

Lake Union
HERALD

JANUARY 2014

PROTECTING
RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY
FOR ALL

Conexiones Extra
Insert Inside

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



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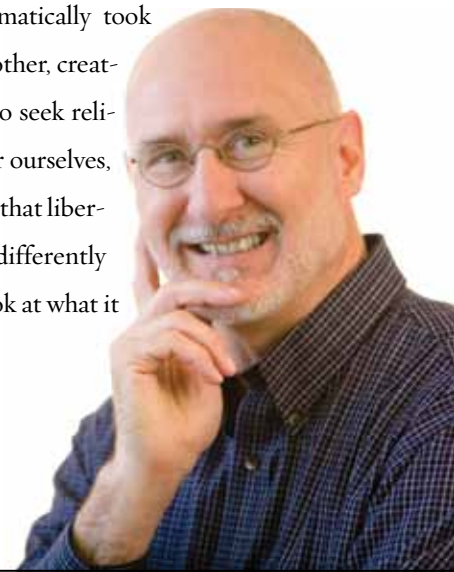
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In this issue...

Seeking religious freedom and liberty is what brought the pilgrims to this continent. Yet, when they arrived, they systematically took away religious freedom and liberty from one another, creating a community of intolerance. We are quick to seek religious liberty and freedom of faith expression for ourselves, but are often reluctant, if not militant, to extend that liberty and freedom to another who may see things differently than we do. In this month's edition, we take a look at what it means to protect the religious liberty of all.

Gary Burns, Editor



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GUEST PERSPECTIVE

BY GARY THURBER, LAKE UNION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

A Special Homecoming

This month, I invited Gary Thurber, the new executive secretary, to share his thoughts about returning to serve in the Lake Union. —Don Livesay, Lake Union president

On Tuesday, October 8, I received a phone call from Don Livesay, extending an invitation to join the Lake Union Conference ministry team as executive secretary. As you can imagine, a range of emotions flooded through me, knowing this was something my wife, Diane, and I needed to spend much time in prayer about.

For both of us, there is something very special about returning to serve in the Lake Union. My wife and I have worked in six different Unions, but the Lake Union is where we have spent most of our ministry life. For Diane, this is very much like a homecoming, since she has been part of the communication team here for more than nine years, working remotely as associate director and managing editor of the *Herald*.

When we think of the Lake Union, these are some of the highlights that quickly come to our minds:

- This is where loving churches in Michigan and Indiana supported schools for our two boys to attend all the way through academy.
- We were honored to pastor the Lansing Church, which was one of the warmest, most dedicated group of believers anywhere.
- An opportunity was given to work as youth director in Michigan for five years. Highlights of that experience were working at Camp Au Sable with many young adults and campers whom we still have the privilege of calling friends today, and seeing our oldest son, Ryan, baptized in Lake Shellenbarger.
- Diane and I also were given the opportunity to lead out in family ministries during the same period. Working to strengthen families was extremely rewarding to both of us.
- My next ministry position in Michigan was serving as assistant to the president for Jay Gallimore. I learned much about how a conference works, and had an opportunity to grow under his leadership.
- After serving in the Northern New England Conference, we returned to the Lake Union when invited to be president of the Indiana Conference. Indiana will always hold a very special place in our hearts. The people of Indiana were amazing to work with, and that is where our youngest son, Justin, made his decision to be baptized.

After being in the Rocky Mountain Conference and away from the Lake Union for the past four-and-a-half years, we are coming back again. I count it a great honor and feel humbled to be asked to serve here once again. I want to say "Thank You!" to all in this territory who have blessed me and my family so much. Your support, prayers, dedication to mission and friendships have made all the difference to us.

I believe this Union has some of the finest leaders anywhere, and I am thankful to be able to work alongside them in our Savior's cause. More than anything, I just want to be a blessing here, and, most of all, bring joy to my Savior's heart.

What an exciting time to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, especially in the Lake Union!





Keeping Church at Arm's Length from State

BY TED N.C. WILSON

A U.S. federal appeals court right now is considering whether for-profit businesses can be exempted from a contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act — a mandate that is tantamount to a “war on Christianity” by the Obama administration, according to at least one elected official.

A Christian in Pakistan was sentenced to life imprisonment in July 2013 for the crime of blasphemy, with no actual evidence presented at his trial.

Earlier this year, there was a proposal in North Carolina to allow the state to declare an official religion.

What do these three situations have in common? They're all current examples of things that go wrong when either the government wrongly asserts itself into religious issues or the church tries to break down barriers (or makes powerful accusations against the government) in an attempt to exert improper influence on the business of the state.

While the above just scratch the surface, it's no exaggeration to say that if you've paid much attention to the news during the last few decades, you can be forgiven for assuming that some religious organizations believe a primary purpose of government is to legislate more religion into public life. From prayer in public schools to religious imagery in courtrooms to national elections, some religious groups in



Ted N.C. Wilson

America have repeatedly sought to influence various sectors of government to enshrine particular principles.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and for each and every one of those years Adventists have been a minority voice strongly advocating for greater separation between church and state — exactly the opposite of what many have come to expect from organized religions in this country.

During the Civil War, that meant taking a stand for conscientious objection to military service. At the end of the 1800s, Adventists led the fight against a national “Sunday Law” proposed in Congress; because we observe the Bible Sabbath on Saturday, Adventists, Jews and others sought the right to work or open a business on other days of the week. By petitioning Congress, we helped secure a basic right enjoyed today by millions of Americans.

A common argument by the religious right is that “America is a Christian nation.” While it's true that some of our



Josef Kissinger

founding fathers were Christian, these bright minds recognized the dangers of imposing faith on others. This is why they very deliberately included this cornerstone language in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”

The core idea was that America should be a land where believers could practice their faith, free of government interference. But the other side of the coin is that those who don't believe also were to be free from legislative imperatives to follow the church's dictates.

Here is the real danger in pushing for greater influence by the church on the state's business: The church must stand for morality, God's Word and free will, and attempting to coerce our neighbors via legislative or other means runs completely counter to that. Faith should inspire and unite — not be used as a cudgel. And as for government, a free people should never be subject to legislated interference with one's beliefs or ability to worship according to his or her conscience.

All of the above notwithstanding, will government ever make laws with which we as a church strongly disagree? Yes, absolutely. Like many other faiths, the Seventh-day Adventist Church subscribes to the biblical definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman, for example. But where we differ from some of our peers is that we acknowledge that there's a difference between government allowing certain actions with which we might disagree on moral grounds ...

as opposed to compelling them. That is the fine line that is religious liberty.

This is why it is optimal when the church does what it does best — which is educate, serve others and spread the gospel — while refraining from the business of governing. And the government should do what it does best — which most assuredly rules out telling people what to believe or how to worship or enacting any restrictions thereof. When each entity is functioning as our founders intended, a functional balance can be achieved.

Oh, and as for prayer in the public schools? Consistent with our approach that church and state should remain far, far apart, we don't believe that prayer should be imposed on public school students (or faculty or others) who may believe differently than the person doing the praying. We certainly encourage prayer, of course, but it's about free will.

My fellow Seventh-day Adventists around the world and I believe that we serve a wonderful and mighty God who cherishes religious liberty and grants each individual the right to believe or not to believe in harmony with the dictates of their own conscience.

