

# Lake Union HERALD

JANUARY 2013



MISSION:  
~~IMPOSSIBLE~~

Your Mission,  
Should You Decide to Accept It . . .



Cover by Lake Union Herald staff



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## In this issue...

We have been given an impossible mission: to take the everlasting gospel to the entire world as portrayed by the three angels of Revelation 14. As in the television series, our seemingly impossible mission *is* possible, but only as each one of us discovers and accepts our personal mission and the Holy Spirit that accompanies it.

This year, every issue of the *Herald* will focus on some aspect of our mission. To start us off, we have chosen to share something very personal from our own family journeys. We trust it will be a source of inspiration and encouragement to you.

We'd like to hear from you. Please send us stories of how the mission is being carried out in your world.

  
Gary Burns, Editor



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## Mission First in God's Church

**F**ollowing the spring meeting of the Lake Union Executive Committee, we reported on a process the Lake Union leadership would follow on the question of women in ministry. This process is consistent with our World Church's study on the theology of ordination, including the question of ordaining women. Unions also are invited to carefully study this issue and report findings to their respective Division.

We began the process in the Lake Union when the officers of our conferences and our Union spent nearly two days in early September studying this issue. Our goals included:

- To engage in a study process that maintains and deepens our spiritual unity as leaders in this Union, even where disagreement on this issue exists
- To clearly hear and respect each other in this process
- To define areas of mutual agreement and decide how we can move forward in areas where there is not full agreement
- To seek God's leading through the careful study of the Bible and deep prayer
- To respond to the General Conference call for study by determining any direction we feel our Union should register within the NAD and General Conference deliberations
- To determine our stand regarding General Conference policy and practice on this issue
- To conclude our retreat with godly spiritual unity

We began with five presentations: 1) history of ordination; 2) theology of ordination; 3) survey of hermeneutics (the rules of biblical interpretation); 4) position opposing the ordination of women; and 5) position supporting the ordination of women. These presentations were very informative, answered many questions, created some questions, and were heard and received with careful analysis.

The second day focused on small group study, carefully examining the materials, key texts and issues regarding women's ordination. Late in the day, we devoted 90 minutes to solo time for each individual to define personal findings and convictions. We then came back to our groups to share those convictions.

That evening we reviewed the basic approaches and understandings of the different perspectives on this issue and grappled with how we should proceed. There was a unanimous consensus that no matter what the conclusion of our continued study, we affirm the Lake Union's unity with the General Conference.

On October 10, 2012, we reported to the Lake Union Executive Committee and took two actions: 1) The Lake Union Conference Executive Committee affirms its unity with the World Church and commits to the General Conference process of examining the theology of ordination, which includes a study on the issue of women's ordination; and 2) To continue our Lake Union study process with the Executive Committee in February with an extended meeting time.

Before our February meeting, LUC Executive Committee members will receive materials for personal study and preparation for a committee consideration of women's ordination. Our committee time will begin with an evening of presentations similar to our officer retreat. The next day will include small group study and a time for the whole committee to carefully consider any recommendation the Lake Union may wish to contribute to the North American Division and General Conference process.

I am exceptionally thankful for the attitudes that have been evidenced through this process. We have understood each other, respected convictions and kept the mission of God's Church as a mutually-valued goal. Your prayers and personal study on this issue are coveted. This is God's Church, we are His servants.



## Mission in Paradise

BY ARIA BODDEN

I have never been on a mission trip in my life. The same goes for traveling beyond the borders of the United States. Ever since I was a little girl, it has always been my dream to travel the world and have adventures of my own. But part of that dream didn't come true until last spring.

You can imagine my excitement as my senior class from Hinsdale Adventist Academy and I spent a little more than seven months preparing for our mission trip to St. Croix. Like any other graduating class, we were, at times, affected tremendously by "senioritis." We had our choices and challenges to face in making the trip come together but, by God's grace, we pulled through.

St. Croix is a little Caribbean island where our senior class sponsor and religion teacher, Danaran Frederick, is from. Unfortunately, the island's main source

of income, an oil refinery known as "HOVENSA," recently closed down. We decided that even if the island was going through some hard times, we could at least make a positive change in the small community surrounding the refinery.

St. Croix is, simply put, a beautiful island. The people are warm and friendly, the food is amazing, and everywhere you look the pristine, blue ocean is there to greet your eyes. The first time we visited the St. Croix School was a life-changing experience. The kids were incredible. You could see their adoration and love for God radiating from their faces and reflecting in the way they praised His name daily during chapel. The theme song for the Week of Prayer was "I Give Myself Away." It was a God-given song that would apply to everything we would accomplish in the next ten days.

Throughout the rest of the week, the seniors worked hard to repaint chipped walls, construct benches and clean



Aria Bodden (right) and a special friend

up around the school's perimeter. It was hard work but, thankfully, we got the job done. It was a sad moment when we said goodbye to the kids at the school for the last time, but we were leaving with a sense of accomplishment and a renewed love for helping others.

Other highlights of the trip included putting on Wednesday night vespers for the St. Croix Central Church (a night that changed my life), painting and fixing up a few things around the church, going to the beach, snorkeling and, finally, visiting the orphanage, Queen Louise Home. After

painting what seemed to be a million miles of fence, we were able to spend some time with a few kids.

I met a beautiful six-year-old girl with a name that sounded like mine, and we hit it off pretty well. I gave her a notebook and a sketch kit; I'd never seen anyone smile so big. She was especially interested in my camera, and ran around taking pictures of everything that interested her. Before long, it was time for us to leave. She looked up at me and asked, "Are you coming back to play with me tomorrow?" I felt like crying. It broke my heart as I tried my best to explain that I was leaving to go back home to America and I wouldn't see her again.

She looked at me again and asked, "Can I have your flower?" I was wearing a pink, clip-on flower in my unruly hair to keep it somewhat under control; I hesitated in giving it to her because it was my favorite. I looked over at my good



friend, Jazmin, who gave me an understanding nod. I pulled the flower from my hair and placed it in hers. She thanked me and gave me a hug. I had to bite my lip to keep from crying as I hugged her back and turned my head back to the vans. I was halfway across the lawn when I heard my name called. I turned around and caught Arian in my arms one last time. She hugged me tightly before saying, “Come and visit me again, okay?” I nodded and said that I would try my hardest to come back, a promise I intend to keep.

When we left St. Croix, I was heavyhearted. I had gotten used to driving on “the wrong side of the road,” being greeted by people on the street, and the constant sunlight. I missed seeing the ocean at every turn. Chicago seemed harsh and brutal compared to the all-around warmth from the

island. But I’ve come to realize that we all need some time away from the “jet life” to take a second to focus on others. There is so much we take for granted, and we are so caught up in the moment that we are blind to everything around us.

The mission trip to St. Croix opened up my eyes to real life, and I’m learning to appreciate things like hot showers and air conditioning. At the end of the day, it’s not about who has the newest iPad or Beats by Dr. Dre headphones; it’s about you and your relationship with God. It’s about you wanting to make a difference in the world for the honor and glory of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. And that’s all that really matters.

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Aria Bodden graduated from Hinsdale Adventist Academy, in Illinois, in 2012. She now attends Pacific Union College in Angwin, California, and is majoring in speech pathology.



## The Neighborhood Kids

OBSTACLES OR OPPORTUNITIES?

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Ellen White loved children. Her granddaughter recalls that when she and the neighborhood children played in the yard, her grandma joined in the fun. Ellen's home was a place where children were welcome, a place where they delighted to be.<sup>1</sup>

I invite you to make a positive difference for the children in your little corner of the world, whether you have children in your home or not.

Valerie Bell, in *Nobody's Children*,<sup>2</sup> suggests we develop a positive spiritual attitude toward the children in our neighborhoods. She challenges readers to pray for the Lord to make Himself real in each child's life. "In this day of decreasing church attendance, you may be the only access some child has to God" she says.

Believe in the difference one life can make: Learn the names of the children, referring to them by their names often. Make an effort to give a smile when you see them, look for the positive. Convey to each child that they are important, that you like them. Pray specifically for each child, asking God to help you know how to best support that child.

Think of some conversation starters. Almost anything will do: "Where did you get those neat shoes?"; "What is your favorite sport?"; or "What did you do last weekend?" Remember, a question that elicits a "yes" or a "no" answer will not begin much of a conversation.

Tell children special things you observe about them as they play, for example: "I noticed you picked up lots of the puzzle pieces. Thank you!" When appropriate, offer children a drink of water or fruit juice and sit down with them for a few minutes while they cool off or warm up, depending on the weather.

Share or start a tradition with the neighborhood children — it may be baking cookies, making snow cones, setting the sprinkler for a certain time of day, playing ball with them,

building snowmen at the first snow, letting them help wash the family car, etc.

Let the children know your house and yard rules. Be clear and direct about when they can come into the house and yard. Have your own children decide ahead of time which toys they are willing to share and what personal property they do not wish to have others play with. Honor their choices and intervene when necessary. Treat your own children and those from the neighborhood in the same courteous, respectful way as you would an adult visitor.

Think of your home and yard as a place where happy childhood memories are made. Remember that your home can stand as a beacon to a child who is yearning for some love and security. And for those children who do come from secure homes, sometimes too much of a good thing is wonderful — like happy childhood memories. I believe our caring attitudes and actions toward the children in our neighborhoods can be a power for God and for His truth. Ellen White supports this by sharing, "Our sphere of influence may seem narrow, our ability small, our opportunities few, our acquirements limited; yet wonderful possibilities are ours through a faithful use of the opportunities of our own homes" *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 355.

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

1. Burns, Gary. "A Special Gift". *Lake Union Herald*, March (2007), <http://lakeunionherald.org>.

2. Bell, Valerie. *Nobody's Children: Reaching Out to the Lonely Kids in Your World*. Nashville: W Publishing Group (1989).

*Weight-loss supplements may be ineffective and unsafe.*

## Weight Loss that Works

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

*Lifestyle changes produce lasting results.*

**A**s the new year begins, I know there are many who will want to lose some holiday pounds or more. Today, we live in an age of instant rice, instant potatoes, instant news and text messaging, instant directions by GPS, information instantly downloadable. Almost everything is instantly at our fingertips. However, weight-loss plans which promise instant and magical results are not a viable option. Crash dieting is not a safe practice.

Americans spend many millions of dollars on supplements to lose weight. It can take months and years to add extra pounds, and it is really tempting to think you can lose them in just a few weeks. To assist you, there are more than 400 pills available online or from the local drugstore. Are these products safe and effective?

According to the claims, popular weight-loss supplements typically work by suppressing a person's appetite or by increasing the burning of body fat. Examples of such products include apple cider vinegar, bitter orange, caffeine, chromium picolinate, conjugated linoleic acid, green tea extract, raspberry ketone, spirulina and yohimbine. While these weight-loss items have been heavily marketed, there is little or no scientific support for their long-term effectiveness.

Hoodia gordonii, a succulent plant from Africa, has been marketed as an appetite suppressant, but evidence for its safety and effectiveness is lacking. Guar gum is a gel-forming fiber that produces a feeling of fullness and blocks the absorption of fat, but it can cause abdominal pain and diarrhea. It is important to talk with your doctor or pharmacist about any weight-loss pills or capsules you plan to take, especially if you have health problems. They can tell you about possible adverse side effects.

Sensa and other scent-based weight-loss products are reported to reduce one's appetite. Sensa is a powder



sprinkled on your food, the Aroma Patch is worn on your hand, while SlimScents is inhaled before a meal. Some consumers have lost weight using these products, but long-term studies are needed before definitive conclusions are made.

Fad diets can be quite harmful. While cleansing diets are popular, they are not a healthy way to lose weight. Diet plans that claim you can eat "whatever you like" and still lose weight are misleading. Skipping breakfast to cut caloric intake is also not recommended. Unplanned snacking and a ravenous appetite later in the day often follows suit.

There is no magic bullet for losing weight. Lifestyle change is the most effective, lasting way to enjoy weight loss. A desirable lifestyle would include eating healthy, low-calorie, high-fiber foods, reducing portion sizes, avoiding impulse eating, keeping troublesome foods (like potato crisps) out of the house, avoiding food as a way to achieve emotional healing, and being physically active on a regular basis. These factors not only will help you lose weight, but also will help you keep the extra pounds off.

Finally, develop a support group who encourages you in your goal to lose weight, who exercises with you, and who motivates you to stay the course when times get tough.

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Winston Craig, Ph.D., RD, is chair of the Department of Nutrition at Andrews University.



# PRESENT TRUTH

*Following the Lamb wherever He goes*

## Caste, Favoritism and Mission

### THE EDITORS

*My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*

*Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?*

*If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. —James 2:1–8 NIV*

In making reference to the above message from the book of James, Ellen White wrote: "The wrongs existing in the society of the world should never, never find sanction among Christians. There should be no sympathy with the rich in their oppression of the poor, no encouragement given the poor in their jealousy and envy of the rich. There should be no sanctioning of the strong and influential in trampling upon the weak and helpless. All ye are brethren. Exact and impartial is the Lord God of heaven. More than this, God demands that you open your hand wide to the needy, and have the tenderest compassion for those who are afflicted, or who are suffering from want. If you turn carelessly from their cry, the Lord will just as surely turn away from your prayer, and he will not hear you in your distress.

