nov 4-10** Week of Prayer
- Nov 17** Human Relations Sabbath
- Nov 24** Welcome Home Sabbath

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30	Dec 7
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:40	5:32	5:25	5:20	5:16	5:14
Chicago, Ill.	5:46	4:37	4:31	4:25	4:22	4:20
Detroit, Mich.	6:26	5:18	5:11	5:05	5:02	5:00
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:43	5:35	5:29	5:25	5:22	5:20
La Crosse, Wis.	5:56	4:47	4:40	4:34	4:30	4:28
Lansing, Mich.	6:32	5:23	5:16	5:10	5:07	5:05
Madison, Wis.	5:50	4:41	4:34	4:29	4:25	4:23
Springfield, Ill.	5:57	4:50	4:43	4:38	4:35	4:34

Lake Union Herald Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

This Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation was filed on September 28, 2012, with the U.S. Postal Service for the *Lake Union Herald*, for publication number 0194-908X, a magazine owned and published by the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 8903 U.S. Hwy. 31, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. It is published 12 times a year at a subscription price of \$12.00 (domestic). For further information, contact Gary Burns, editor, or Diane Thurber, managing editor, 269-473-8242, at the same address above.

The following figures for the extent and nature of circulation apply to the year ending with the October 2012 issue of the *Lake Union Herald* and were printed in the November 2012 issue of this publication.

	Average for Year	Actual No. for Sept. Issue
Total number of copies	33,697	32,871
Total paid or requested outside-county mail subs	84	83
Total paid or requested inside-county mail subs	1	1
Sales through dealer, carriers, street vendors	0	0
Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
Total paid and/or requested circulation	85	84
Total free outside-county distribution	30,328	29,350
Total free inside-county distribution	3,369	3,521
Other classes mailed free through USPS	0	0
Total free through carriers or other means	0	0
Total free distribution	33,697	32,871
Total distribution	33,782	32,955
Copies not distributed	200	200
Total	33,982	33,155
Percent paid and/or requested circulation	25%	25%

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 <http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org>. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

Weddings

Amy Hahn and Kevin Moreno were married Aug. 5, 2012, in LaValle, Wis. The ceremony was performed by Ante Jeronic.

Amy is the daughter of Rodney and Dawn Hahn of Reedsburg, Wis., and Kevin is the son of Oralia and Steve Carroll of Manteca, Calif.

The Morenos are making their home in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Obituaries

BUCK, Elsie J. (Landon), age 89; born Oct. 12, 1922, in Brazil; died Aug. 21, 2012, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Edwin F. Buck Jr.; son, Edwin; daughters, Patricia Dominguez and Elizabeth Zumbrennen; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by John Baldwin and Esther Knott, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

BUTCHMA, Elvia L. (Ewart), age 90; born Nov. 2, 1921, in Bradley, Wis.; died Sept. 1, 2012, in Long Island, N.Y. She was a member of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Central Church.

Survivors include her sons, James and Oalf; daughter, Helene Mattenson; and one grandchild.

Graveside services were conducted by Bob Stewart, and interment was in George-town Cemetery, Hudsonville, Mich.

CHATFIELD SR., Denson, age 84; born June 6, 1928, in Birmingham, Ala.; died July 25, 2012, in Crown Point, Ind. He was a member of the Mizpah Church, Gary, Ind.

Survivors include his sons, Denson Jr., Marcus and James; daughters, Carolyn Jones, Joann Hardy, and Angela and Eliza-

beth Chatfield; brother, James; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Dwayne Duncombe, and interment was in Ridgelawn Cemetery, Gary.

CLOUGH, James R., age 64; born Feb. 11, 1948, in Bremerton, Wash.; died Sept. 10, 2012, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra L. (Bryant); sons, John and Jay; brother, Tim; sister, Sandy White; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Don Dronen, with private inurnment.

COON, Joanne L. (Cross), age 79; born Dec. 29, 1932, in Lansing, Mich.; died July 9, 2012, in Lansing. She was a member of the Lansing Church.

Survivors include her husband, Max A.; sons, Jeff A. and Max A.; daughter, Patricia Markoff; brother, Eric Cross; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Charles Hanlon, and interment was in Hill-side Cemetery, Delta, Mich.

HERFORD, Ernest "Fred," age 90; born July 26, 1922, in Rushsylvania, Ohio; died Aug. 10, 2012, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his son, Edward; daughter, Debra Murphy; sister, Judy Sparks; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Skip MacCarty, and inurnment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

KARS, Reinder, age 89; born Jan. 8, 1923, in Holland, Mich.; died Sept. 7, 2012, in Holland. He was a member of the Holland Church.