It is precisely the right to hold these varying viewpoints while respecting each other that makes America and all countries that foster freedom great.

Ted N.C. Wilson is president of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church. This article originally was published by Huffington Post, retrieved October 25, 2013 at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ted-nc-wilson/keeping-church-at-arms-le_b_4226809.html. Used with permission of author.



FAMILY TIES

For You, My Child

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

There are two lasting bequests we can give our children; one is roots and the other is wings. —William Hodding Carter II

My Child,

I read your Christmas letter with tears in my eyes and gratitude in my heart. You, my child, gave me one of my best gifts ever! Let me share some thoughts with you as we begin this new year together.

You can count on me to love you absolutely, unabashedly and forever — no matter what! You can count on me to listen more and instruct you less, teach you skills as we work together at home, enjoy your friends, and make only promises I can keep.

I want to be a skilled parent — teaching, modeling, encouraging and supporting you all the years of your life. I want to be a respectful, responsible, courageous parent, advocating for you and loving you in the ways you need. I am committed to being an askable parent in this coming year. That means you can talk to me about anything on your mind, and I will do my best to listen and then share my thoughts if and when you ask for them. I will do my best to refrain from sucking the joy out of everyday experiences, and I need you to let me know when you hear me doing that! Along with that, I want to be a spiritual partner with you as you deepen your understanding of God and His love for all of us.

Did you know you are responsible for many positive changes in my life? I have been moved past my wants to clarify and assist in meeting your needs. I understand more about my own childhood and appreciate my parents more. Because of you, my world has gotten bigger and better. Did you know I am smarter now that I have you? I am more perceptive (more sensitive to babies' cries and even grown-ups' emotional reactions), efficient (even though I don't feel that way much of the time), resilient (every crisis is not a



calamity, and I am fearless in protecting you), and motivated (to learn more, to take better care of you, myself and the Earth). I have even increased my social skills. I now know how to talk to little people, and am better at getting along with them. I better understand myself, my God and my purpose in life. Thank you!

I know I am not always all you want or need in a parent. Sometimes, my own feelings interfere with my parenting. I let everyday stresses and grown-up concerns seem more important than you. I have been told that, as a parent, I am the single most important influence and resource in your life. But, I sometimes struggle with peer pressure, guilt, fear, a lack of confidence and faith. These are not your responsibilities; they are mine. I am still growing and learning myself!

Here are some things I need from you. Share with me the things you are learning, your hopes and dreams for your future, accomplishments, questions, doubts and fears. Also, be honest with me, and hold me accountable. What a privilege it is to be your parent!

Loving you forever and always,

Your parent

P.S. I know there are some big, maybe unfamiliar, words in this letter. Let's talk about what I have written.

P.P.S. Watch for messages on those bananas!

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



Zinc-containing nasal cold remedies are unsafe.

Fighting the Flu

Elderberry reduces cold and flu symptoms.

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Every winter, millions of Americans spend time doing battle with the common cold and the flu bug. Unpleasant symptoms may include catarrh*, runny nose, fever, sore throat, watery eyes, congestion and cough.

Conventional anti-inflammatory and anti-fever medications, as well as decongestants, provide some relief of the symptoms. Other modalities have been suggested to boost the immune system or suppress the symptoms associated with colds and flu. Some of these things are effective, while others are not.

Some studies show *Echinacea* is ineffective at preventing or shortening colds. Others show a significant reduction in the severity and duration of cold symptoms when taken in the early stages of a cold. Results with herbal remedies are not always predictable since the purity and identity of the product may not be guaranteed, and the ideal dosage is often unknown.

Zinc lozenges or nasal sprays are an unreliable way to reduce cold symptoms. In 2009, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) issued a warning against using three zinc-containing nasal cold remedies because they had been associated with a long-lasting or permanent loss of smell. The use of saline nasal drops will help to relieve nasal congestion, while a sore throat is temporarily relieved with a saltwater gargle.

Eucalyptus provides temporary relief of nasal and pulmonary congestion. It acts as a mild expectorant in cough drops and lozenges. Eucalyptus in a steam inhalation is a great decongestant, opening up nasal passages and sinuses.

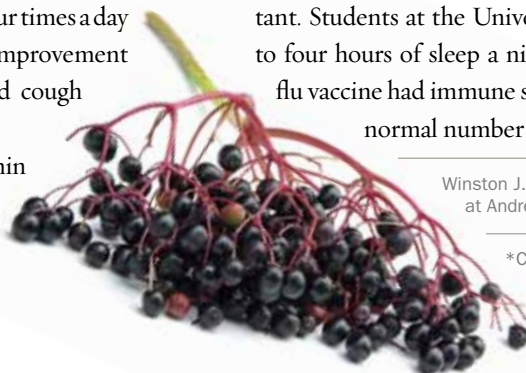
Elderberry has a long history of use for the treatment of colds and influenza. Patients having flu symptoms for less than 24 hours who took elderberry lozenges four times a day experienced a reduction in fever and an improvement in their headache, nasal congestion and cough after 48 hours.

In more than 30 clinical trials, vitamin C has been shown to be ineffective in preventing colds or reducing the severity of symptoms for the general

population, while there is a 10–15 percent reduction in the duration of colds. On the other hand, intense athletes, such as skiers and marathon runners, may experience a 50 percent reduction in the risk of getting a cold with C supplements.

Mullein flowers are useful for treating inflammation of the respiratory tract and alleviating cough and sore throats. Rooibos tea commonly is used for respiratory disorders. Sage has anti-inflammatory properties and serves as a mouthwash or gargle to treat inflammation of the throat and cough, while garlic commonly is taken to help fight upper respiratory infections. Mushrooms, such as reishi, maitake and shiitake, also may help your immune system.

To keep our immune system healthy, we must follow a healthy lifestyle. This includes eating meals rich in brightly-colored, antioxidant-laden fruits and vegetables, managing stress appropriately and getting regular exercise. Exercise, such as brisk walking, increases the level of natural killer cells and neutrophils. These immune cells stay elevated for about three hours after a 45-minute walk. Getting adequate sleep is important. Students at the University of Chicago who were limited to four hours of sleep a night for six nights and then given a flu vaccine had immune systems that made only one-half the normal number of antibodies.



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

*Catarrh is a condition in which the nose and air passage become filled with mucus due to inflammation of mucous membrane.



Freedom of Action and Choice

BY THE EDITORS

“**T**he foundation of Christianity is Christ our righteousness. Men are individually accountable to God, and each must act as God moves upon him, not as he is moved by the mind of another; for if this manner of labor is pursued, souls cannot be impressed and directed by the Spirit of the great I Am. They will be kept under a restraint which allows no freedom of action or of choice.

“It is not the will of God that His people ... should remain in their present condition of coldness and inaction until by some mighty miracle-working power the church shall be aroused to life and activity. If we would be wise, and use diligently, prayerfully, and thankfully the means whereby light and blessing are to come to God’s people, then no power upon earth would be able to withhold these gifts from us. But if we refuse God’s means we need not look for Him to work a miracle to give us light and vigor and power, for this will never be done.