"If you have the spirit of Christ, you will love as brethren; you will honor the humble disciple in his poor home, because God loves him as much as he loves you, and it may be more. He recognizes no caste. ...The attention that is shown to the wealthy, and the neglect of the poor, will be remembered by the Lord, and he will place you where you will pass through experiences similar to those of the afflicted ones who suffered while you passed by on the other side.

"All who are living in daily communion with Christ, will place his estimate upon men" (*Review & Herald*, October 6, 1891).

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 about statements made in the above text:

- Why does James, the brother of Jesus, speak so forcefully against favoritism in the church?
- In many cultures, much fuss is made over someone of power, position or privilege — especially in the church. According to James, following this custom makes us law-breakers. What would a law-abiding church look like?
- If you are to fully embrace and possess the spirit of Christ, what difference would be evident to those with whom you associate, and in what way would your circle of associates change?
- In what way would keeping "the royal law" and "living in daily communion with Christ" impact how we do mission?

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The Lake Union Herald editors



# Praying the Ordinary

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

*Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.* — Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**D**id you notice the four “alls”— “all occasions,” “all kinds,” “always” and “all the saints”? What a simple way to say that prayer is tremendously important, that *all* of life is to be brought to God in prayer.

To “pray in the Spirit” means to pray with the help of the Spirit, under the influence of the Spirit. It means praying the thoughts that the Spirit kindles within us. What is impossible in our own strength becomes possible with the Spirit’s help.

To pray “on all occasions” means that prayer is to be as broad as life itself. Talk to God about your problems, your joys, your temptations and your struggles. Let Him in on your everyday life: your work, your bill-paying, leisure time, shopping, visits to the doctor and time with friends. There is nothing in life that cannot be prayed about.

Pray “all kinds of prayers.” Let there be no blessing without a word of thanks, no sin without expressed confession, no need arising without a prayer of supplication, and no glimpse of God’s glory without a whispered prayer of praise. If prayer is the talking part of a love relationship with God, keep up the love relationship by talking with God about all kinds of things.

Pray “always”! This means that prayer is not to be cubby-holed into special times and special days. It never needs to be put off. There is never a better time to pray than at any given moment. Prayer is meant to be a natural, ongoing part of all our days and nights.

Also be sure to “pray for all the saints.” You can pray specifically for Christians you know, family members, friends, fellow church members, neighbors. It also works to pray by categories for church leaders, persecuted Christians, Christians in power, Christians in media, believers of different ethnic backgrounds, Christians in specific countries with great needs.

Because of prayer, the weakest Christian does not have to fear “the devil’s schemes” or all “the powers of this dark world and ... the spiritual forces of evil” (Ephesians 6:11, 12). Every true believer can live in constant

fellowship with the mightiest ally in the world, God Himself. In Him, we have the strength to stand.

## Reflect

- Review the past 24 hours of your life. Can you think of one glimpse of God’s glory that deserved praise, one gift that deserved a word of thanks, one sin that needs to be confessed, or one need that begs for God’s help? Are you talking to God about these things?
- What “saints” (other Christians) need your prayers right now in order to stand against the devil’s schemes?

## Pray

- Praise the Spirit of God, who alone knows the thoughts of God and is able to reveal them to us.
- Thank the Spirit for helping us pray as we ought and for kindling in our hearts prayers that are pleasing to God.
- Confess any failure you are aware of to pray all kinds of prayers on all occasions and to always keep on praying for all the saints.
- Ask for the Spirit’s help to be conscious of and talking to God throughout the day in all circumstances.
- Intercede on behalf of other Christians who need your prayers to be able to stand in the face of the devil’s schemes.

## Act

Whenever you start to pray, ask the Holy Spirit to direct your prayers and give you the right thoughts and words.

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



# SHARING *our* HOPE

## Andrews Students GROW

BY ASHLEY MEYER

**W**hile working to attain their diploma, some college students may believe there is little time left over for additional faith development outside of Sabbath hours. For two students at Andrews University, however, it is those faith development experiences that are the most important. The student coordinators of GROW group ministries at Andrews are Vimbo Zvandasara Zhou and Claypole “C.J.” Cousins. Under the guidance of Esther R. Knott, pastor for discipleship at Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC), Vimbo and C.J. organize and plan training meetings for the GROW group leaders in addition to leading their own small groups; Vimbo focuses on promoting the ministry in the undergraduate community while C.J. works with the graduate students.

GROW groups are small group Bible studies organized by PMC. GROW is just one aspect of PMC’s mission to “Connect, Grow, Serve, Go” by spiritually strengthening and equipping members for ministry in their community and the larger world mission field. Twenty-five of the 40-plus small groups are student-

led. Multiple small groups are held every weekday, so students and community members can choose the time, day and topic that appeals most to them. The groups range in size from three or four members to nearly 20.

Since Vimbo and C.J. began organizing the small groups in 2011, participation has more than doubled. Although they have utilized advertising resources, including emails, posters, newsletters, bulletins and campus televisions, they believe the best way to reach people is through one-on-one interaction. “The main and best way is through word of mouth,” C.J. says. “Our leaders and members are encouraged to develop relationships with others and invite them to their group.”

Although student membership is important, Vimbo believes a small group ministry should aim to increase the number of trained and dedicated leaders from which increased membership should naturally follow. She and C.J. teach their



*GROW groups are small group Bible studies organized by Pioneer Memorial Church. These groups help both members and leaders reconnect with their community and grow together spiritually. Pictured are some of the 46 GROW group leaders.*

GROW group leaders to lead discussions, engage in daily prayer for their group members, and maintain their own devotional life during the week. To them, the importance of this work cannot be measured. “I think it’s important for students to have a setting where they can openly ask questions they have about God, the Bible, and how to practically live

out their Christianity,” Vimbo says. “Small groups provide a community of fellow believers that can grow together.”

For C.J. and Vimbo, this sense of community is particularly vital. “It is so easy to get lost in the crowd on such a large university campus,” C.J. explains. “Oftentimes, a student longs for a smaller community setting where they can have support, ask questions, grow spiritually and make new friends. GROW groups do this for our students.”

As the name implies, the main theme is growth. “I have a passion for reaching young people like myself with the Word of God, because I have seen how it has transformed my own life,” says Vimbo. GROW groups help both members and leaders to take an hour out of their busy week to reconnect with their community and grow together spiritually.

Ashley Meyer is a student newswriter in the Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.



## ¡Gracias, buen siervo fiel!

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*Cristo nos ha comprado con un alto precio, y sin embargo nos recompensará por nuestro servicio a él. Cuando comparamos las inmensurables evidencias de su interés y amor por nosotros con nuestro pobre servicio a él, podríamos sentirnos tristes y llorar. Pero la recompensa no nos será dada en exacta proporción a nuestro servicio, sino a los motivos y el amor que nos ha movido a hacer el trabajo. La recompensa será de gracia. Él manifestará su abundante misericordia hacia nosotros, no porque nuestro trabajo haya sido digno, sino porque nos ama con un amor inmensurable. Cristo le dirá a su fiel y sincero obrero: “Bien, buen siervo y fiel [...], entra en el gozo de tu Señor”. Mateo 25:23. Aún ahora, los ángeles del cielo reconocen nuestros trabajos de amor y justicia, y no seremos olvidados en esta vida. —Hijas de Dios, p. 230*

**P**areciera que fuese ayer que tuve el privilegio de entrevistar a la hermana Josefina Sánchez para la posición de secretaria administrativa en el Departamento Hispano de la Unión del Lago. Josefina es oriunda de la República Dominicana donde su esposo Luis era pastor y ella trabajaba en la Misión del Este. Por razones de familia los esposos Sánchez se mudaron a la ciudad de Grand Rapids, estado de Michigan, en el año 2001, y con la ayuda de Dios obtuvieron trabajo, compraron casa y se hicieron miembros activos en la Iglesia Central Hispana de dicha ciudad. En el año 2009 se abrió la posición de secretaria administrativa para el Departamento Hispano de la Unión y empezamos a orar para encontrar a la persona adecuada. Después de haber entrevistado a varias personas no cabía la menor duda que en base a su experiencia y a su dedicación a la misión de la Iglesia Adventista, la hermana Josefina era la persona más indicada.

Por más de tres años Josefina ha demostrado tener grandes talentos y habilidades. Desde que vino a trabajar con nosotros hemos tenido dos congresos de jóvenes y retiros de damas a nivel de Unión, y ella ha sido siempre mi mano derecha en el manejo de tantos detalles que hay que tomar en cuenta. Cuando se realizó la campaña del pastor Alejandro Bullón en Grand Rapids, ella fue también una valiosa ayuda en la organización de un sistema de inscripción para los que asistirían a la campaña. Es más, cuando tuvimos los entrenamientos de laicos, ella y su esposo compartieron sus talentos para que todo resultara exitoso.

En cuanto a las relaciones personales, Josefina siempre ha demostrado gran cortesía y ha tratado en todo lo posible de ayudar a las personas que se comunicaban con nuestra oficina. En lo personal, he notado que ella nunca se ha



Josefina Sánchez

quejado. Además, al saber que las personas que trabajaban en la Unión necesitaban a veces ayuda por el aumento de su trabajo, ella trataba de ayudar en todo lo posible.

Los esposos Sánchez sienten ahora la necesidad de regresar a la República Dominicana y seguir trabajando para Dios en un nuevo contexto. No hay duda que la obra que han hecho en nuestra Unión está registrada en los libros del cielo como evidencia de su gran amor a Dios y al prójimo. De mi parte, he aprendido muchas lecciones de la hermana Josefina, y una de las principales es que debemos dar todo lo mejor de nuestros talentos al Maestro, porque Él lo dio todo por nosotros. Que Dios nos ayude para seguir su fiel ejemplo.

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



## Returning Home

BY BEVERLY AND RORY DABNEY

I (Beverly Dabney) was raised to be a Seventh-day Adventist. My mother joined the Adventist church when I was one year old, and my father when I was 13. Despite my upbringing, when I was of age I surrounded myself with unbelievers. By the age of 25, I no longer attended church or lived a Christian lifestyle. This new life (what I called “freedom”), however, did not bring happiness or joy. Without Christ leading the way through life, I took several wrong turns that led to unnecessary unhappiness.

Fortunately, due to my Christian upbringing, deep down I did know that Christ was the answer. About seven years ago, a friend invited me to a non-denominational church; and I agreed to go with her. I really enjoyed the service, and the pastor spoke of the love of Christ, a message I really needed to hear at the time. Eventually, I began attending the church almost regularly, and was very much interested in rekindling my relationship with God. I also began to visit, occasionally, the Adventist church. However, I never really made a commitment to either.

One day, while going through an old box, I came across a copy of *The Great Controversy*, which my brother had given me as a gift several years earlier. It was one of those very nice, hardcover versions, and I had never opened it. The Lord impressed me to read it. As I read, I quickly became fascinated with how the battle between God and Satan has unfolded throughout history, what is happening in



*Jim Howard, Metropolitan Church pastor, stands with new members of the church family, Rory and Beverly Dabney.*

present times, and how it's going to end. It became real to me that I was actively involved in this battle and, by turning my back on what I knew to be true, I was choosing sides — and not the side of Christ. I began to feel such deep regret for the time that had been wasted, yet extreme gratitude knowing that my heavenly Father was, even at that moment,

holding my life in His hands and welcoming me back with open arms.

Further Bible study with Jim Howard, pastor of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan, clarified much of the symbolism used in Daniel and Revelation and the biblical reasons for the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. My interest in Bible study grew and grew, and I looked forward to going through the Scriptures, discovering God's will. Today, I can say what I believe, with certainty, and feel the peace and joy that comes from Christ alone as I surrender my life to Him.

I (Rory Dabney) was born into a home with two religious faiths. Although I was raised mainly with the Seventh-day Adventist doctrine, I withdrew from the Adventist denomination and joined the faith of my father. This change came about because of compounding frustrations due to a lack of biblical knowledge and understanding. I had taken my eyes off Christ and placed them on man. For me, it seemed that church was just a system devised to keep order amongst a hopeless and lost species. At this stage, I did not totally disengage from church life, but was not held accountable for many of my actions/deeds that were contrary to Christian beliefs. Thus, I was able to maintain a “form of godliness.” For example, although not a smoker myself, I thought it cool for others to smoke in the church parking lot; yet, deep inside, I knew it was not cool at all. I knew I had taken a wrong turn and was just out there in the midst of confusion. I soon realized I was not alone but that God had been chasing me all along, and was right there with me.

On Father’s Day 2002, I buried my father. At that point, my perspective changed, and I began trying to return to a closer walk with God. Not knowing how long it would take and what obstacles I would have to overcome, I was determined to regain that close walk with Christ that I once experienced as a boy in the Adventist church.

I am happy to say that, with the navigation of the Holy Spirit, I found my way back to the narrow path amongst Seventh-day Adventist Christians walking with Christ. God used persons such as Ellen White and her writings, and Doug Batchelor and Amazing Facts. I remember as a little boy thoroughly enjoying the Amazing Facts pamphlets.