Survivors include his wife, Eleanor (Dunnewin); son, Terry; daughters, Bev Grimes and Kim Bos; brothers, Gerritt and David; sisters, Ada Rooks and Ella Bronson; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Ilko Tchkarov, and interment was in Pilgrim Home Cemetery, Holland.

KASCH, Delores L. (Spencer) Deeds, age 75; born Sept. 20, 1937, in Ithaca, N.Y.; died Sept. 21, 2012, in Logansport, Ind. She was a member of the Logansport Church.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph; sons, L. Dean Deeds and Rob Elliott; stepson, David Kasch; daughters, Joyce Barnes, Deborah Keeley and Pam Winas; stepdaughter, Diane Bagley; brothers, Ronald Spencer and Mike Keegan; 14 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Blake Hall, and interment was in Center United Methodist Church Cemetery, Young America, Ind.

KNOTT, David W., age 84; born Dec. 6, 1927, in Heath, Mass.; died Sept. 21, 2012, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his sons, David, Bill and Ronald; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bill Knott and Esther Knott, and interment was in Maple Grove Cemetery, Heath.

LAWING, Linda K., age 68; born Dec. 15, 1943, in Wilmington, N.C.; died Sept. 16, 2012, in Urbana, Ill. She was a member of the Champaign (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Cindy Daugherty, Pam Price and Michele Tarter; father, Lloyd Lawing; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Raymond J. Plummer, and interment was in Embarrass Cemetery, Redmon, Ill.

PARKS, Ellen C. "Tudie," age 53; born Feb. 13, 1959, in Jonesboro, Ark.; died June 15,

2012, in Milwaukee, Wis. She was a member of the Sharon Church, Milwaukee.

Survivors include her sons, Christopher Parks and Maurice Miller; daughter, Shantel Stone; mother, Ivory Parks; brothers, Ezra Parks and Kevin Vann; sisters, Nadie Corder, and Christy and Karol Parks; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Eric R. Bell, and interment was in Graceland Cemetery, Milwaukee.

ROGERS, Otis, age 92, born Nov. 3, 1919, in Minden, La.; died July 30, 2012, in Milwaukee, Wis. He was a member of the Sharon Church, Milwaukee.

Survivors include his wife, Bernice (Butcher); son, Quincy; daughter, Judy Rogers; brothers, Bobby Ray and O.T. Jefferson; sister, Leola Jefferson; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Eric R. Bell, and interment was in Union Grove (Wis.) Cemetery.

ROUSENBURG, John, age 89; born April 28, 1922, in Newton Falls, Ohio; died Aug. 11, 2011, in Augusta, Mich. He was a member of the Urbandale Church, Battle Creek, Mich.

Survivors include his sons, Charles G. and Nathan E.; foster child, Shirley Jones; brother, Henry; sisters, Mary Baker and Gennit Hodge; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Charles Hanlon, and interment was in Augusta Cemetery.

STOKES, Gertrude "Trudy" (Maier), age 60; born Aug. 29, 1951, in Salzburg, Austria; died Aug. 7, 2012, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her husband, Keith; son, Enoch; mother, Maria (Gubesch) Maier; and brothers, George, Fred and Paul Maier.

Funeral services were conducted by Richard Davidson, and interment was in Richlands Community Cemetery, Cherryville, British Columbia, Canada.

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

Employment

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks an Assistant/Associate/Full Professor for the Educational & Counseling Psychology Department. Qualified candidates should have an earned doctorate in School Psychology, Educational Psychology or related field. For more information and to apply, visit http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position as Dean of the School of Education & Psychology to begin July 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

His Purpose — My Salvation

BY GARY BURNS



Today my mind goes back to the time when prayer first became my joy. It happened when my heart caught the spirit of the revival that swept across America. It began among Andrews University students during “Afire for God,” at Camp Michiana, October 6–11, 1970.

As they shared their experiences, my reaction was to come before God in prayer with the freedom to be open, honest and receptive to His Spirit. I became fully aware of God’s abiding presence as did those around me. Our first response was to lift our voices in praise; the next was to spend time in God’s Word, then to share our love with others — and we did at every opportunity, whether to our friends and classmates, or with strangers door-to-door, at the shopping mall, wherever.

During the past 42 years, there have been times when my walk led me away from that sense of God’s abiding presence, sometimes for years. But, in God’s great mercy, He keeps giving me the gift of a longing for His presence — a desire to be free, open and clean before Him.