“The Lord has shown me that men in responsible positions are standing directly in the way of His work because they think the work must be done and the blessing must come in a certain way, and they will not recognize that which comes in any other way. My brethren, may the Lord place this matter before you as it is. God does not work as men plan, or as they wish; He ‘moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.’ Why reject the Lord’s methods of working, because they do not coincide with our ideas? God has His appointed channels of light, but these are not necessarily the minds of any particular set of men. When all shall take their appointed place in God’s work, earnestly seeking wisdom and guidance from Him, then a great advance will have been made toward letting light shine upon the world. When men shall cease to place themselves in the

way, God will work among us as never before” (*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. V, p. 725*).

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:

- What does the phrase “Christ our righteousness” mean in this setting? Why was it identified as “the foundation” to introduce this subject?
- We usually assume that each one is individually accountable to God, yet do we hesitate to give each other the freedom to “act as God moves” upon them?
- In the context of religious liberty, what is our role in relationship to others, and how can we resist the human tendency to play “God” in the lives of others?
- How is it possible for us to put restraints on one another that allow “no freedom of action or of choice”? Is there an age variable for applying this principle?
- Have you been conditioned to believe that we should expect to remain in our present condition until some appointed time when a “mighty miracle-working power” will transform us into action?
- Taking inventory of our own selves rather than others, how do we (you and I) get in God’s way?

The Lake Union Herald editors

Why We Pray

BY GARY BURNS

Prayer is a conversation initiated by God. Every time we pray, it is in response to His call. Stop and think about it: Would we even consider talking to God if He hadn't made it possible, desirable and sometimes even imperative to respond to Him? Consider the following four scenarios:

In the Garden: *Adam and Eve heard the Lord God as he walked through the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid behind the trees in the garden so the Lord God wouldn't see them. But the Lord God called out to Adam, "Where are you?"*

Adam answered, "I heard you walking in the garden, and I was afraid, so I hid from you because I was naked" (Genesis 3:8–10 GBV).

Brother on Brother: *"Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master" (Gen 4:6–7 NLT).*

The Deluge: *Everything on the planet will be wiped out. But I will establish my relationship with you; and your wife, your sons, and their wives will enter the ark with you. Noah did everything, just as God commanded him (Genesis 6:17, 18, 22 GBV).*

Minding His Own Business: *Now Moses was in the far side of the desert, minding his own business, when he came to Horeb (the mountain of God). There, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from inside a bush. Moses saw that even though the bush was on fire, it did not burn up. So he thought to himself, I'll go over and see why the bush doesn't burn up. How strange! (Exodus 3:1–3 GBV).*

From these primary stories, we learn some valuable life lessons:

God is the One who pursues the fallen. When we fail, God initiates a plan and a conversation to restore relationship.

God is our Guide and our Defender. He goes ahead of us and prepares for every contingency. He desires to help us navigate through the difficulties of life and to bring us back on course when we stray. We would do well to listen to His direction.

God not only seeks out the broken and lost, He also seeks out individuals who are willing to cooperate with Him to accomplish His purpose in them and through them.

This understanding of God's initiative opens up some amazing possibilities. When we pray, we can first thank God that He planted in us the desire to commune with Him — that He called us personally to the conversation. Since He is the one who initiated this encounter, it would be well for us to ask what He has to say. We can listen and observe as Christ did.

Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does... (John 5:19–20 NIV).

This perspective on prayer has transformed my prayer life. I am beginning to "hear" God more often and in unexpected ways. When we are responsive to God's voice, His Spirit, we begin to move and make progress as a whisper breeze moves a fallen leaf on a placid pool — no power of our own, and totally submissive to His direction and will.

Gary Burns is the prayer ministry coordinator for the Lake Union.



SHARING *our* HOPE

More than Sabbath School

BY ANDREA RIVAS

Hinsdale Adventist Young Adults at the Hinsdale Church in Illinois is more than just a Sabbath school class. It is a group of people who study the Bible together, share food and fellowship, pray for one another, and reach out to the local community.

HAYA begins each Sabbath morning at 9:00 in the Church House for breakfast and fellowship with one another, followed by the lesson study at 9:30. Toward the end of Sabbath school, HAYA has a special sharing time of prayer requests and/or praises. Then, before they pray, other class members volunteer to pray for one of the prayer requests, and they end by going through the list and praying for one another.

“I like how we pray for each other. It gives a sense of community,” says Adam Tskretsis.

HAYA has vespers once a month on a Friday evening in the Church House. Currently, they are reading *The Desire of Ages* by Ellen White. The class has a wonderful time discussing ideas, praying for one another, and bringing in the Sabbath together as a family of believers.

“HAYA allows me to see the same truths from different perspectives,” says Kevin Mech.

Danielle Kukich says, “HAYA helped me be more outspoken and to meet other people our age within the church. I love hearing everyone’s points of view, and it’s great to be around people who are passionate and also accepting.”

The group strongly believes in acting out their faith by serving those in the community who are in need. HAYA wanted to have a unique ministry that was not already



Helom dos Santos, a member of the HAYA group, helps a hospice patient with yard work.

Jennifer Ogden

being done; so, after much research and prayer, they started volunteering with St. Thomas Hospice of Hinsdale. The hospice needed a group of people who would be willing to go to their patients’ homes and help with things such as yard work and small repairs. Already, HAYA has been called on to do yard work and wash windows for one of their patients. It is such a blessing to be a blessing to others!

“HAYA truly has become a little safe haven; through our new little family, they have brought me closer to God,” says Jacqueline Wolleberg.

Hannah DeLuca, a group member, says, “HAYA welcomed me with open arms when I joined, and quickly became a family group where I am challenged to a deeper relationship with God and am free to express myself comfortably.”

HAYA is adding social events. A

Christmas party was planned, which included a potluck and making cookies to share with Adventist Hinsdale Hospital staff. The group and its activities are meaningful. “HAYA helps me feel connected to others of the same age demographic from the church,” says David Kukich.



The HAYA group closes the Sabbath with an outdoor vespers, following an afternoon hike.

Jennifer Ogden

Andrea Rivas is a member of Hinsdale Adventist Young Adults. A version of this article originally was published in the *Branches* newsletter, Vol. 7, No. 6. *Branches* is the official newsletter of the Hinsdale Church.



2014: Un año de bendiciones

POR CARMELO MERCADO

El año nuevo está delante de nosotros, y deben trazarse planes para realizar un esfuerzo fervoroso y perseverante en el servicio del Maestro. Hay mucho que hacer para impulsar la obra de Dios. —El colportor evangélico, p. 18

El comienzo de este año es muy significativo para mí pues es el décimo año que tengo el privilegio de servir como Vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago. Es maravilloso ver cómo ha bendecido el Señor los diversos programas organizados y apoyados por la Unión. Y las actividades continúan. Ya se han programado cuatro eventos muy especiales para el año 2014 que debieran poner en sus calendarios.

Dos reuniones de ASI, en Grand Rapids, Michigan: 18 al 20 de abril y 6 al 9 de agosto.

La asociación de ministros, empresarios y profesionales, conocida en inglés como ASI, llevará a cabo dos reuniones en la ciudad de Grand Rapids, estado de Michigan. La primera, auspiciada por la ASI local de nuestra Unión, será del 18 al 20 de abril. Esta reunión tendrá como oradores al presidente de la División Norteamericana, Dan Jackson, y al pastor Rodlie Ortiz, pastor asociado de la Pioneer Memorial Church. La segunda reunión será la Convención Nacional de ASI, también en Grand Rapids, en el mes de agosto. La asistencia a esta reunión es generalmente de más de 2.000 personas. Debido a que se está haciendo un esfuerzo especial para invitar al pueblo hispano a que asista y conozca más de esta organización que ha sido de mucha bendición para la Iglesia Adventista, se proveerá por primera vez traducción al español.