Later, God reacquainted me with a young lady named “Beverly” who was going through a similar experience, and we eventually were married. I had sworn never to marry again, but I could not resist the prospect of finally sharing my life with another Adventist. A highlight was the summer of 2011 when we attended the Michigan Conference Camp Meeting. There we received a real blessing hearing Doug Batchelor preach. Ironically, that Wednesday night, prior to the Sabbath he preached, a tornado formed over the auditorium, and we were evacuated out into a safer part of the building. This reminded me of the Amazing Facts pamphlet that portrayed a man with a child in tow trying to outrun a tornado. Yes, Satan was angry, but God was still in control!

Finally, during that week, we met two dynamic men of God — the Howard brothers, Jim and Mark, who were speaking at the Training Center Churches seminar. When we got home the next week, we emailed Jim and asked him to give us Bible studies, and he obliged us. We explained to Jim that our former years as Adventists were spent sitting and listening, but not thoroughly understanding much of anything. He took us from A to Z in the Bible, and was so patient with us. He was truly a godsend!

About two months later, I was diagnosed with cancer, and Jim was right there with us all the way. After wrestling with new obstacles that threatened our progression toward baptism, I am happy to say that on Sabbath, May 26, 2012, Jim baptized my wife, Beverly, and me together. We are now members of the Metropolitan Church.

Beverly is a nurse and, with my interest and background in music, I serve as the minister of music at a church of another denomination in Detroit. There, my wife and I have had the opportunity to share more than 50 copies of *The Great Controversy*. Please pray for this church, and I ask for your prayers that God will continue to bless and direct our music and health ministry. Beverly and I desire to educate individuals, as well as church congregations, on ways to experience a healthy lifestyle, make better nutritional selections, and choose better music for listening and worship services.

Just a final word — especially for those who are growing up in the Adventist Church: It is so dark out there. You do not want to ever experience that level of confusion. Stay close to God and His truth; it will keep you free and safe. You should be thankful for the Seventh-day Adventist Church; thankful in the sense that God, in His compassion, has allowed you such a privilege of getting this message firsthand while you are young.

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Beverly and Rory Dabney are members of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan.

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*You should be thankful for the Seventh-day Adventist Church; thankful in the sense that God, in His compassion, has allowed you such a privilege of getting this message firsthand while you are young.*

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**I was beginning to sense God calling me to full-time ministry.**

I remember as if it was yesterday. I was seven years old and in the first grade at a small town school. I can still feel the pressure of being so small while the eighth-grade boys seemed so big. We had two teachers in our eight-grade school. One teacher for grades one through four, and the other for grades five through eight.

It was a month before Christmas, and Mrs. Lamberton, the teacher who taught the big kids, was in charge of the Christmas program. She insisted that every student have a part in the program. That meant we were all together.

I can still see the eighth-grade boys laughing and whispering when I was trying to perform. Looking back on it now, I think they had their own thing going and could care less what I was doing.

I was given a short poem to memorize, and it wasn't difficult. I had it down pat within a few hours. But when we each had to rehearse our part in front of all the students, I couldn't do it. I tried so hard to say it without crying, but I panicked every time. The tears flowed, and I ran off the stage, sick to my stomach.

The teacher tried to convince me I could do it, and my parents tried everything they could think of. Nothing worked. Then, one afternoon, I was with my mom and dad in a furniture store, and I saw a child's little, wooden rocker. I sat in it and rocked while my parents looked for another piece of furniture. I fell in love with that little rocker and begged my parents to buy it. At first they said "no," but

they must have had an afterthought — *maybe it's worth a try.*

"If you say your poem at the Christmas program without crying," they offered, "we will buy the rocker for you."

Now I had a new motive for keeping back the tears. My focus was on the rocker instead of my fears. All I could think about was having that beautiful little rocker. And it worked! I never thought once about crying. My mind was on the beautiful gift that would be my very own.

I have often thought about this experience, and what a hard time God has had getting my focus on Him instead of me. I still have the little rocker as a reminder of how the power of refocusing my thoughts changed my emotions, and how fear often blocks the greater opportunities God has for us.

I was beginning to sense God calling me to full-time ministry. The Holy Spirit seemed to impress me to stop working. I knew I needed more time to spend with Jesus so there would be plenty of Living Water flowing to refresh the people I studied with each week.

God really enlarged my territory, and I now faced a new dilemma. I led three group Bible studies every week, so I had cut my workdays down to three. I also met with the students at the academy once a week and had several one-on-one Bible studies with some women who wanted to go deeper in the Word. My husband, Wayne, and I also opened our home to a group

**DO NOT**

**BE AFRAID**

**BY HAZEL BURNS**



**I have learned that even if a door may close that God has opened, He has a way of opening more doors and more windows. It's His nothing-is-impossible way to enlarge our territory.**

that came each week for soup and homemade bread. We called it our “Bible Study and Prayer Fellowship.”

I loved my job and had built up a great clientele through the years. I really enjoyed working with people and cutting and styling their hair. And, to be honest, I loved the additional income.

I sought the counsel of a few people I looked up to. They each seemed to think I should continue working in the beauty salon. As one chaplain put it, “This is your pulpit. This is your place of ministry. This is where you meet people to invite into a Bible study. Don’t close a door that God has opened.” I was cutting his hair at the time, and I questioned whether he was giving this counsel so he wouldn’t have to find another hairstylist.

I still felt a deep, unsettling sense that God was calling me to full-time ministry, and I struggled for months before coming to a decision. I was afraid to leave my comfortable place of work. My job gave me a sense of security; and it was a convenient place to make new friends and a natural setting to talk about life issues. But God’s tugging at my heart didn’t go away, and I knew I needed to trust Him.

I have learned that even if a door may close that God has opened, He has a way of opening more doors and more windows. It’s His nothing-is-impossible way to enlarge our territory.

Since we lived in a small ranch house and were almost debt-free, I decided to share my struggle with Wayne. Without a moment’s hesitation, he said, “It’s okay with me if you quit work. You do whatever God shows you.” Wayne has always given me that kind of support, and I didn’t know just how much that support was going to be needed.

The way was clear, but my desire to be in the center of God’s will led me to one more step. I just needed to be absolutely sure. I needed a word from God.

The story of the woman at the well in John 4:32 reminds us that God prepares food for us that others know nothing about. He also

prepared food in the wilderness for the Children of Israel and on the mountainside for the 5,000 eager listeners. He prepared a huge catch of fish for the disciples when they had fished all night and caught nothing.

As He was on the shore preparing breakfast for them, He called out, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” — a question stated in a way no fisherman wants to answer. Then Jesus told them to throw their nets on the other side of the boat. When they obeyed His illogical command, they got their largest catch ever.

It was early one Friday morning when Jesus surprised me on the shore of my all-night struggle, with just the right food He had prepared for me personally. He asked me to fish on the other side of the boat — the side of faith, the side of the scary unknown.

“Lord,” I said, “help me make a right decision. I need your peace.” As I prayed, I opened my Bible as my father had taught me. The words I read in Genesis 15:1 seemed to be in bold letters. I turned a few pages to Exodus 14:13, then, turning a few more, I came to Numbers 14:9.

As I continued turning pages and landing on different passages of Scripture, the same four words leapt out to me as if they were the only words on the page: “Do not be afraid.”

I continued turning pages and reading, and saw these same four words 20 times in just a few minutes. As I ate the food Jesus prepared for me, I was strengthened to make the right decision. I was covered with a sense of His abiding peace.

Fear is one of our greatest enemies — possibly Satan’s most successful tool. Once more, I had to confess before God that my fears of letting go of control, of the money I took home every week, of my future and my retirement, were draining me of my peace. I cast them all down at His feet and, once more, I asked Him to be Lord of all. It has been said, “If He is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.”

After I quit work, the Lord affirmed my decision with a large catch on the other side



of the boat. The first month God blessed me with 17 new believers in Christ — people God brought into my life by Divine appointment! I was amazed at how fast God enlarged my territory once I quit working. I received several calls from people, who had heard I had quit the salon, asking if I would please give them Bible studies.

God was showing me that people are hungry for the Word of God. There are people who are thirsting for the Living Water of His abiding presence that the Holy Spirit brings.

Maybe some of you are like me — afraid of the unknown, afraid of letting go of some control, afraid of what others may think. Or maybe you don't think God can use you because you are not good enough. Remember these thoughts are not from God. God said, *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. ... As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. You are precious and honored in my sight. ... I love you* (Isaiah 55:8, 9; 43:4 NIV).

In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul said we are chosen, we are adopted, we are redeemed, we are forgiven, and God has lavishly poured out His grace on us, and given us the promised Holy Spirit (see Ephesians 1).

The enemy does everything he can to keep us from knowing who we are, that we have been called to be one of Christ's disciples. He doesn't care if we are a member of a church or an elder or a pastor. He doesn't care how much money we give or what our title is; he just doesn't want us to be filled with the Spirit and walk in faith.

When we are filled with the Spirit and walk in faith, people are drawn to Jesus through us. And, as we work with Him, we sense our purpose for living. His life in us, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, changes lives and brings healing to the broken and hope to the discouraged.

Jesus wants to surprise you with the gift of food that others know nothing about. And His food satisfies! There is nothing like it. You

have energy that is supernatural, peace that the world cannot experience, and the joy of His abiding presence. This food is not *the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind* (2 Timothy 1:7). His food increases our faith!

I don't know what God is calling you to do, but whatever it is, accept His calling. Obey His sometimes counter-intuitive and illogical instructions, and do it with all your might. Listen to His voice telling you, "Do not be afraid!"

### **A Divine Assignment: Becky**

Jesus always goes ahead of us and prepares us for what He has planned for our next step in faith. Some years after I had entered ministry full-time, I discovered His next assignment for me was Becky Vandiver.

One day, Becky visited our church and wrote a note on one of our blue "connect" cards. She asked if a woman could please come to visit her. God chose me. The enemy of our souls had her trapped in a destructive lifestyle, and she knew she needed help. Becky's mom and dad were divorced when she was about three. Her mom had multiple sclerosis and was confined to a wheelchair. One day, while her mom was going to the market, she was hit by a drunk driver and ended up at the hospital in a coma for six months. She later was moved to an extended care facility where she spent the rest of her life.

A Christian family took Becky and her two brothers into their home for the next nine years. When this family moved out of state, Becky's dad, who had remarried, arranged for the children to come live with him.

After a short time, Becky realized she and her stepmother were not going to connect so, at the age of 14, Becky left home. Her new "home" was with any friend who had parents willing to let her stay with them for an extended time.

At the age of 15, Becky had several physical crises: a bicycle crash, a car wreck and a gunshot wound to her stomach. She also found some sense of belonging in a community of friends who used drugs. At the age of 16, she overdosed

**The enemy does everything he can to keep us from knowing who we are, that we have been called to be one of Christ's disciples.**



Becky (Vandiver) Hackney (left) and her children joined the family for the celebration of Hazel and Wayne Burns' 60th wedding anniversary.

and it nearly killed her. Nothing seemed to wake her out of her abusive lifestyle.

At the age of 17, the courts placed Becky in a foster home. When she ran away, Becky was placed in an adolescent center, then a group home. She ran away from the group home from Tennessee to California.

At the age of 19, Becky moved to Dayton, Ohio, to live with her brother. She met a guy, continued using drugs with him and, a couple of months later, discovered that she was pregnant. In Becky's own words, she said, "This really opened my eyes and made me think." She knew she could no longer go on living that way and, eventually, told the man she was with that she no longer wanted to live his lifestyle and not to come around any more. Becky stopped smoking, drinking and doing drugs.

She told me, "I really felt God was knocking on my door, saying, 'Becky, please let Me in. I am giving you another chance. Come, follow Me. Teach this precious baby of My great love.'" From that day on, Becky made a choice to follow Jesus.

Becky and I studied the Bible together for several months, and then I was privileged to baptize her. She married a great Christian man and has a beautiful family. We call her our daughter, she calls us "Mom" and "Dad," and her children call us "Grandpa" and "Grandma." We are so blessed! That is why God chose me to visit her. He wanted to extend our family.

Since I had made the decision to quit my work at the beauty salon and do full-time ministry, I was able to spend time with Becky. And we did spend a lot of time together. After her delivery, mom and baby came to live at our house. Later, we helped Becky find her own apartment. When she was ready, we helped her enroll in a community college.

Becky has an electrifying personality. Everybody on campus loved her, and she did not hesitate to tell the reason why she was so happy — Jesus was Lord of her life. When she graduated, Becky was even selected to give the commencement address.

I am so glad the Holy Spirit nudged me out of the beauty salon comfort zone to extend my territory into full-time ministry. Through the years, I've had the privilege of partnering in ministry with seven senior pastors at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kettering, Ohio. In 2008, I officially retired as associate pastor, but God continues to send people my way. Though I never received a formal education, it has been a privilege to trust God in the mission He has ordained for me — always with the assurance of His encouraging words, "Do not be afraid."

*God makes homes for the homeless, and leads prisoners to freedom (Psalm 68:6 NIV).* He calls us to love them, and give them the keys to set them free. What is God's ordained mission for you?