I have learned that God keeps calling me into His presence so He can accomplish His work. All He ever needs is my cooperation, my participation — to work out my own salvation in partnership with God. Sometimes, my cooperation is motivated by crisis. It’s better when it is motivated by a deep, heartfelt desire for Him. For it is God who works in me, not only to have the desire, but to follow through with action; His purpose — my salvation (see Philippians 2:11–13).

Gary Burns is the prayer ministries coordinator of the Lake Union Conference.

Living for Jesus at Kwik Trip

BY RACHEL HUGGINS

After years of having “jobs,” I finally understand what it really means to “find work.” If asked one year ago what my ideal position was, I probably would have said somewhere that I can use my degree, with hours to suit my schedule and a little extra fund to put the boys through private, Christian school. Asked that same question ten years ago, I might have been seeking how to become that “Christian millionaire,” thinking I could easily fit tithe in the budget with so much to draw from. No matter how you slice it, the focus of these jobs was me. Not Him.

I knew that in today’s economy it would take more than a few applications to find the “right” job. In order to accomplish this with ease, I felt it was best to find a “meantime” job to fill the gap while I applied for my dream. In my dream job, I felt sure God would be able to really use my degree and skills to His advantage, and I would get to enjoy the financial perks of such a position. It never ceases to amaze me, however, that when God is placed at the center, the view of our circumstances begins to change dramatically.

For the time being, I decided to look close to home so I would not eat up what little I would earn in gas money alone. I had plans, big plans. So I checked out the local digs, from fast-food joints to supermarket specials. Though it took some time, I ended up finding a perfect, little job just down the road. What I didn’t realize was how much God was going to use me in this “meantime” job — a job that He found especially for me — to do His work and reach out to those in need around me. I began to see that *He* had plans, big plans.

What started as a short-term plan en route to my dream job has now become a realization that I have been put exactly where God wants me to be. Long or short, I will be there as long as God sees fit. Since I have been there, I have handed out two copies of *The Desire of Ages*, shared countless



Rachel Huggins

joys and sorrows of my co-workers, encouraged healthy lifestyle options, and found friendships I know will last for an eternity. I know, because God wants them, too.

Those people around me at work, at school or at play, no matter where that might be, need the love of a Savior — a love that only I can give, because I am the one on the front lines working for Him. I have learned that my “finding work” is not to find a source of income, it is to find an outlet that God can use if I am willing to let Him lead.

One of my favorite quotes from *The Desire of Ages* now hits home so much more. Let me share it with you. “Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. He has at times given directions to His servants to go to a certain street in a certain city, to such a house, to find one of His sheep” (p. 479).

Are you willing to go where He sends? To fulfill His calling for you and seek out His sheep from all walks of life? I know that I am. It’s not my help that I give; it’s my Jesus that I live.

Rachel Huggins received a Bachelor of Science in Human Services in 2006. She is married to Michael Huggins and they have two sons, Michael and Patrick. Rachel is a member of the Shawano Church in Shawano, Wisconsin.

God's Desires, My Desires

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. — Psalm 37:4 NIV

Even at a young age, Alyssa Vallieres knew she would be a missionary someday.



Alyssa Vallieres

“Since I was a little girl, I would go to church and listen to the Mission Spotlights,” says Alyssa of Cicero, Indiana. “They helped form a strong desire in me to go and do missions.”

Alyssa, now a student at Southern Adventist University, followed this desire all the way to the Dominican Republic for her first mission trip in 2004. At just 13 years of age, she helped her group build a church and hold a nursing clinic for two weeks. Since that time, she claims God planted a seed in her heart to spend a year as a student missionary.

Alyssa and a close friend planned to be missionaries together between their junior and senior years in college. When their applications to Brazil were accepted last spring, they felt God answered their prayers. Unfortunately, problems arose and the two were later turned down. Alyssa didn't understand why things hadn't worked out; she was excited about Brazil and wanted to be at that location.

She struggled with the disappointment until a student missionary retreat that followed. Alyssa and other missionaries-to-be were given alone time with God to figure out what they needed to let go of before leaving. Alyssa says she was strongly convicted to release her desires for Brazil and surrender her feelings to Christ.

“It was an amazing moment,” she recalls. “God was telling me it wasn't about the location where I was to serve, but it was a heart issue I had to deal with.”

Praying that her desires would be God's, Alyssa applied to Riverside Farms Institute in May. In just one week, her application was accepted. Alyssa would be going to Kafue, Zambia, to work as a teacher's aide.

Alyssa has been in Kafue since mid-September. She spends her days with kindergarteners and teaching Bible classes. Her goals for the year are to learn to love people unconditionally and become a strong pillar for God. When she returns home in May 2013, Alyssa will continue her summer job as girls' director at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Michigan.

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

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