Congreso de jóvenes bilingües “Conéctate”, Universidad Andrews: 6 al 8 de junio.

El tercer congreso de jóvenes bilingües, conocido como “Conéctate”, tendrá como orador principal al pastor Jonatán Tejel, Director Asociado de Jóvenes en la Asociación General. Se espera que cientos de jóvenes asistan y reciban una gran bendición. Para más información vaya al sitio web www.jovenul.org.



Multitudes de personas asistieron a la convención de ASI que tomó lugar en Orlando, Florida, el año pasado.

Simposio de liderazgo para pastores. Nuevas oficinas de la Unión del Lago: 19 de agosto.

El año pasado el presidente de la Unión Don Livesay presentó un excelente seminario sobre liderazgo para los pastores hispanos. Este año se realizará un programa semejante enfocado en el tema de la mayordomía.

Viaje a la Tierra Santa auspiciado por Esperanza TV: 14 al 23 de septiembre.

Esperanza TV está organizando por primera vez un viaje a la Tierra Santa donde se visitarán lugares históricos como Nazaret, Belén, Jerusalén, Qumran, el Monte de los Olivos, etc. Uno de los propósitos de este viaje es filmar escenas bíblicas para luego transmitir las por el canal televisivo. El costo estimado es aproximadamente \$2.728 por persona. Esto incluye el vuelo desde Nueva York, hospedaje en hoteles de cuatro estrellas y desayuno y cena cada noche. Animo a los hermanos a que aprovechen esta oportunidad especial. Para obtener más información pueden contactar a mi secretaria, Ana Lizardo, al 269-473-8200.

Pido las oraciones de cada uno para que el Señor guíe la planificación de estos eventos y que resulten en la edificación de la iglesia.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

Protecting Religious Liberty

BY VERNON ALGER

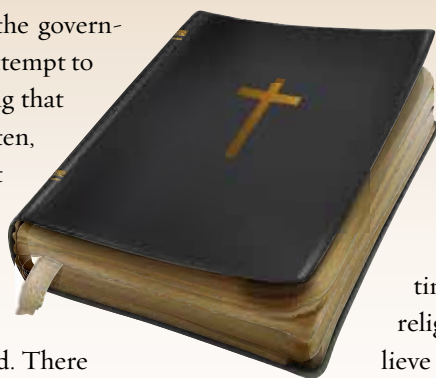
Freedom of choice is in God's love and character. God was unwilling to compromise His created beings' freedom of choice, even though it meant accepting the agony of the cross. In *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 34, Ellen White says, "God desires from all His creatures the service of love — service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will that they may render Him voluntary service."

Sometimes, in promoting actions for the government to adopt, individuals unthinkingly attempt to deny freedom of choice to others by asking that their own beliefs be legislated on all. Often, this is done with the best intentions, but it can result in disastrous events.

The devil uses counterfeit devices to cause deviation from the ideal. The deviation may be small, but it is enough to transport people to positions not intended. There are always conflicts of opinions. At times, one may disagree with another, thinking the other's opinion is wrong when, actually, they are of the same mind on the merits of an issue. Some such conflicts arise in connection with government-sponsored prayer, school vouchers, contraception distribution, etc., where many individuals believe government has no business getting involved in these issues.

There can be a danger in the majority of constituents erroneously believing they are right on moral issues. In the religious arena, thankfully, we have the benefit of the First Amendment regarding the freedom and non-establishment of religion, as well as various statutes enacted to protect our free exercise of religion, including the rights of minorities.


The Free Exercise Clause and the Non-Establishment Clause occasionally can come into tension with each other. An action which one individual believes is an accommodation of the free exercise of religion could be an unconstitutional establishment of religion to another person. Those laboring to protect the freedom of conscience in the United States face this issue in contesting state-established prayers



and Bible readings in public schools and other public forums, while at the same time sincerely believing that prayer and Bible study are appropriate, just not as sponsored by the government.

Disagreements and differences continually arise as to religious beliefs and religious exercises. People can freely believe and hold whatever beliefs they choose, but the exercise of religion is subject to certain balancing procedures when the exercise of such beliefs impacts other people.

One such balancing was encountered in the *Estate of Thornton v. Caldor, Inc.* At issue was a Presbyterian who observed Sunday as his Sabbath, which conflicted with the scheduling of his employer. The State of Connecticut had a statute providing, "No person who states that a particular day of the week is observed as his Sabbath may be required by his employer to work on such day. An employee's refusal to work on his Sabbath shall not constitute grounds for his dismissal." The U.S. Supreme Court's majority opinion quoted a well-known passage by Judge Learned Hand, "The First Amendment ... gives no one the right to insist that in pursuit of their own interests others must conform their conduct to his own religious necessities." Further in his opinion, Chief Justice Burger said that the government must guard against impinging on religious freedom and must "take pains not to compel people to act in the name of any religion." He said that in this case, "The statute arms



Sabbath observers with an absolute and unqualified right not to work on whatever they may designate as their Sabbath. The state thus commands that Sabbath religious concerns automatically control over all secular interests at the workplace. ... This unyielding weighting in favor of Sabbath observers over all other interests contravenes a fundamental principle of the religion clauses.” The court held that the Connecticut statute giving the absolute and unqualified right not to work on an individual’s Sabbath violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

This balancing of religion with other interests is at the foundation of most all of the governmental conflicts regarding religion. For instance, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has issued regulations dealing with employment situations, which are described in Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, requiring the employer to reasonably accommodate the employee’s religious exercises unless to do so would cause undue hardship. The terms “reasonable accommodation” and “undue hardship” are not defined in the statute. However, courts have issued opinions defining these terms, often in favor of the employer because of the impact an accommodation would have on other employees if the Sabbatarian was accommodated.

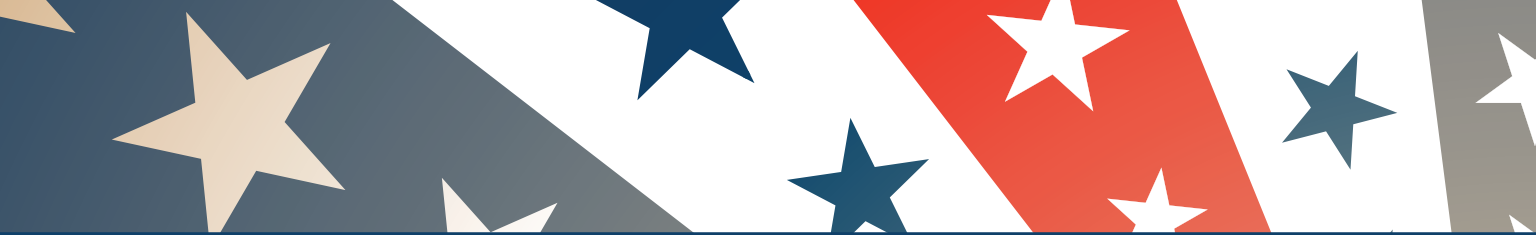
Government-sponsored prayer in schools and at other public functions also remain a contentious issue. In *Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe*, the Supreme Court ruled that prayer at a public school event violated the First Amendment, holding that, “The Religion Clauses of the First Amendment prevent the government from making any law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. By no means do these commands impose a prohibition on all religious activity in our public school. ... Indeed, the common purpose of the Religion Clauses ‘is to secure religious liberty’. ... Thus nothing in the Constitution as interpreted by this Court prohibits any public school student from voluntarily praying at any time before, during, or after the school day. But the religious liberty protected by the Constitution is abridged when the State affirmatively sponsors the particular religious practice of prayer.” Prayer at governmental public forums is a

continuing issue. The amount of sectarian content permitted in prayers and the diversity of the prayers are at issue in a pending U.S. Supreme Court case which was argued on November 6, 2013. A decision is expected to be issued on or before June 30, 2014. It is hoped that this decision will help clarify the current state of the law on this issue, but that may be too optimistic.