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Hazel Burns is a retired pastor living in Dayton, Ohio. This article is an adaptation of a chapter in her forthcoming book, *My Mind Instructs Me in the Night*.

# ACCEPTING OUR MISSION

BY GARY BURNS

Some of you may have read the short version of my call to ministry in the *Herald* (see “The Dusty Bible,” p. 14, September 2008, <http://lakeunionherald.org>). The big part of the story that wasn’t told is the incredible struggle on the journey from my conversion to my congregation.

After my life-changing encounter with God in answer to my mother’s prayer, I found it difficult to give myself fully to my work as president and CEO of a television production company and advertising agency in South Florida. The time I spent with my Bible in prayer began to impact my ability to continue with my work, especially in the advertising world. I began to observe changes in my life, and I found myself in a constant struggle between principle and profit.

I was unsettled and, eventually, spent a night struggling with God in prayer. The next morning I went to the studio and notified my secretary that I would be in my office, and didn’t want to be disturbed. I rolled a sheet of paper into my blue IBM Selectric and began to write a letter of resignation. I then called my wife, Maryann, and asked her to meet me at a restaurant for lunch.

After we ordered, I reached into my suit pocket, pulled out the letter and slid it across the table for her to read.

As I watched her eyes scanning back and forth, I realized the seriousness of what I had just done. Maryann had a comfortable home, a new car and was used to receiving a gift every Friday. She recently had gone back to work after taking a year off to nurse and care for our first child, Josie. And now I was announcing to her that I was resigning my position. There went a new mother’s security out the window!

I looked for any sign of a reaction on her face. None! Finally, her eyes stopped scanning, but she continued to stare at the page without saying a word.

My insecurity broke the silence. “Well, what do you think?”

She slowly lifted her gaze, her eyes meeting mine, and she said, “Well, you’ve got to do something. You can’t continue the way you’ve been.”

She had observed my struggle and discontent, and knew

more than I realized. We spent the next hour considering our options. We decided to go through with it, and see what the Lord had in mind.

We made plans to put our things in storage and rent our house to my producer. I had one more obligation, and that was to teach the first music video course at Full Sail near Orlando. We had considered staying on and moving to a place in the country north of Orlando, but after the course was over, decided to hit the road.

During the next four months, we covered 17,500 miles of back roads America

in a Chevy van, avoiding every interstate possible. We spent time camping in some of our most beautiful state and national parks, and visited as many relatives as we could.

One of our favorite spots was Mesa Verde, in the southwest corner of Colorado, where the deer joined us for supper at our campsite. Another was by a cool, trout-filled



*Gary and Maryann Burns served with best friends, Doug and Carol Kilcher, at the Bucks County Church the summer of 1975, before going into film and television.*

stream and alpine lake near Sisters, Oregon. We felt so much closer to God out in His creation. At night, the stars seemed to bring Him even closer. I began to realize my journey was covering more than mesas, mountains and miles.

I did something I don't recommend. I decided to wipe my religious slate clean and start from scratch. I read my Bible from cover to cover and began to build my own faith and beliefs, based solely on Scripture, asking God to send the Holy Spirit to be my only teacher. Jesus became my hero and I had this incredible longing to be like Him in every way possible.

My journey took me through some rough territory of confession and seeking forgiveness. I unsuspectingly prayed David's prayer for God to search me and see if there was any wicked way in me — and He did. He found much more than I had bargained for, but He gently cared for me and performed the necessary work that only He could do. I was broken. It was refreshing and transforming.

When we set out on the road, we had this crazy idea of finding some small-America city with a TV station that was looking for a producer where we could settle in and raise a family, away from the corruption of the big metropolis we left behind. By September, we had found nothing, and Maryann was eager to put down stakes for the winter.

We headed back to our shared roots and many friends in Dayton, Ohio. My former video engineer still had a vacant house there that needed to be remodeled, and he offered it to us in exchange for the work. Another builder friend of ours had just purchased a church camp that included an abandoned 200-year-old home, which he wanted me to restore — a skill I had learned working through college. I spent the entire winter working with my hands, clearing out all the cobwebs in my mind — just me and God with no plans for the future except this year-long dream to create a program called Hand-in-Hand that would teach children about their wonderful Creator. (It's still a \$5M dream.)

Maryann and I, inadvertently and very unintentionally, became very involved in our new church that was meeting in the school gymnasium. We had no midweek service, so I asked the pastor if we could start a prayer meeting. His response was, "Well, you can, but nobody will come."

We announced the next Sabbath that we were going to hold a soup-and-bread, family-night prayer meeting at the school. "Bring a pot of soup or a loaf of bread to the home ec room at six o'clock."

Nearly 50 people showed up for supper, fellowship, kids' time and a prayerful journey through the book, *The Great Controversy*, of all things, and it continued through the

winter. As time went by, we were given more and more opportunities to serve.

About the time our resources were just about depleted, a couple of hospital administrators came to our home to ask if we would consider becoming their media department director. With a recurring menu of beans, rice and potatoes, it was tempting to take the lucrative offer; and it would prove to all the naysayers that we weren't crazy. But, I need to let you know that we were at a similar crossroads about ten years earlier.

During the revival that swept across America in 1970 (see "Spiritual Discernment," p. 12, *Lake Union Herald*, April 2012), I made some significant commitments, including a decision to become a theology major at Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University). When I graduated, only one from our class received a *call*. The economy was not good, and there was a glut of theology majors due to the war in Vietnam. I was fortunate enough to find a temporary position as area youth coordinator for Greater Philadelphia, associate pastor of the Bucks County Church and media director for the Better Living Center.

At the end of the summer, the conference president called me up to the conference for an interview. One of his first questions was "How many people did you baptize this summer?"

"Well, none," I replied.

I was informed that I might need to look for some other options. We decided to make plans to attend the Seminary on our own the next term. In the meantime, Kettering Medical Center was looking for a part-time AV technician, so we took the position and started saving our money.

The Medical Center was just building a new television studio, one of the first closed-circuit health education systems. They were looking for a producer to help with Sabbath programming. Since they knew of my high school experience and training in television and film production and of my degree in theology, they offered me the job. The next day the president of the Ohio Conference met with us to offer us our choice of several church districts. He gave us the weekend to consider our response. The previously-closed window had now turned into two wide-open doors.

Maryann and I considered our options throughout the weekend and came to the conclusion that we just weren't ready to take on the role of pastor, so we called the conference president and told him we were going to take the producer position. I'll never forget his response.

"If you walk away from this *call*, don't ever expect to get another one again. You are closing the door on God's call to ministry."

We took the producer position, ended up becoming a health news reporter for the NBC affiliate, then moved down to South Florida to start the television production company. Now back to our story...

Although no conference president had given me a call and I still had not considered being a pastor, I wanted to dedicate my life to accomplishing God's mission. I told the administrators I was not interested in getting back into corporate or commercial television, so we turned the offer down.

A few weeks later, the school held its alumni weekend and I was asked to arrange for the speaker. I immediately thought of my Uncle Walt, pastor of a church in Columbus, Ohio, who had made a big impression on all of us as students. Back then, Walter Wright worked at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, in Dayton, Ohio, but everyone thought he was a pastor because of his weekly television program.

I remember the title of Uncle Walt's sermon that day: "Fig Leaves." When he made the appeal for us to quit playing the game of cover-up and let God clothe us with His righteousness, I was the first one to my feet. Later that afternoon, as we enjoyed fellowship together in my parents' home, Uncle Walt and Aunt Jackie prepared to leave to meet an appointment back at their home church. Uncle Walt stood to his feet and said, "Well, we need to go; but, before we do, there's something I've got to say," as he sat back down on the couch. "Gary," he said, looking at me straight in the eye as only he could look. "I don't know how long God is going to be patient with you, but my patience has just about run out." (Uncle Walt could talk to you like that.) "When are you going to get about doing what God has called you to do and become a pastor?" For more than an hour (they missed their appointment), he talked to us about what he had seen in us through the years. He talked about his own journey at the base and how God finally convinced him of his own call to ministry. He gathered our family around us, laid hands on us and presented us to the Lord.

As Maryann and I drove out of the driveway and began our way home, I said, "Well, what do you think?"

"I think he's right," was her simple reply. God really has blessed me with a wonderful best friend and forever partner.

Later that night, I shared our decision with my pastor. "Well, I was wondering when you were going to figure it out," he said matter-of-factly. "Would it be okay if I contact a few conference presidents?"

A month or so later, when I returned home from work one day, I saw Maryann out in the yard raking old leaves out from beneath the hedge. When she saw me pull up in our old

Carmen Gia, she started waving her hands and shouting, "We got a *call!* We got a *call!*"

*We what?* I wondered. *What's wrong? Who called?*

"Jere Patzer called from Upper Columbia," she said, trying to catch her breath. "We have a *call!*"

"Where?" I asked.

"Irrigon, Oregon," she said excitedly.

"Do you know where that is?" I asked unbelievably. Irrigon is a small community of high winds, tumble weeds and watermelons at the big turn of the Columbia River.

"I don't care," she said. "God has answered our prayers. We have a *call.*"

You need to know that when I asked Maryann to marry me, her reply was, "As long as you don't ever make me move out West, away from my family."

The *call* was also a half-time position, and we would not be getting a full salary. She was still ready to go! She later learned that this opportunity was only a test of her faith. She needed to know that God had led her to the place where she was willing to go wherever He called. And it strengthened her faith.

A few days later, Skip Bell at the Ohio Conference called. Now we had two *calls!* We had gone to Columbus to spend some time with Uncle Walt and Aunt Jackie and get some needed counsel and prayer when Jere Patzer informed us the conference Executive Committee had decided they were going to do some redistricting, and they weren't ready to fill the position in Irrigon at that time. Skip, on the other hand, had a couple of districts open and gave us our pick. God is good!

Here's what we learned on our journey to accepting our mission:

- God calls everyone. His calls are specific, personal and progressive.
- God takes the responsibility for preparing and equipping us for the mission He has ordained for us.
- Learning God's specific plan for our life comes through a process of taking incremental steps of obedience.
- We have only one Teacher.
- We have only one Example.
- Even if we are not willing to accept God's call, and though we may turn away from Him, He will never leave us nor forsake us.
- God may call again. And when He does, He can redeem the time.

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



## SDA Rider Retreat offers unique ministry opportunity

*But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. —Psalm 5:11 NIV*

Whether he's wearing a business suit and serving as chief executive officer of Adventist GlenOaks Hospital in the Chicago suburbs or he's wearing a leather jacket and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle through the winding hills of the Smoky Mountains, Bruce C. Christian places his trust in Jesus Christ. With God as his constant companion, Christian continuously seeks out ways to sing the Lord's praises and share with others the blessings bestowed upon him.

Three years ago, Christian and his friends Rodney Corker, Tom Murrell, Howard Scoggins, Dick Tibbits and Bucky Weeks came together to celebrate our Lord by hosting the first-ever SDA Rider Retreat. The SDA Rider Retreat is a special time of fellowship, spiritual reflection, activity and joy for those who love the Lord and enjoy riding their motorcycles. This four-day event combines morning and evening worship and fellowship sessions with daytime motorcycle rides through the majestic Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee.

The SDA Rider Retreat proved to be so popular that it has become an annual event that has grown in attendance each year, bringing together friends old and new from all across the country and from all walks of life. Christian and his friends hosted their third annual SDA Rider Retreat Sept. 13–16, 2012, in Fontana Dam, N.C. This remote location is highly regarded for its majestic views, peaceful setting and nearly unparalleled number of scenic routes available to motorcycle enthusiasts. The charming Fontana Community Church served as the site for the fellowship



Members of Adventist GlenOaks Hospital's executive team attended the SDA Rider Retreat. Pictured from left are Erin Gerber, administrative director, Marketing and Service Line Development; John Rapp, regional vice president/Ministries and Mission; Bruce C. Christian, chief executive officer; and Rich Roehr, assistant vice president, Administrative Services

sessions, where speakers gave personal testimonies of their journeys to accepting Christ in their lives. In addition, attendees were treated to the uplifting gift of song by Christian and his fellow singers and musicians.

More than 120 riders and attendees shared in their love of the Lord. Several members of the executive team at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital also attended the event. The busy hospital executives traded their cell phones and laptops for hymnals and handlebars.

"It is so seldom we are afforded time away from the hectic minutia of our lives to immerse ourselves in celebration of the Lord and reconnect to what's truly important," said Richard Roehr, an assistant vice president at the hospital. "With the SDA Rider Retreat, Bruce and his friends are truly extending the healing ministry of Christ to so many and making a lasting difference in their lives."

The SDA Rider Retreat is so much more than just another time of worship or just a new place to ride. It is a very special and unique opportunity to experience the teachings of the Bible,

the magnificence of our Lord's creation and improved health and well-being.

The next SDA Rider Retreat will be held Sept. 12–15, 2013. For additional information, email [aghmarketing@ahss.org](mailto:aghmarketing@ahss.org).

Erin Gerber, administrative director of Marketing and Service Line Development, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital



From left: Dianne Christian; Bruce C. Christian, chief executive officer; Erin Gerber, administrative director, Marketing and Service Line Development; and Rich Roehr, assistant vice president, Administrative Services, take a break after a long morning ride during the SDA Rider Retreat in Fontana Dam, N.C., Sept. 13–16, 2012.

## Denis Fortin announces return to full-time teaching

Denis Fortin, dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, has announced his plans to return to full-time teaching, effective with the 2013–14 school year. Fortin has served as faculty at Andrews since 1994 and the last six years as dean.

“For personal and professional reasons, I have come to the conclusion that after serving in academic administration for the better part of the last 14 years, as director of the Master of Divinity program for three years, as associate dean for four years, and now as dean for six years, it is time for me to take a break,” Fortin said. “I have therefore asked President Niels-Erik Andreasen and Provost Andrea Luxton that I be



Denis Fortin

permitted to return to full-time teaching in the Department of Theology & Christian Philosophy.”

Fortin was appointed dean of the Seminary in 2006. Since joining the

Seminary faculty in 1994, he has served in multiple roles. Prior to coming to Andrews, he served as a pastor in the Quebec Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

“The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary has been very well served by Dr. Denis Fortin. The number of students, programs and services has grown under his leadership, and we have all been blessed,” says Andreasen. “I am happy to note that he will return to his first love: teaching Seminary students. We are delighted to welcome him back full-time to the faculty.”

A search committee will be established, overseen by Andreasen, to identify Fortin’s successor. The search committee will include representation from the Seminary faculty, Andrews University administration and Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership.

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



## Fourth issue of Envision now available

The latest issue of *Envision*, Andrews University’s Christian collegiate magazine, was released in early November 2012. This is the fourth annual

issue of the collegiate magazine produced by the collaborative effort of more than 50 Andrews’ students from multiple academic disciplines.

“The students have once again outdone themselves, providing top-notch writing, photography and design,” says Debbie Michel, associate professor of communication and editor-in-chief of *Envision*.

This year’s issue features articles on many topics of special interest to students, including ways to stay energized, how to get a great internship, and how to erase student loan debt. The new issue also includes several feature articles on Andrews students. “We feature some students who’ve tackled some pretty daunting challenges head-on, which, of course, would not be possible without the power of God in their lives,” says Michel. Among these inspirational stories is the cover story for this issue, featuring “G.I. Joe Rivera.”

*Envision* is created entirely by students in the classes Publication Production,

Advanced Media Writing, Publication Design and Studio Photography.

“It was a great experience, and I learned a lot about how a magazine works,” says Tacyana Behrmann, one of the magazine’s student editors. After her first year working on the magazine, Behrmann believes that she learned a lot about the business. “It gave me a look into the magazine publishing world — what it takes and the work that goes into it,” she says, describing how she used the campus “grapevine” to find stories for the magazine.

*Envision* is available for purchase for \$2.50 in the greater Berrien Springs, Mich., area, at The Gazebo on campus, the Andrews Bookstore, Apple Valley, Harding’s and the Adventist Book Center. For more information about *Envision*, contact Debbie Michel at [dmichel@andrews.edu](mailto:dmichel@andrews.edu).

Ashley Meyer, student newswriter, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication

## Andrews University students fill shoeboxes for distribution to needy children

Michigan—Students from several departments in the Andrews University School of Health Professions kicked off their Christmas season by giving to children around the world through Operation Christmas Child. Sharing the good news of God’s love with hurting boys and girls is the heart of Operation Christmas Child. Along with small presents and personal items for the children, each box contains literature on the gospels, an opportunity for the child to receive Bible lessons and a copy of *The Greatest Journey* in the child’s native language.

The Department of Physical Therapy became heavily involved when Esther Jones, regional collection center coordinator for Operation Christmas Child and administrative assistant in the Department of Physical Therapy, and Sarah Hythecker, vice president of the Physical Therapy Class of 2014, set a dream in motion. Hosting a packing party in October 2012 and several collection dates between October and November 2012, physical therapy students and staff were able to pack nearly 100 boxes. This is the second year that Physical Therapy has been involved in Operation Christmas Child. Wanting to get more people around campus excited about this ministry, Hythecker invited department chairs from the School of Health Professions to get their students and faculty involved.

Through chapel announcements and Operation Christmas Child posters hung across campus, students were able to see that just a simple, small gesture could make a big difference. Participation meant packing a shoebox with small gifts, donating \$7 online or including it in the box and then dropping it off on the collection days.



Students from the Department of Physical Therapy packed 89 boxes for Operation Christmas Child during a packing party on Wed., Oct. 17, 2012.

“As a physical therapy student, my spare time is limited. What I like about Operation Christmas Child is that participation is quick and easy. All you have to do is purchase items to include in the box, make an online donation, and pack the box. Quick and easy!” says Hythecker. “I can only imagine the joy the little girl receiving my box will experience. She will find colorful hair accessories, a toothbrush and toothpaste, a teddy bear, a coloring book and crayons, a notebook and pencils, some candy and, most importantly, she will learn about the love of Jesus Christ.”

As students from the Department of Physical Therapy encouraged others to join in, many lent a helping hand. The Department of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology also hosted a packing party in October, resulting in approximately 50 shoeboxes. Students from the Departments of Nursing and Nutrition & Wellness packed boxes on their own time. In total, students from Andrews ended up donating 212 packed shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child.

From Andrews, the boxes were taken to the Niles Adventist School, a regional collection site. Operation Christmas Child is no stranger to Niles Adventist School. The school has been involved for the past 16 years, during which time more than 158,000 gift boxes have



On Sun., Oct. 28, 2012, students and faculty from the Department of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology hosted an Operation Christmas Child packing party. They packed a total of 47 boxes, which will be shipped around the world to boys and girls in need. The boxes contain a variety of small toys, personal hygiene items, basic school supplies and a personal note from the Andrews student who packed the box.

passed through the site. This year alone, 23,701 shoeboxes were collected at the Niles Adventist School collection site.

With the anticipated shoebox collection of more than nine million boxes worldwide this year, Operation Christmas Child expects to pass a significant milestone — collecting and delivering shoeboxes to more than 100 million children since it was established in 1993 by Samaritan’s Purse, a Christian relief and evangelism organization.

Even though the main collection drive has come to a close, shoeboxes can be “packed” online by visiting [www.samaritanspurse.org/giving/buildabox/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/giving/buildabox/).

Kristina Paris, student newswriter, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University



## North Shore students meet Illinois governor

Illinois—Students from North Shore Adventist Academy in Chicago participated in a new and unique adventure when the Pathfinder club, the North Shore Stars, marched in the Columbus Day Parade in downtown Chicago on Mon., Oct. 8, 2012.

A highlight of the day for the students as well as school and Pathfinder staff on hand was a surprise appearance by Illinois governor, Pat Quinn, while the group was waiting on a side street to enter the parade. The motorcade passed by but stopped abruptly. The governor then stepped out and walked over to greet some parade participants. He paused long enough to pose with some students behind the North Shore Stars banner.

The drum corps had practiced for months to polish its routines, under the guidance of Rob Newbold. In



North Shore Stars Pathfinders were surprised to meet Illinois governor, Pat Quinn (center), as they waited on a side street to enter the Columbus Day Parade in Chicago, Oct. 8, 2012. Pictured to the right of Quinn is Manny Ojeda, Illinois Conference youth director and Jim Newbold, North Shore Stars Pathfinder director, and his wife, Mary (far, lower right).

addition to the opportunity to meet the Illinois governor, the North Shore Adventist Church received recognition as the Pathfinder banner was carried throughout the parade route. Shortly into the parade route, the group played

in front of the grandstands as Channel 7 ABC news anchors broadcast the event via television and Internet live-streaming video.

Marshall Merklin, principal, North Shore Adventist Academy



Michael Gusky has the opportunity to gain a much deeper understanding of daily lesson material with use of the iPad.

## Indiana Academy enhances learning with new technology

Indiana—The technology program at Indiana Academy has taken a dramatic turn towards the future. Gone are the days of shared computer labs with large

monitors and slow Internet — fast forward to the 21st century classroom where all students have their own handheld wireless computer, the innovative Apple iPad.

This creative approach to education has opened new doors for our students within the realm of classroom instruction and how they are able to learn. For

instance, students in Biology class can now collect data with sensors that connect to the iPad and graph the data in real time. Students taking Anatomy and Physiology can view the entire human body in 3D, and Spanish students now have a personal computer assistant that not only teaches Spanish, but also listens for correct pronunciation. Custom apps such as electronic flashcards and math videos assist our students in gaining a much deeper understanding of daily lesson material.

Another unique feature allows ESL and special needs students to have their multimedia textbooks read to them, which is valuable in helping to complete their homework in a timely manner. Just having the Internet available gives the students instant access to research any topic in more detail than traditional textbooks allow.

Daniel Fults, IA junior, had this to say about the iPad program: “It has been a great help in doing homework because

of the interactive reviews/examples and step-by-step videos. Highlighting paragraphs and sentences and recording notes right in the iPad textbook is very time efficient too, not to mention that they are cutting edge — lighter, faster, smoother and better adapted to today's learning style."

In keeping with the mission at Indiana Academy, the faculty and staff are also thrilled that the iPads have brought students quicker access to spiritual material. They are able to utilize the Bible, E.G. White's writings, and the lesson quarterly to enhance their daily devotional life as well as their Bible class curriculum.

So how was this program developed? Allan Smith, director of Marketing & Technology at Indiana Academy,

thoroughly researched the iPad program that two of our SDA schools had already established. He then set about creating a state-of-the-art wireless campus and a modern network infrastructure which is a must for this program. "We are still doing some fine-tuning in relationship to Internet access and app selection, but the program has gone remarkable well. Researching the best solutions and getting the teachers iPads a year in advance really helped the transition," said Smith.

As part of their orientation in August, students were given thorough instructions on how to use the apps and care for their personal iPad. Teachers use the eBackpack app to post and grade assignments. Students use the Good Reader app, which allows them to read from their electronic textbooks and download

homework from eBackpack. Principal Jeremy Hall said, "Implementing iPads is only part of our goal. The other part of this program is to teach young people how to use technology in the right way. Our Internet filter helps to protect the students and also limits this device to educational use."

This project has been a lot of work, but students and teachers alike now benefit from the convenience and educational value that it brings to our campus. They would like to thank the alumni and friends of Indiana Academy for contributing to this program, and the teachers and staff who make these everyday educational opportunities available to Indiana Academy students.

Kathy Griffin, director of development and recruiting, Indiana Academy

## [UNION NEWS]

### Historic Adventist Village celebrates first baptismal service

Michigan—Historic Adventist Village, in Battle Creek, has been and continues to be a significant and historic place to begin a new life. Sabbath, Oct. 6, 2012, was one of those times for five individuals who had completed a series of Bible studies conducted by Daniel Ferraz, pastor of the Kalamazoo Church.

It was a beautiful, crisp, fall day with temperatures in the mid-50s, and the bright fall leaves still covered the trees with their red, orange and yellow hues. In the yard of the 1856 home of James and Ellen White, the home where *The Great Controversy* was written, stood the Michigan Conference's portable baptismal tank, filled with water heated above the 70-degree mark. A beautiful worship service, held in the replicated 1857 Meeting House, reassured all present that Jesus is coming soon. Ferraz dressed in period garb and portrayed William Miller. Don Scherencel portrayed Hiram Edson telling everyone



Sabbath, Oct. 6, 2012, at Historic Adventist Village, five individuals made the choice to walk with their Redeemer in a newness of life, following in the footsteps of our early Adventist pioneers.

about the Great Disappointment he and his family had experienced.

Following the service, the congregation sang uplifting hymns as Ferraz and the five candidates prepared for the first baptismal service held at Historic Adventist Village. David Burk, Stanley Hyde, William Hyde, Josh Willary and Melinda Radojevic followed Ferraz to the baptismal tank where, one by one, they stepped into the water and were

buried and raised anew with Christ in the holy service.

This was truly a special Sabbath, marking the moment when five precious children of God made the choice to walk with their Redeemer in a newness of life, following also in the footprints of our early Adventist pioneers in Historic Adventist Village.

Betty Scherencel, office manager, Historic Adventist Village



This is a computer rendering of the way the new Lake Union Conference headquarters will look upon its completion, architect Stanley Bell stated. This is the side of the building that will face M-139.



Construction has begun for the new Lake Union Conference headquarters. The basement walls, footings and elevator base have been poured.

## CPM Construction chosen as general contractor for Lake Union project

Ground has been broken for the new Lake Union Conference headquarters at the west corner of M-139 and Redbud Trail in Berrien Springs, Mich., and CPM Construction, Inc. has been chosen as the general contractor for the project, according to Gary Burns, director of communication for the SDA Church Lake Union headquarters. CPM has been given 300 days to complete the project, depending on the weather.

Stanley Bell of Berrien Springs is the architect for the project, and Floyd Brock, who is employed by Lake Union, is the project superintendent. The entire project will cost \$3.179 million dollars.

The new two-story building will be all brick and stone and consists of

26,000 square feet with parking both in front and back of the facility. The building will include an elevator and an open staircase with a glass handrail that leads to the second floor.