Door-to-door solicitations for religious and political purposes also have an applicable balancing test, namely, the right of soliciting door-to-door balanced against the safety, and sometimes convenience, of the occupants of the residence which is being canvassed. Balancing these rights has provided the fuel for much litigation, the agreement with the result of which again depends on one’s point of view.

With the recent enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and its many subparts, other issues have arisen which are going to be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. Whether the Court’s final decision on these issues will clarify them remains to be seen. One of the major issues involves the pharmaceutical dispensing of contraceptives and the balancing of the rights of employees who find dispensing them religiously offensive, compared against the rights of those who need and are entitled to the medication. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which judicially covers Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, has decided, in a somewhat similar case, that an individual who refused to even talk on the phone with or have any telephonic interaction with people requesting contraceptives imposes an undue hardship on the employer. Therefore, termination of employment of such individual by the employer was justified. That case involved the balancing between an employer’s business and an individual’s religious beliefs as protected by statute and the constitution.

The truly interesting part of the two ACA cases which the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear is whether, under the statutes and constitutions in the United States, corporations have the same religious freedom as do individuals. At creation, God gave humans religious freedom, but corporations are entities authorized by the state. Are the corporations, which are claiming that their religious freedom is being infringed, really “persons” for which



protection of religious exercises is intended by the federal constitution and statutes? The Supreme Court, in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010), indicated that corporations have campaign speech rights, but does this then mean that a corporation has religious rights also? If a corporation does have religious rights, whose religion is the governing standard? Is it that of the shareholders, the board of directors, the officers or the CEO? The results of the two ACA cases should be very important in reviewing the balancing between one person's religion and other person's rights.

Whether we have an issue involving prayer, Bible study in public schools, religious observances in public forums, or issues involving contraception, abortion, etc., we need to be sure that, while there are competing interests and balancing of rights, we do not demonize individuals because we disagree with them. Those who may be working to preserve freedom of conscience may not be always acting to advance their own opinions but to preserve freedom of choice for others.

Thankfully, our federal constitution, as amended, has an anti-majoritarian approach in that it protects the rights of minorities. Brent Walker, the current executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee and an expert in church-state issues said, "Time-honored principles of religious liberty and church-state separation are threatened today, made worse by a pervasive belief that religious disputes should be settled by the majority. The Bill of Rights is, by definition, counter-majoritarian. I must not insist that government promote my religion if I don't want government to promote somebody else's religion, and I should not permit government to harm someone else's religion if I don't want government to harm my religion."

Walker's description of this issue is not new. James Madison, writing to Thomas Jefferson on October 17, 1788, regarding the importance of having an amendment in the Bill of Rights protecting religion, said, "Wherever the real power in a Government lies, there is the danger of oppression. In our Government the real power lies in the majority of the Community, and the invasion of private rights is chiefly to be apprehended, not from acts of Government contrary

to the sense of its constituents, but from acts in which the Government is the mere instrument of the major number of the constituents. ... the danger of oppression lies in the interested majorities of the people rather than in usurped acts of the Government...."

Madison, who has been called the "Father of the Constitution," was concerned that in the constitution there be protection for minorities against the action of the majority when it attempts to use governmental authority, not for the use of the government, but for the interests of the majority itself.

The struggle to preserve freedom of conscience is an ongoing, never-ending process. Once a freedom is lost, it can almost never be recovered. We do not own the God-given freedoms we enjoy — we are the beneficiaries of these rights. And we also are the trustees of these rights, fiduciaries for our descendants who will inherit the rights we preserve for them. We must remain vigilant to protect our existing freedoms as a part of our proclamation of the Gospel.

Vernon Alger has faithfully served the people of the Lake Union Conference for nearly 30 years, providing sound counsel in the realm of public affairs and religious liberty. Though recently retired, Vernon continues to provide support.



THE STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE IS AN ONGOING, NEVER-ENDING PROCESS. ONCE A FREEDOM IS LOST, IT CAN ALMOST NEVER BE RECOVERED.

Religion and Politics

BE YE SEPARATE!

BY ELLEN WHITE

Since the Church in America seems to be having an increasing influence in politics, and since the political voices of Christians are heard shouting to one another on social media, we have provided the following perspective, written by Ellen White to the Church and publishing leaders in June 1899. —The Editors

Those who have charge of our institutions and our schools should guard themselves diligently, lest by their words and sentiments they lead the students into false paths. Those who teach the Bible in our churches and our schools are not at liberty to unite in making apparent their prejudices for or against political men or measures, because by so doing they stir up the minds of others, leading each to advocate his favorite theory. There are among those professing to believe present truth, some who will thus be stirred up to express their sentiments and political preferences, so that division will be brought into the church.


The Lord would have His people bury political questions. On these themes silence is eloquence. Christ calls upon His followers to come into unity on the pure gospel principles which are plainly revealed in the word of God. We cannot with safety vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot with safety take part in any political scheme. We cannot labor to please men who will use their influence to repress religious liberty, and to set in operation oppressive measures to lead or compel their fellow men to keep Sunday as the Sabbath. The first day of the week is not a day to be revered. It is a spurious sabbath, and the members of the Lord's family cannot participate with the men who exalt this day, and violate the law of God by trampling upon His Sabbath. The people of God are not to vote to place such men in office; for when they do this, they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office.

We are not to compromise principle by yielding to the opinions and prejudices which we may have encouraged before we united with God's commandment-keeping people. We have enlisted in the army of the Lord, and we are not to fight on the enemy's side, but on the side of Christ, where we can be a united whole, in sentiment, in action, in spirit, in fellowship. Those who are Christians indeed will be branches of the true vine, and will bear the same fruit as the vine. They will act in harmony, in Christian fellowship. They will not wear political badges, but the badge of Christ.

What are we to do, then? — Let political questions alone. *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?* (2 Corinthians 6:14, 15) What can there be in common between these parties? There can be no fellowship, no communion.

The word "fellowship" means participation, partnership. God employs the strongest figures to show that there should be no union between worldly parties and those who are seeking the righteousness of Christ. What communion can there be between light and darkness, truth and unrighteousness? None whatever. Light represents righteousness; darkness, unrighteousness. Christians have come out of darkness into the light. They have put on Christ, and they wear the badge of truth and obedience. They are governed by the elevated and holy principles which Christ expressed in His life...