A large cross will be featured at the entrance that faces the highway; it is this entranceway that will be used by visitors and guests. There will be 13,000 square feet per floor with a conference room on the second floor behind the painted aluminum cross. The cross will be outlined in soft LED lights, and stonework will wrap around it.

The back of the building will face the vineyard, and have a canopy where employees can enter the building. All of the offices and a small chapel will be on the second floor, Bell said, with several of the offices facing the vineyard.

There will be a large meeting room on the main floor along with a kitchen and storage/vault area.



From left: Floyd Brock, project superintendent, and Stanley Bell, architect, inspect the building site of the new Lake Union Conference headquarters in Berrien Springs, Mich.

There also will be a fire safety sprinkler system throughout the entire building, Bell said.

Workers will be putting in a well for water and an onsite sanitary sewer system for the facility that has been approved by the Berrien County Health Department. The new building sits on eight acres.

The need for the new building was precipitated by Andrews University's exploration to lease part of the office complex and the subsequent agreement to purchase the current Lake Union Conference headquarters, which includes several buildings on the corner of M-139 and College Avenue in Berrien Springs. The purchase of these buildings allows expansion of the University campus and provides a place to locate the newly-acquired Griggs University and International Academy, a distance learning and home school curriculum provider.

The Lake Union Conference headquarters is one of nine regional offices throughout North America for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its administration and staff provide support and services for the SDA churches and schools in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Kathleen Pullano, editor, *The Journal Era*

This article was originally published in *The Journal Era* Nov. 7, 2012. Reprinted with permission.

## Businessman Chris Randall is an ambassador for Christ

Michigan—Jesus told a parable about a sower who went out to sow. Some of his seed fell on fertile ground and began to grow. How did it get fertile? Who prepared the ground so it would be ready for the seed?

The Holy Spirit will use everyday people to help prepare hearts for Jesus. Some are used to do Bible studies. Some are used to share the health message. Some are used to be ambassadors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to open doors that might otherwise be closed because of ignorance or prejudice.

Christopher “Chris” Randall, a member of Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries Lake Union Chapter, has been an ambassador. He has been able to live his life as a faithful Adventist and winsomely witness to those around him. Chris has served for 14 years in an elected position on the County Commission of Van Buren County in Michigan. For the last six years, he has served as the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. Chris is getting ready to step down because he wants to spend more time with his wife, Janelle, and their two young girls, Addison and Teagan.

When Chris took office as chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Van Buren County, like the rest of the country, faced some severe economic challenges. They had an \$18 million budget, yet their reserve fund was only \$11,000 — a potentially disastrous situation! With Chris’ leadership, the County was able to build a \$5 million reserve, a \$2 million budget stabilization fund, a \$2 million capital improvement fund, and add \$6 million to the delinquent tax fund. Amazingly, there were also no layoffs due to budget. Their finances dramatically improved during a period of time when other areas across the nation were going deeply in debt.

How was Chris able to accomplish all this? Before he took office as



Chris Randall (right), a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist, is more than a businessman; he is an ambassador for Christ. He is pictured here with his father, Chuck Randall (also an ambassador), at a groundbreaking ceremony for a Randall Residence.

Barbara Weimer

chairman, judges, elected officials, unions, employees of the County were antagonistic toward each other. There was little trust and, therefore, no cooperation. There wasn’t a sense of unity or willingness to sacrifice. Chris had a reputation as someone with integrity. He created a sense of unity and inspired those around him to trust him. Instead of issuing edicts, he asked for cooperation. When he gave his word, those around him believed him. Chris also had taken very seriously the Board’s tradition of opening each meeting with prayer, and used it as an opportunity to ask for Divine guidance. As a result, the necessary work got done.

Perhaps the best work, the most far-reaching work Chris did was preparing the ground for future “sow-ers.” Like other ASI members, Chris’s desire has been to share Christ in the marketplace. Because of the way he has conducted himself personally and professionally, Chris has enjoyed a level of respect and trust among those on the County Board. His influence has been that of a Seventh-day Adventist man living a

Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle. Other Board members have noticed and been curious about it. He has thoughtfully fielded questions like: “Why do you order vegetarian meals?”; “Why don’t you drink alcohol?”; and “Why do you go to church on Sabbath?”

Chris has been able to gently introduce business associates to the Adventist Church. He encouraged one committeeman to attend a CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) group. The man has changed his diet and now lives a healthier lifestyle. Others have attended musical events and the Centennial Celebration at the Paw Paw Church in Michigan. Chris even arranged for one of the boards he serves on to hold meetings on the campus of Andrews University. “I’ve tried to connect the two groups. Adventists are no longer strangers to them,” Chris explains.

Chris is a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist and a third-generation ASI member. The family business, Randall Residence, owns and operates assisted living homes. His grandmother, Charlotte Randall, started the first

one. Then Chuck and Barb Randall, ASI members and Chris's parents, acquired others. With Chris and Janelle as partners, the business continues to grow. Groundbreaking for community number six occurred in September.

Chris evinced a bit of understandable

pride when he spoke of his grandmother. He noted that she had joined ASI back in 1952, when ASI was still a very small group. Charlotte has since passed away but, if she were here, she would be very proud of her grandson, Chris — an ambassador for Christ.

If you would like to learn more about Lake Union ASI, go to <http://www.asi.lakeunion.org>.

Barbara Weimer, vice president for communications, Lake Union Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries



John and Ruth Ann Copin, of Urandale, Mich., prepare to canoe down the Au Sable River on Sunday of the Health Professionals Retreat at Camp Au Sable, in Grayling, Mich., Sept. 14–16, 2012.

## Health Professionals Retreat offers fellowship and enrichment

Michigan—The rain cleared, the sun came out and the weather could not have been more perfect for more than 55 people who attended the Health Professionals Retreat at Camp Au Sable, Sept. 14–16, 2012. The retreat is sponsored each year by the Michigan Conference Health Ministries Department for a time of spiritual renewal, relaxation and fellowship for health professionals and their families. Health Ministries partners with AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) to encourage medical evangelism. AMEN asserts: "Jesus' ministry involved the restoration of the body as well as the reclaiming of the heart. When He sent His disciples

out to do ministry, He instructed them to carry on this approach by preaching and healing (see Matthew 10:7, 8). One was not to be done without the other. We believe that this model of ministry is still the most effective way to spread the gospel!" (See <http://www.amensda.org>.)

If you want to network with other health professionals who are passionate about sharing the love of Christ, this retreat is for you! Last year's attendees were deeply moved by a series of Spirit-filled messages. Tim Riesenberger, an emergency medicine physician from the Seattle, Wash., area presented "A New Heart" on Friday evening. Sabbath morning, in his inspiring testimony, "The Truth that Transforms the World," Riesenberger shared how the truth about God's unwavering, parental love for His children personally transformed his own life. He also shared his experiences as a field doctor



Tim Riesenberger, an emergency medicine physician from near Seattle, Wash., spoke at the Health Professionals Retreat. In one message, he shared how the truth about God's unwavering, parental love personally transformed his life.

for The Islita Foundation (see <http://www.islita.org>) on Sunday morning.

Vicki Griffin, health ministries director of the Michigan Conference and director of Lifestyle Matters, presented "Hope and Healing in a Postmodern World" during Sabbath school. Beautiful music for the weekend was presented by Anthony and Emily Griffin, Laura Heilig (now Laura Jean-François) and Leanne Heilig, and Vickie and Kerry Leach, all from the Lansing area, and included a special musical vespers.

Janice Cleary, a respiratory therapist from Hastings, Mich., stated, "Drs. Tim and Vicki changed my inner environment with their inspiring messages. The music and song were so wonderful. All of it: Divine! Thank you; it was a rejuvenating weekend of new friendships, physical rest, relaxation and spiritual inspiration! God bless you all."

Loida and Ernie Medina, physicians from Berrien Springs, Mich., shared,

“This was such an inspiring weekend — a physician sharing his experiences as it relates to how much God loves us, which gives us hope to look to in the future. Great food, good fellowship, beautiful weather!”

“This was a relaxing and refreshing weekend — a great way to meet other Adventist health professionals and hear practical testimonies on how to share the gospel with patients and become involved in local health evangelism, as well other medical mission endeavors,” other guests commented.

Everyone agreed they were abundantly blessed, rejuvenated and refreshed by spending time in nature, as well as by the speakers. Guests enjoyed hiking, a wagon ride Saturday night, go-carting and canoeing on the Au Sable River on Sunday. A small group arrived Thursday evening to be able to participate in a golf scramble offered on Friday.

Singles and families attend this event each year, and children’s programs are provided during the main



Ray Mayor, of Berrien Springs, Mich., and Don Fahrbach, of Munising, Mich., enjoy a snack on the deck at the Health Professionals Retreat.

meetings. The plant-based menu is always a favorite with guests, thanks to Radek Mikulasek, Camp Au Sable head chef, and his staff.

If you are a health professional, please consider attending the next retreat. Guests may stay in various accommodations on the campgrounds, or opt to stay in local hotels. There also are 25 full-service RV sites at the camp, which include water, sewer and electrical hook-ups.

Ray Mayor, of Berrien Springs, also gave an update on fundraising progress for the new medical building

at the camp and presented the projected plans for its use during summer camp as well as for retreats like this one.

The next Health Professionals Retreat will be the weekend of Sept. 13–15. The guest speakers will be Brian and Lyndi Schwartz, physicians from Kettering Medical Center. More information can be obtained by emailing Sheri Christie at [schristie@misa.org](mailto:schristie@misa.org) or by calling 517-316-1527. Don’t miss an event that may change your life!

Sheri Christie, secretary, Health Ministries and Lifestyle Matters Departments, Michigan Conference



Emily Griffin and Vicki Leach share their musical talents during a worship service at the Health Professionals Retreat.

## Adventist Midwest Health teams garner statewide healthcare public relations, marketing honors

Illinois—Adventist Midwest Health’s public relations and marketing teams won 14 Pinnacle Awards, including the Best of Show award, from the Illinois Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations (ISHMPR) at the organization’s 2012 annual conference, Nov. 2, 2012, in Chicago. ISHMPR, an affiliate of the Illinois Hospital Association, is the state’s largest organization dedicated to the advancement of healthcare marketing and communications professionals.

Nearly 30 hospitals and healthcare systems from across the state submitted 110 entries in 26 project categories. Entries were judged on their own merit in accordance with established criteria



Adventist Midwest Health’s public relations and marketing teams won 14 awards from the Illinois Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations at the organization’s 2012 annual conference, Nov. 2, 2012. Pictured from left are: Emily Goulding, Erin Gerber, Julie Busch, Ronda Klocko and Rebecca Larson; not pictured: Lyn Burgess, Sheila Galloro and Katie Klinger.

AMH

for project planning, implementation and overall results. The conference and awards presentation took place at the Courtyard Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile. A complete list of award winners will be posted at <http://www.ishmpr.org>.

The public relations team is based in Hinsdale, Ill., and is comprised of Julie Busch, regional director; Sheila Galloro, public relations specialist; Rebecca Larson, web content manager; and Katie Klinger, web content specialist.

The marketing team is comprised of Lyn Burgess, director of marketing for Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospitals; Ronda Klocko, director of marketing for Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital; Erin Gerber, administrative director of marketing and service line development at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital; and Emily Goulding, community partnerships specialist, also at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital.

“Public relations and marketing are an important part of our overall strategic vision,” said David L. Crane, president and chief executive officer, Adventist Midwest Health. “These teams communicate our mission, values and progress in a clear and cost-effective way. We are no longer content being known as the best-kept secret in town; we are proud to share the stories of how we are extending the healing ministry of Christ in our communities every day.”

Included in the 14 awards the teams received was an Award of Merit in the Writing Project category for the eight stories the public relations team contributed to the July 2012 issue of the *Lake Union Herald*. Busch stated, “We have entered the magazine in this awards event before, but this is the first time it has won. We firmly believe it is a wonderful writing project that deserves this recognition; it is a tangible expression of our organization’s mission.”

Several judges shared positive comments about the July 2012 *Lake Union Herald*: “Nice vehicle to get your message out. Well laid out. Low cost for this. Awesome!” Another remarked, “Beautifully executed and well thought out in coverage of different aspects.” Some also included constructive input to further enhance the publication.

“We were delighted to learn of the special recognition our colleagues at Adventist Midwest Health received for their commitment to excellence. It is our privilege to partner with their contributors each July for the special issue of the *Lake Union Herald*, which helps tell how the healthcare organizations in our territory are ‘extending the healing ministry of Christ,’” stated Gary Burns, editor.

Diane Thurber, managing editor, *Lake Union Herald*, with Julie Busch, regional public relations director, Adventist Midwest Health

## [WORLD CHURCH NEWS]



### NY13: ‘Revelation of Hope’ in New York City

For the first time in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, an evangelistic initiative has been launched that will encompass all levels of the church, from the local church to the General Conference. This collaboration will impact metropolitan New York City. NY13, as it is being called for its focus on New York City in 2013, is an evangelistic outreach initiative to reach



From left: At the Sept. 2012 Prayer Rally, in Bronx, N.Y., Jerry Page, ministerial secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, and Janet Page, associate ministerial secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, pray for God’s blessings on NY13 and for the Holy Spirit to work mightily in the hearts of the people who need to know Jesus.

people with the gospel of Jesus Christ in New York City. It involved preparation and training in 2012 and will culminate in more than 400 “Revelation of Hope” evangelistic meetings in 2013.