Those teachers in the church or in the school who distinguish themselves by their zeal in politics, should be relieved of their work and responsibilities without delay; for the Lord will not cooperate with them. The tithe should not be used to pay any one for speechifying on political questions. Every teacher, minister, or leader in our ranks who is stirred with a desire to ventilate his opinions on political questions, should be converted by a belief in the truth, or give up his work. His influence must tell as a laborer together with God in winning



souls to Christ, or his credentials must be taken from him. If he does not change, he will do harm, and only harm....

“Be Ye Separate”

I call upon my brethren who are appointed to educate, to change their course of action. It is a mistake for you to link your interests with any political party, to cast your vote with them or for them. Those who stand as educators, as ministers, as laborers together with God in any line, have no battles to fight in the political world. Their citizenship is in heaven. The Lord calls upon them to stand as a separate and peculiar people. He would have no schisms in the body of believers. His people are to possess the elements of reconciliation.

Is it their work to make enemies in the political world? — No, no. They are to stand as subjects of Christ’s kingdom, bearing the banner on which is inscribed, “The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” They are to carry the burden of a special work, a special message. We have a personal responsibility, and this is to be revealed before the heavenly universe, before angels, and before men. God does not call upon us to enlarge our influence by mingling with society, by linking up with men on political questions, but by standing as individual parts of His great whole, with Christ as our head. Christ is our Prince, and as His subjects we are to do the work appointed us by God....

The question may be asked, Are we to have no union whatever with the world? The word of the Lord is to be our guide. Any connection with infidels and unbelievers that would identify us with them, is forbidden by the Word. We are to come out from among them, and be separate. In no case are we to link ourselves with them in their plans of work. But we are not to live reclusive lives. We are to do worldlings all the good we possibly can.

Christ has given us an example of this. When invited to eat with publicans and sinners, He did not refuse; for in no other way than by mingling with them could He reach this class. But on every occasion ... He opened up themes of conversation which brought things of eternal interest to their minds. And He enjoins us, *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven* (Matthew 5:16).

On the temperance question, take your position without wavering. Be as firm as a rock. Be not partakers of other men’s sins....

There is a large vineyard to be cultivated; but while Christians are to work among unbelievers, they are not to appear like worldlings. They are not to spend their time talking politics or acting politics; for by so doing they give the enemy opportunity to come in and cause variance and discord. Those in the ministry who desire to stand as politicians, should have their credentials taken from them; for this work God has not given to high or low among His people (*Gospel Workers*, 395.1).

God calls upon all who minister in word and doctrine to give the trumpet a certain sound. All who have received Christ, ministers and lay members, are to arise and shine; for great peril is right upon us. Satan is stirring up the powers of earth. Everything in this world is in confusion. God calls upon His people to hold aloft the banner bearing the message of the third angel....

God’s children are to separate themselves from politics, from any alliance with unbelievers. They are not to link their interests with the interests of the world. “Give proof of your allegiance to Me,” He says, “by standing as My chosen heritage, as a people zealous of good works.” Do not take part in political strife. Separate from the world, and refrain from bringing into the church or school ideas that will lead to contention and disorder. Dissension is the moral poison taken into the system by human beings who are selfish. God wants His servants to have clear perceptions, true and noble dignity, that their influence may demonstrate the power of truth.

The Christian life is not to be a haphazard, emotional life. True Christian influence, exerted for the accomplishment of the work God has appointed, is a precious agency, and it must not be united with politics, or bound up in a confederacy with unbelievers. God is to be the center of attraction. Every mind that is worked by the Holy Spirit will be satisfied with Him. (*Manuscript*, June 16, 1899; *Gospel Workers*, pp 391–395)

Ellen White was a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

BY EDWARD WOODS III

In preparation for the fall election of 2013, the Lake Region Conference held a Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Rally for Metro Detroit on September 14, at the City Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, where these principles were presented before separate interviews with the two candidates for mayor in that city.

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty ministry seeks to advocate, teach and sustain God's love in hastening the soon Second Coming of Christ.

Do to others as you would have them do to you (Luke 6:31 NIV). A man that hath friends must show himself friendly, and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24 KJV) Choose you this day whom ye will serve ... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15 KJV).

"We are not to vote for men that use their influence to repress religious liberty. If we do, we are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office" (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 475; *Last Day Events*, p. 127; and *Gospel Workers*, p. 391).

"A religion that leads men to place a low estimate upon human beings, whom Christ has esteemed of such value as to give Himself for them; a religion that would lead us to be careless of human needs, sufferings, or rights, is a spurious religion. In slighting the claims of the poor, the suffering, and the sinful, we are proving ourselves traitors to Christ" (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 137).

1. Support religious freedom and accommodations for all people.

2. Interact, engage and partner with local ministerial and civic leaders to promote and secure religious freedom.

3. Participate and support efforts to build relationships and enhance the quality of life in our church neighborhood.

The power of the Gospel transforms communities. *The word of God continued to spread. The number of believers increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too (Acts 6:7 NLT).*

"Adventist communities seeking to uphold standards and fulfill a mission not recognized by the world in general may at times be perceived as isolated from the communities in which they exist. These communities may interpret this focus as unfriendly aloofness and a notion of spiritual superiority.

"Pastors should be actively involved in the community, seeking membership and involvement in the local ministerial association and community service organizations. Not only are there many items of similar interest, but these can be valuable, professional friendships that open opportunities for shared ministry and witness" (*Ministers Manual*, p. 25).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16 KJV).

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9 KJV).

"If those who are workers together with Him will be men of opportunity, doing their duty bravely and faithfully, God will convert men who occupy responsible positions, men of intellect and influence" (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 140).

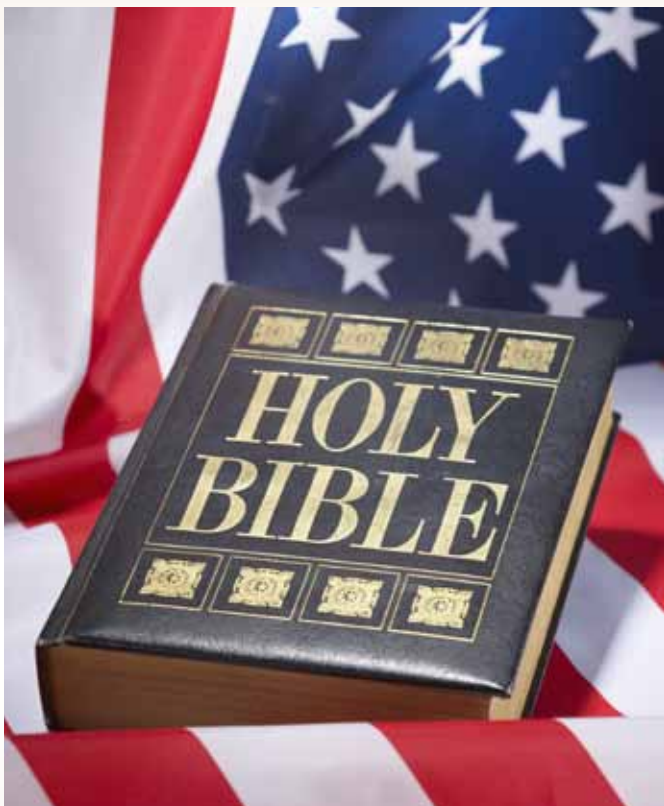


“Our ministers should seek to come near to the ministers of other denominations. Pray for and with these men, for whom Christ is interceding. ... Our ministers are to make it their special work to labor for ministers. They are not to get in controversy with them, but, with their Bible in hand, urge them to study the Word. ... It requires much wisdom to reach ministers and men of influence” (*Evangelism*, p. 563).

“The Lord would have His people bury political questions. We cannot with safety vote for political parties. Let political questions alone. It is a mistake for you to link our interests with any political party, to cast your vote with them or for them” (see *Gospel Workers*, pp. 391–393).

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a non-profit organization, and does not endorse any candidates running for office. In addition, the church does not engage in electioneering.

Edward Woods III is the director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Lake Region Conference.



Questions for Candidates

BY EDWARD WOODS III

These questions were posed to the mayoral candidates at the 2013 Metro Detroit Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Rally. They could be useful in other interviews or rallies.

- What do public affairs and religious liberty mean to you, and what is your stance?
- Please cite examples of how you have supported public affairs and religious liberty.
- In these tough economic times, how would you address poverty?
- Please cite past examples of how you have addressed poverty.
- In light of the Supreme Court’s decision on the Voting Rights Act, what have you done to address equal access to the polls?
- How do you define income inequality? What steps would you take to address it?
- What roles do faith-based organizations play in your campaign? What role would they play if you [win the election]?
- In light of these questions, why are you the best candidate for [this office]?

Edward Woods III is the director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Lake Region Conference.

Note: The bracketed words could be personalized for your situation.



CONEXIONES EXTRA

Por qué leer la Biblia

POR FELIX A. HURTADO

Un joven que frecuentaba la iglesia me preguntó en cierta ocasión ¿Por qué debo leer la Biblia? Esta es una pregunta que muchos se hacen. ¿Por qué tanto énfasis en la Biblia? ¿Es necesario leer la Biblia para la salvación?

En medio de la oleada de todo tipo de influencias que nos rodean a cada paso, muchos anhelan crecer espiritualmente y mejorar sus vidas, pero descuidan la disciplina más importante para lograrlo; la lectura de la Biblia. Este es uno de los hábitos que más contribuyen al crecimiento espiritual. “¿Por qué?” pensará usted.

La lectura de la Biblia nos lleva a la oración. Hace algunos años me encontré con un hombre influyente que había abandonado la iglesia. Se había alejado por las exigencias de su familia. Su nuevo trabajo le impedía guardar el sábado. Le pregunté: “¿Has vuelto a leer tu Biblia?” Me respondió: “No porque si leo, oro.”

Este hombre temía enfrentar el dilema entre el trabajo y la iglesia, entre lo que él y su familia querían, y lo que el Señor establece en su Palabra. El no deseaba verse confrontado otra vez. La lectura de la Biblia nos confronta con nosotros mismos, y nos lleva a tomar decisiones determinantes en el curso de nuestra vida.

La lectura de la Biblia nos permite escuchar la voz de Dios. Muchos quisieran que Dios les hablara personalmente. Recuerdo a un predicador que decía: “Si quieres oír la voz de Dios, lee la Biblia en voz alta”. Esto no es una afirmación extrema. Por medio de la Biblia, nos ponemos en condiciones de oír la voz con la que Dios nos habla a través de su Palabra, y su voz hace efecto en nosotros para vida.

Al igual que con la oración, la lectura de la Biblia no cambia a Dios; nos cambia a nosotros. Las primeras palabras que un



Felix A. Hurtado

joven predicador expresó un su disertación fueron estas: “A mi que no me vengas a decir que Jesús no y que la Biblia no; por que yo era un delincuente, cuando Dios me alcanzó con su Palabra en una cárcel de mi país”. Después de salir de la cárcel, este joven se hizo ministro del evangelio, y ahora dedica su ministerio a la restauración de jóvenes atrapados por las drogas.

La Biblia es la principal fuente de nutrición espiritual del creyente. Su lectura provee los nutrientes necesarios para el crecimiento

espiritual. El crecimiento espiritual necesita nutrición continua. Sin crecimiento espiritual no hay vida. “Las palabras que yo os he hablado son espíritu y son vida” (Lucas 6:63). Constituye la mejor manera de crecer en la fe de Jesús, la fe de salvación (Romanos 10:17).

Pero no es suficiente leer la Biblia. Muchos se acercan a la Biblia, y no obtienen fruto. Es necesario acercarse a ella como la Palabra de Dios. Para que la lectura de la Biblia sea productiva es necesario que se la aborde con reverencia, con oración y con el respeto que merece.

Hagamos de la lectura de la Biblia parte esencial de nuestro estilo de vida. La Biblia nos imparte fe y confianza para vivir con esperanza y amor, mientras esperamos el retorno de nuestro Salvador.

Felix A. Hurtado es pastor del distrito de Waukegan, Illinois, en la Asociación Regional del Lago.

Yo sé en quién he creído

POR LUZ DUARTE EUSTAQUIO

Las palabras exclamadas por el salmista David: “Jehová cumplirá su propósito en mí” (Salmos 138:8) han sido una realidad en mi vida. Luego de haber cursado tres años de Ingeniería Industrial en la Universidad de Puerto Rico, comprendí que Dios tenía algo diferente para mí. Buscaba y hasta inventaba excusas, pero Dios en su misericordia respondió a cada una de ellas.

“Sé en quién he creído” era la expresión que pasaba por mi mente cuando veía la gran diferencia en los costos de matrícula. No obstante, confiaba en que Aquel que me había llamado también se encargaría de pagar la invitación. Efectivamente, el Señor así lo hizo. Al poco tiempo de haber empezado a estudiar Teología y Educación Secundaria, tuve la oportunidad de comenzar a trabajar como tutora en TRIO ESL y en la biblioteca. Por si fuera poco, se me concedieron becas mientras cursaba mi bachillerato (CHCI- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Ministerio de la mujer de la Asociación General, TRIO SSS, Consejo de Estudiantes y Galardón Fred Hernández). Igualmente, Dios situó dos cosas en mi vida que me fueron de aliento en el transcurso de mis estudios: primero, mis amigos que estaban dispuestos a dar su mano ayudadora; y segundo, a mi madre que con su arduo trabajo siempre proveyó. Allí fue donde el Señor me enseñó lo que fue el lema de uno de nuestros pioneros (José Bates), lema que adopté: “El Señor proveerá”.

Mientras la reclutadora del programa graduado de la Universidad de Andrews miraba mi solicitud, notó que aún me faltaba pagar la solicitud de admisión, sin embargo, antes de culminar la cita, dijo: “Pagaré por ti [I will pay for you]”. El día en que iba a regresar a Puerto Rico me cambiaron



Luz Duarte Eustaquio

el vuelo a uno que me reservaría las escalas. Pocos minutos antes de partir la persona que trabajaba en el mostrador me llamó para entregarme un boleto, el cual sólo podría usar para viajar al mismo aeropuerto antes de un año.

Hace poco recibí los diplomas de licenciatura en Teología y en Educación Secundaria en Historia. Hoy curso una Maestría en el Seminario de la Universidad Andrews y le estoy muy agradecida a Dios por haber recibido la beca hispana de la Conferencia del Lago y la beca hispana de Maestría en el Seminario. Además, trabajo como asistente graduada del

Dr. T. O’Reggio y como asistente del capellán en AIM (Adventist Information Ministry).