NY13 is the first phase of a challenge set forth by Ted N.C. Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, to reach people who live in large cities around the world. New York



NY13 Communication

Ted N.C. Wilson (left), president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, and Don King (right), president of Atlantic Union Conference, stopped at a North Bronx, N.Y., hair salon to share copies of *The Great Hope* with workers and patrons and paused to pray with the salon's owner.

City, an urban center whose population reflects a microcosm of the world, was chosen as the first of about 650 cities where the Adventist Church plans to hold evangelistic meetings over the next several years. "I am absolutely amazed that so many divisions have caught the vision of reaching the millions in the cities and are making serious plans. This just thrills my heart because it's a fulfillment of what God has intended for a long time. The Lord says when we do it according to His plan, there will be a mighty movement in these huge metropolitan areas," Wilson says.

Leading the initiative and working together with local leaders, pastors, workers and members are presidents Ted Wilson, General Conference; Dan Jackson, North American Division; Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference; Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference; Charles Cheatham, Allegheny East Conference; G. Earl Knight, Greater New York Conference; Jose Cortés, New Jersey Conference; Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference; and Frank Tochtermann, Southern New England Conference. "It is our goal to reach every major population center in the North American Division. Much will be learned from the New York City

experience, and that knowledge will help us focus more efficiently on future initiatives," says Jackson.

Guest evangelists from around the world have volunteered to join with local evangelists to simultaneously preach the gospel in neighborhoods of New York City. "We plan to conduct more than 400 campaigns that will take place at churches in New York, Northern New Jersey and Southern Connecticut. This initiative involves five conferences (Allegheny East, Greater New York, New Jersey, Northeastern, and Southern New England). This will be a banner year for our church," says King, who also is chairperson of the NY13 Steering Committee.

Postcards with information about NY13 were distributed at the 2012 camp meetings. Bible worker training programs, community services activities, youth ministries activities, and more relational activities and services have already been implemented as a precursor for the meetings.

A Satellite Evangelism/Prayer Rally, geared toward preparing members for the meetings, took place on Sept. 21-22, 2012, at the North Bronx Church in Bronx, N.Y. The weekend services were broadcast live on Hope Channel,

Hope Church Channel and Esperanza TV, and streamed live on the Internet on <http://www.auam.tv> and <http://praisevision.com>. Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) carried a delayed broadcast of the programs. The online audience was engaged using social media on the NY13.org Facebook page.

In addition to the weekend services, on Friday afternoon, leaders from the Seventh-day Adventist Church visited with the mayor's senior advisor to share information about the Seventh-day Adventist Church's health message, the events planned for New York City, and to show support for the mayor's initiative to cut back on sugary drinks in his fight against obesity. At the end of the Sabbath morning service, a group, including leaders from all levels of the church, went door-to-door in the neighborhood distributing *The Great Hope* and praying with people in the community.

The final event for the weekend took place on Sunday morning when nearly 1,000 participants and volunteers gathered in Flushing Meadows Park in Queens, N.Y., one of many sites participating in the annual Let's Move Day, to promote physical activity for people of all ages. Everyone finished the 5K, including Mary Richards, a 103-year-old from the Corona Church who walked to the finish line and praised God for His gift of life and health.

To stay up-to-date on news and events, visit <http://www.ny13.org> and, while there, sign up to receive the NY13 Update newsletter. Facebook users can "like" NY13.org at <http://www.facebook.com/NY13.org>.

There is much work to be done and the time is short, but God is able. We invite you to place this initiative before the Lord in prayer as often as you can that God's will be done in this very important endeavor by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Ednor A.P. Davison, editor of the Atlantic Union *GLEANER* and assistant to the president for communication, Atlantic Union Conference





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

**Ellen G. White Issues Symposium:** We extend a general invitation to pastors in the Lake Union, religion and theology professors at Adventist colleges, scholars of Ellen White and Adventist studies, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary students, and other interested persons to attend our ninth annual Ellen G. White Issues Symposium. It will be held on **Mon., March 25**, from **9:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m.**, in the chapel of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. Our speakers and topics this year are Merlin D. Burt presenting on Ellen White and Scripture; Jiri Moskala presenting on prophets in the Old Testament; Jim Nix presenting on the story of Harry Orchard; and Alberto Timm presenting on Ellen White and culture. A devotional talk will be given by Benjamin Schoun. For additional information, contact Katy Wolfer at 269-471-3209 or [shoemakk@andrews.edu](mailto:shoemakk@andrews.edu).

## Lake Union Conference

### Offerings

- Jan. 5** Local Church Budget
- Jan. 12** Local Conference Advance
- Jan. 19** Local Church Budget
- Jan. 26** Religious Liberty

### Special Days

- Jan. 5** Day of Prayer
- Jan. 20-26** Religious Liberty Week

**Ministering Hope to Hurting Hearts** is a training seminar by the Lake Union Conference Women's Ministries Department to be held **Feb. 22-24**. The seminar will help your church: 1) recognize hurting hearts; 2) learn the steps for the healing process; 3) understand how to help hurting people; 4) vision for ministry in your community; and 5) provide resources and ideas for ministry. Roberta Fish, associate professor for Adventist University of Health Sciences

(in Florida), is the guest speaker. This seminar will be held at Adventist Frontier Missions in Berrien Springs, Mich. Register online at <http://www.AdventSource.org>. For more information, call 269-473-8292.

## Michigan

**Battle Creek Tabernacle Sacred Concert Series 2013:** Concerts will be held at 264 West Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. For more information, visit <http://www.battletreektabernacle.com>.

**Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.**, Ong Sisters, pianist and violinist. Free concert. Both sisters began taking music lessons at the age of seven — Win-Ting with the piano and Isabel with the violin. They have become accomplished and award-winning musicians, and have performed in the U.S. and abroad.

**Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.**, Margie Salcedo Rice, singer and violinist. Free concert. Rice is a vocalist, songwriter, violinist, music teacher and choral director. She has appeared on Three Angels Broadcasting Network and travels extensively, giving solo performances, leading youth music groups and conducting the Ukiah (Calif.) Symphony Orchestra.

**March 16, 7:30 p.m.**, Buddy Houghtaling, singer and songwriter. Free concert. Houghtaling is from Battle Creek and is well known in Michigan. He can also be seen on Three Angels Broadcasting Network as a solo artist, as well as on the show "Kid's Time."

**April 13, 7:30 p.m.**, Buddy Greene, singer, songwriter and musician. Admission

charged. Greene is one of the most versatile and talented musicians in Christian music today. In addition to his solid reputation as a singer, songwriter and guitarist, he has established himself as one of Nashville's finest harmonica stylists.

## North American Division

**A Call for Worldwide Prayer:** Church members around the world are invited to participate in the upcoming 10 Days of Prayer initiative, **Jan. 9-19**. Hope Channel and the General Conference Ministerial Association will produce a nightly broadcast of "Let's Pray." *Ministry* editor Derek Morris will join "Let's Pray" host Kandus Thorp to discuss the daily points of focus, while host David Franklin will be on location with various participating church groups. The purpose of this initiative is for Seventh-day Adventist church members to saturate every aspect of their lives in prayer as they start the new year so they can live and proclaim God's last-day message of love and truth to the world. Congregations of all sizes, small groups and individuals are encouraged to sign up for this initiative by going to <http://www.TenDaysOfPrayer.org>. You can download leader guidelines, daily theme sheets, daily intercession themes, journal pages, a printable flier, bulletin inserts, postcards and the free e-book *Praying for Rain*, as well as other supporting materials.

**Loma Linda Vegetarian Congress:** Researchers and experts will present the latest scientific facts about plant-based diets and health **Feb. 24-26** at Loma Linda University. Speakers include Gary Fraser, principal investigator of the Adventist Health Study-2, and Neal Barnard, author and advocate. To learn

more, visit <http://www.vegetariannutrition.org>.

**Union College Homecoming:** Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming **April 4-7**. Honor classes are 1943, '53, '58, '63, '73, '83, '88, '93 and 2003. Special events for those who studied science and math — remembering the people of Jorgensen Hall (science/math building). For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 S. 48 St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

## Wisconsin

**Youth Renewal Weekend: Jan. 11-13** all Wisconsin high-school-age youth are invited for a weekend of spiritual renewal at Camp Wakonda. The keynote speaker will be Steve Carlson. The ever-popular STANDOUT crew from Andrews University is coming to lead in worship. Those in attendance will spend Friday evening and Sabbath in a time of fellowship, food and fun, and on Sunday participants will hit the slopes at Cascade Mountain. It will be an incredible weekend, and we hope to see you there! To register by email, contact Nancy Martling at [nmartling@wi.adventist.org](mailto:nmartling@wi.adventist.org).

**The Wisconsin Men's Conference** will take place **Jan. 18-20** at Camp Wakonda for a weekend of spiritual fellowship. The theme for the weekend is "By His Grace." We are blessed to have Van Hurst, president of the Indiana Conference, coming to be our speaker for the weekend. Participants will experience a relaxed weekend with wonderful food, inspirational messages and entertaining fellowship. You can register by contacting Nancy Martling at [nmartling@wi.adventist.org](mailto:nmartling@wi.adventist.org).

# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26	Feb 2	Feb 9
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:28	5:35	5:43	5:51	5:59	6:08
Chicago, Ill.	4:32	4:40	4:47	4:56	5:04	5:13
Detroit, Mich.	5:13	5:20	5:28	5:37	5:45	5:54
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:33	5:40	5:47	5:55	6:03	6:11
La Crosse, Wis.	4:41	4:48	4:56	5:05	5:14	5:24
Lansing, Mich.	5:17	5:25	5:33	5:41	5:50	5:59
Madison, Wis.	4:36	4:43	4:51	5:00	5:08	5:18
Springfield, Ill.	4:47	4:53	5:01	5:09	5:17	5:25

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.

## Obituaries

**CARLSON, Carl O.**, age 106; born Mar. 14, 1906, in Sunni, Sweden; died Nov. 22, 2012, in Madison, Tenn. He was a member of the Superior (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Arthur, Richard and Vernon; daughters, Edith Valdez and Florence N. Carlson; six grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Mike McKenzie, with private inurnment.

**DAVIS, Neva (Keiser)**, age 90; born July 29, 1922, in Holly, Mich.; died Nov. 23, 2012, in Green Bay, Wis. She was a member of the Green Bay Church.

Survivors include her son, James S.; brother, Orris Keiser; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by William J. Ochs, and interment was in Fort Howard Memorial Park Cemetery, Green Bay.

**FELLOWS, Merritt**, age 95; born Aug. 24, 1917, in Jackson, Mich.; died Sept. 22, 2012, in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was a member of the Lansing (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his son, Gordon D.; daughter, Linda L. Penrod; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Vic Hilbert, Chuck Hanlon and Dan Towar, and interment was in Delta Center Cemetery, Delta, Mich.

**GROSENICK, Lois E. (Kuehl)**, age 89; born June 19, 1923, in Wausau, Wis.; died Oct. 17, 2012, in Appleton, Wis. She was a member of the Fox Valley Church, Neenah, Wis.

Survivors include her sons, Kenneth and Charles; sister, Enid Cleveland; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bob Stauffer, and interment was in Moon Cemetery, Wausau.

**HEINLEIN, Herta (Korp)**, age 83; born June 4, 1929, in Sibiu, Romania; died Oct. 24, 2012, in Harbert, Mich. She was a member of the Hinsdale (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Sigrid Nutt; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Ron Schultz, with private burial.

**LAWSON, Carolyn (Everest) Moon**, age 94; born July 5, 1918, in Detroit, Mich.; died Nov. 8, 2012, in Battle Creek, Mich. She was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle.

Survivors include her son, Bud Moon; daughters, Kathleen Ekkens and Eileen Horne; and brother, Charles Everest.

Funeral services were conducted by Bruce Moore, with private inurnment.

**LINK, Nancy (Scott)**, age 72; born Dec. 6, 1939, in Sacramento, Calif.; died Oct. 10, 2012, in Grand Ledge, Mich. She was a member of the Grand Ledge Church.

Survivors include her husband, LaVern; stepson, Wendell; stepdaughters, Linda Dickerson, Debra Oliver, Pennie Clements and Marcia Cierlik; brother, Neil Scott; sister, Eunice Scott; nine step-grandchildren; and 20 step-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Jeff Dowell and Fred Earles, with private inurnment.

**MINEAR, William**, age 81; born Mar. 8, 1931, in Parkersburg, W.V.; died Nov. 3, 2012, in Battle Creek, Mich. He was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle.

Survivors include his son, Jack E.; daughter, Tami K. Martinez; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bayani Pastrana, and interment was in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Battle Creek.

**NOBLE, Stella (Deal)**, age 95; born April 25, 1917, in Salt Lake City, Utah; died Sept. 12, 2012, in Muskegon, Mich. She was a member of the Muskegon Church.

Survivors include her son, Ken Jr.; and daughter, Dorothy Jean Perkins.

Funeral services were conducted by Don Williams, and interment was in Sunrise Memorial Garden Cemetery, Muskegon.

**RUEDINGER, Robert C.**, age 77; born June 2, 1935, in Oshkosh, Wis.; died Nov. 11, 2012, in Arpin, Wis. He was a member of the Bethel Church, Arpin.

Survivors include his wife, Joann (Kasner); sons, Steven, Michael and Glen; daughter, Linda Ruedinger; sisters, Shirley Thyssen and Evelyn Bromwell; seven grandchildren; and one step-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Wendell Springer, with private inurnment, Arpin.

**SCHUTTER, Tressa J. (Allison)**, age 85; born Jan. 18, 1927, in Pontiac, Mich.; died March 7, 2012, in Lansing, Mich. She was a member of the Grand Ledge (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Dale and William; daughters, Patricia Taylor and Barbara Shultz; brothers, Thurlo and Lester Allison; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Dale Schutter, and interment was in Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte, Mich.

**SOPER, Wyonia J. (Figgins)**, age 79; born Aug. 3, 1933, in Trowbridge, Ill.; died Nov. 3, 2012, in Springdale, Ark. She was a member of the Stewardson (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Ron; son, Timothy D. Sheets; daughters, Patsy J. Towar and Debra F. Weber; brothers, Wayne and Wendell Figgins; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Dan Towar, and interment was in Lower Ash Grove Cemetery, Strasburg, Ill.

**WYGANT, Marilyne J. (Stoddard)**, age 84; born July 3, 1928, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Aug. 20, 2012, in Battle Creek. She was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle.

Survivors include her husband, Robert; sons, Robert and Roderick; daughters, Candace Ledoux and Sue Ann Ashdon; foster daughter, Vicki (Driscoll) Pettigrew; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by David Tenold, and interment was in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Battle Creek.

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

— 1 Thess. 4:16–18 NLT

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>.

## At Your Service

**ARE YOU MOVING SOON?** Before you rent a U-Haul and do it yourself, check our price and save yourself the hassle. Plan ahead now and reserve a time slot. Fast, direct and economical. Contact Gary Erhard, Erhard Furniture Moving, Berrien Springs, Mich., by phone: 269-471-7366 or cell: 248-890-5700.

**MOVE WITH AN AWARD-WINNING AGENCY.** Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves for you. Call us for all your relocation needs. Contact Marcy Danté at 800-766-1902, or visit our website: <http://www.apex-moving.com/adventist>.

**PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR?** Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free, 800-274-0016, and ask for HOPE Customer Service, or visit <http://www.hopesource.com>. We invite you to experience the HOPEsource difference.

**VISIT [HTTP://WWW.CHRISTIANSINGLES.DATING.COM](http://WWW.CHRISTIANSINGLES.DATING.COM) OR [HTTP://ADVENTIST.SINGLES.ORG](http://ADVENTIST.SINGLES.ORG):** Free 14-day trial! Join thousands of active Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, detailed profiles, match

notifications! Two-way compatibility match, 10 photos, confidential online mail. Witnessing opportunities to the world through articles, friendships, chat, forums. Matching Adventists since 1993! Adventist owners. Thousands of successful matches! Top ranked.

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

**AUTHORS WANTED:** Have you written a children's book, life testimony, story of God's love or your spiritual ideas and would like them published? Contact TEACH Services at 800-367-1844, ext. 3, or email [publishing@teachservices.com](mailto:publishing@teachservices.com) for a FREE manuscript review.

## Vacation/Travel

**COLLEGE DALE (TENN.) GUESTHOUSE:** Fully-equipped condo with kitchen and laundry, 1.5 bedrooms, no steps, huge deck, secluded woodland setting. Guests say, "Absolutely delightful!" \$60/night for two (two-night minimum). For information, contact Roger King at 423-236-4688.

To see pictures, visit <http://www.rogerkingrentals.com>.

**HOLY LAND TOUR** with Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko and the King's Heralds Quartet. Come encounter the roots of your faith this year from Sept. 29 to Oct. 10. For more information and to sign up, contact Linda Moore at [lindam@journeys-unltd.com](mailto:lindam@journeys-unltd.com) or call 800-876-9502, ext. 100.

**OGDEN 2013 ADVENTIST TOURS:** Venice/Po River Cruise, June 8–16, featuring World Heritage Sites in Venice, Verona, Ravenna, Bologna, Padua, with Florence/Rome extension, June 16–21; Australia/New Zealand Adventure, Oct. 9–27, visit Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, North and South Island in New Zealand, extension to Fiji, Oct. 27–30. For more information, contact Merlene Ogden at 269-471-3781 or [ogden@andrews.edu](mailto:ogden@andrews.edu).

### Miscellaneous

**THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE PROGRAM** can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 800-634-9355 for more information or visit <http://www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle>.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES** in business, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social

work. Flexibility is provided through online and on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit <https://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies>.

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

**FREE VOCAL MUSIC CONCERTS WITH PERSONAL LIFE EXPERIENCES.** A former voice instructor from Andrews University with his family will give free Sat. evening vocal music concerts with testimonies. Two music CDs and a DVD music video are available after the concert. For more information, contact Vladimir Slavujevic at 269-473-2826, or email him at [vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com](mailto:vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com).

**HYDROTHERAPY AND SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES** weekend seminars in my home. Starts 5:00 p.m. Friday, ends 1:00 p.m. Sunday. Learn Russian steam bath, hot foot bath, cold sheet pack, uses for hot and cold, uses of charcoal. Weekends: Jan. 25–27, Feb. 22–24, Mar. 15–17, Apr. 19–21, May 24–26. Cost: \$125 per person includes room, meals and teaching aids. For more information, call 269-471-4502 (afternoon or evening).

**RELOCATE TO Milder Climate** in peaceful Amish country (Lawrenceburg, Tenn.). Friendly Adventist church, well-established, two-teacher Bill Egly School, new gym. Manufacturing and healthcare opportunities. Nearby attractions: Meriwether Lewis, David Crockett, Helen Keller, Hermitage, national battlefields of Shiloh, Stones River; NASA Space Center; Oakwood University. For more information, call 812-430-8833.

### Employment

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks Dean for School of Business and Management. A doctoral degree required. Will oversee the undergraduate and graduate programs. Priority given to applications received

by Jan. 31, 2013. The successful candidate must have a strongly-expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, and be a SDA church member in good and regular standing. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Pat Coverdale, Director of



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**Adventist Health**

## CALLING ALL NEWSLETTERS!

The Herald wants to be in the loop!

Does your church or school produce a newsletter?

We want to be on your mailing list!

Send us your newsletter by mail or by email, and we'll look for article ideas to include in future issues of the *Lake Union Herald*.

**EMAIL:** [herald@lucsd.org](mailto:herald@lucsd.org)

**MAIL:** Lake Union Communication Dept.  
PO Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287



Human Resources, at pcoverdale@southern.edu or Human Resources, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37363-0370.

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position, focusing on Medical-Surgical Nursing, on the Portland, Ore., campus to begin Sept. 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** seeks applicants for full-time, tenure-track faculty positions in Biology. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled.

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a Director of International Student Services. Qualified candidates should have a master's degree with five years of experience in higher education with a focus on International Student Services or Student Affairs. Must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. For more information and to apply, visit [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_salaried.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a STEM Enrollment coordinator. Qualified candidates should have a baccalaureate degree with rudimentary familiarity with the culture of science and engineering. For more information and to apply, visit [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_salaried.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi).

## Real Estate

### SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

is an Adventist community in a rural Okla. setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, assisted living, nursing home and transportation as needed. For more information, visit <http://www.summitridgevillage.org>, or call Bill Norman at 405-208-1289.

## For Sale

### PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB NAME

**CREST:** Order your Pathfinder and Adventurer club name crest at <http://www.pathfinderclubnames.com>. For more information, call 269-208-5853

or email us at [pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com](mailto:pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com).

### RESOURCES ABOUT THE PIONEERS

of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are at Historic Adventist Village. We carry a variety of new and used books about our Adventist heritage. You can shop by visiting <http://www.adventistheritage.org>, by calling 269-965-5600, or by visiting us at 480 W. Van Buren St., Battle Creek, Mich.

### HOMESCHOOLERS AND BOOK LOVERS,

check out our website, <http://Countrygardenschool.org>, or call 509-525-8143. All books and supplies 50 percent off.

## PARTNERSHIP with GOD

### A Simple Partnership

BY GARY BURNS



**W**hen we entered pastoral ministry, we did so with a resolve to leave the entire system of the world behind. No more climbing the ladder of success. No more scheming and positioning. No more playing the game of pretense and possessions. We were working for God now, and our "career" was no more.

We embraced the model of Christ, who "made no plans for himself. He accepted God's plan for him, and day by day the Father unfolded his plans" (*Signs of the Times*, November 21, 1892).

We began full-time ministry in the Hicksville, Bryan and Defiance churches of Ohio. We gave ourselves fully to serving everyone of every age with the same courtesy and respect. Nearly five years later, Dwight Nelson (I had no idea who he was then) asked us to serve as

pastor to the youth at the Pioneer Memorial Church. When asked by seminary students how I got such a position, my reply was, "Minding my own business in Hicksville, Ohio!"

When asked at the G.C. Session in Utrecht what my career goals were, I replied simply, "I have none," which was obvious to the inquirer. We had just accepted a call to pastor in North Dakota. Not an upward career move!

Now we find ourselves (not our plan) back in Berrien Springs, Michigan, serving at the Union office and employing every bit of experience and training we received in and outside of ministry. Who would have thought such an unlikely mission from a simple partnership with God?

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

## Why I'm Blessed

BY LESTER PITOGO

**W**hen I was a kid, I was raised by strict Filipino parents. At the time, I was unaware of how blessed I was to have a father like mine. As a boy, there were many growing pains. I needed to learn how to be a man in the real world. However, God gave me a dad who would teach me to be that.

Growing up, my dad taught me many desirable traits for a young man to have. He taught me to show respect for my elders and fellow man. He taught me how to see the right choices in life and how to do them. He taught me to be presentable and look my best. He made sure that I was very well dressed every Sabbath and that my hair was neat, my teeth were brushed and my tie straight.

He also taught me important skills for a boy, like how to change a tire, how to play a guitar and how to clean my room. In time, I learned lessons such as the importance of getting up early, the importance of cleanliness, and the importance of taking time to spend with my God every day. He led out in worship at night, which encouraged my habits of personal devotions.

Throughout my life, my dad was not one to say, "Do as I say, not as I do." I realized he would show my sister and me the right way to do things and not just tell us. From the way he treated my mother with love and care to the way that he took care of his car, he showed me that being a man is a lot more complicated, yet more simple, than I thought.



Lester Pitogo

Alian Smith

He showed me that a man is respectful, caring and protective. A man is someone who can be firm yet gentle. It's someone who can be strong yet compassionate. He showed me how to be humble and to give God the praise when I get praised for my talents. He taught (and lived) the idea that men should be good examples in word, and even better examples in action.

There are many people who have a father who is abusive, or maybe isn't always at home, and there are so many families without a father at all. I consider myself blessed to have one who could teach me the importance of being a man and how to be one.

I'm blessed to have a father who loves me enough to discipline me and then tell me why he did. I'm blessed to have a father who shows me how to be a man and live a life for God. But, most importantly, I'm blessed to have a Father who sent His son to die on the cross to let me know that I mean the world to Him.

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Lester Pitogo, 18, is a senior at Indiana Academy. His home is in Merrillville, Indiana, and he is a member of the Northwest Church in Crown Point, Indiana.

## Making a Difference

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Luke Sherwin enjoys serving others with his talents and time. The physical therapy student at Andrews University has long been involved at his home church as a piano player. Two years ago, he decided to take his talents across the world and serve as a student missionary.



Luke Sherwin

Luke had considered student missions throughout his undergraduate studies. During his senior year, he switched his major to physical therapy and found himself with a year off before beginning the program.

"I didn't want to spend that year sitting around at home. I wanted to do something that felt like I was making a difference in the world," says Luke. "The SM thing just popped right out to me."

In summer 2011, Luke flew to the island of Chuuk, one of the four states of Micronesia, where he would spend the year as a high school teacher.

The experience was one he hadn't expected. Luke spent his days teaching PE and science classes like chemistry and biology, and "trying to stay away from the heat," he recalls. Though busy, he says there was a lot of down time to meditate and reflect. This was hard for Luke, who admits he felt distant from God at times.

"It was a rough environment, and I faced a lot of challenges during the school year. I was screaming to God, 'Why am I here? What is my purpose?'" he remembers.

Despite these feelings, Luke claims God worked out every situation and put an inner fire in him to stay motivated and complete his work. He was taught lessons he will never forget: patience, perseverance and making a difference.

Luke encourages anyone considering student missions to pray about the decision and ask for God's direction.

"Realize that what you do is just a small part in a bigger plan that God has," he says. "Don't be discouraged by the fact that it sometimes feels like you're not making a difference, because in the long term, you are!"

Currently, Luke is finishing his first year in the physical therapy program. He hopes to continue making a difference in the world by helping people in his profession and getting them back to function.

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

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-JN 3:16*

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