Aprendí que nunca se llega solo a la meta, que nunca se transita solo en medio de las dificultades y que siempre hay forjadores de sueños. Si tengo algo de qué gloriarme, me glorío de la bondad, gracia, misericordia y amor de Cristo. Sólo me queda por compartir con ustedes una de mis citas favoritas respecto a la forma de cómo Dios me ha bendecido: “No tenemos nada que temer del futuro, excepto si olvidamos la manera en que Dios nos ha conducido” (TM, 27). ¿Yo sé en quién he creído y tú?

Luz Duarte Eustaquio es estudiante de posgrado en la Universidad Andrews.

Jesús. Todo.

POR ANDRÉS LIZARDO

Durante mi vida Cristiana he tenido la oportunidad de participar en diferentes programas que la iglesia ha presentado para crecimiento espiritual de cada uno de sus miembros. Pero nunca había tenido la experiencia como la que tuve en “Jesus. Todo” más conocido en inglés como “The One Project”. En esta actividad todos los presentes estaban involucrados en alabar al Señor, estudiar la palabra y orar. Todos los miembros estuvieron activos durante todo el fin de semana.

Hubo diferentes expositores de la palabra de Dios. Todos enfocados en Jesús como el centro de su predicación, que por cierto, sus temas eran analizados en grupos con preguntas y respuestas. En cada grupo las preguntas y repuestas surgían de manera espontánea por las diferentes experiencias de los que participábamos. Después del análisis de cada tema, al expositor se le hacían preguntas que se recogían de los diferentes grupos, para ser contestadas a todos los presentes.

Así como los pioneros de nuestra iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día predicaban por doquier el mensaje de la segunda venida de Jesús, porque anhelaban estar con El.



Participantes de Jesus. Todo.: (left to right) Carlos Acosta, Rogelio Paquini, Jose Cortez Jr., Jose Marín

Pude ver como los presentadores de este evento tenían a Jesús como el todo en sus vidas y anhelaban que regresara.

Vi la gran necesidad de dar un enfoque diferente en nuestra misión para poder transformar al mundo: llegando a donde está la gente y supliendo sus necesidades, como lo hizo Jesús.

Fue una poderosa experiencia que viví en esta reunión, en la cual noté el inicio de un verdadero y grande reavivamiento para la iglesia de Dios. Pido a Dios que esto sea el inicio del verdadero gran movimiento, que culmine con la traslación al cielo de la iglesia de Dios.

Andrés Lizarlo es estudiante del Seminario Teológico Adventista en la Universidad Andrews.

Noticias

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Treinta y dos parejas se beneficiaron del retiro de parejas de la Asociación de Illinois el pasado 11 al 13 de Octubre. Los seminarios conducidos por el doctor José Fuentes invitaban a las parejas a examinar su relación profundamente desde un punto de vista psicológico. El retiro anual se llevó a cabo en Naperville Lisle, Illinois.

El 13 y 14 de Septiembre 55 damas de las 23 iglesias hispanas en la Asociación de Illinois completaron la tercera parte del entrenamiento para la certificación de Liderazgo de Mujeres. Este entrenamiento está dividido en cuatro partes. El próximo año las damas que han participado por los últimos tres años en el entrenamiento podrán completar la cuarta parte y participar de una ceremonia de graduación. Este año los seminarios dictados por Eva Cruz, Esperanza De La Rosa, María Maestre, Dora Bodinet, Ximena McCormick,

Mara Verduzco, Rosa Morales, Ana Irizarry, Rosa López. Las clases dictadas durante este evento son esenciales para las directoras de los ministerios femeninos. Algunos temas incluyeron “Temas sociales y legales” donde se enseña cómo identificar el abuso y ser proactivas al prevenirlo y combatirlo. Otra de las clases se tituló “El rol de las mujeres en EGW.” Esta clase estaba diseñada para equipar a las damas directoras de ministerios en sus tareas como líderes.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

Anuncios

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Conexiones Extra

Conexiones Extra ahora tiene una página de Facebook. En esta página podrá encontrar más fotos y anuncios acerca de los eventos y miembros hispanos de la Unión del Lago. Síguenos y comparte con nosotros sus historias y reacciones.

Queremos saber su historia. Si usted o alguien en su comunidad tiene un testimonio que le gustaría compartir con nosotros o si su iglesia tiene eventos que le gustaría compartir con los feligreses de nuestra unión queremos saber. Puede contactarnos a través de la página de Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/conexioneseextra>. También nos puede escribir por email a conexionese@lucsd.org o por correo a la siguiente dirección: P.O.Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. La comunicación por correo debe ser dirigida a Carmelo Mercado o el departamento "Multicultural Ministries."



Campaña Evangelística en Indianapolis

Como parte de la iniciativa de la División Norteamericana de evangelizar las grandes ciudades este año, INDY14, la Asociación de Indiana verá grandes esfuerzos evangelísticos en Indianapolis. Desde el próximo 14 de marzo al 12 de abril se presentará una campaña evangelística con el orador Shawn Boonstra en el edificio del Farm Bureau en el Indiana State Fairgrounds. Esta campaña será coordinada por The Indianapolis Outreach Coalition (IOC) de la Asociación de Indiana y por The Voice of Prophecy.

Esta programación será presentada en inglés con la provisión de ser traducida al español para la comunidad hispana.

Al concluir esta campaña, las iglesias hispanas de la Asociación de Indiana continuarán los esfuerzos evangelísticos con una campaña evangelística de Semana Santa, del 12 al 19 de abril. Este esfuerzo evangelístico también es parte del compromiso de las iglesias hispanas, Impacto Latino 2014, de dictar tres campañas durante el 2014.

Retiro de Líderes de grupos Pequeños

Del 21 al 23 de Febrero la Asociación de Indiana tendrá el retiro anual para líderes de grupos pequeños en el campamento Timber Ridge. Este retiro provee entrenamiento para los líderes de estos grupos que han sido

instrumentales en el evangelismo en Indiana. Actualmente hay más de 85 grupos y planes para la organización de tres nuevas compañías: Goshen, Richmond y Lawrence (en Indianapolis) y el nuevo Grupo Misionero de Westfield.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



Freedom of Speech and Defamation of Religion

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

BY THE WORLD CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A distinguishing feature of humans is our God-given ability to communicate in the abstract through speech, symbols and the written word. Nowhere is this capacity more uniquely expressed than in the domain of faith. Communication concerning religious beliefs is central to our ability to explore meaning and purpose in life, discuss the values that guide our actions, and to share experiences as we search for a closer knowledge of God.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church strongly supports freedom of speech in general, and freedom of religious speech in particular. Although freedom of speech is guaranteed in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, efforts continue to limit speech at both the national level and at the United Nations. In both settings, significant focus has been placed on limiting speech that offends the religious beliefs of the hearer. Seventh-day Adventists affirm sensitivity and respect in all communication. We are thus concerned about speech designed to offend religious sensibilities. However, we believe that ceding the right to the state to control religious speech creates a far greater threat to the autonomy of people of faith than that posed by offensive speech. Indeed, there are numerous examples today of states citing a desire to protect religious feelings to justify the forceful silencing of peaceful religious speech.

Our opposition to the restriction of speech is not without exceptions. The Church recognizes that in limited circumstances, speech can result in significant, tangible harm to the right to physical safety, the enjoyment of one's property and other similarly compelling rights. In such very limited instances, we recognize the responsibility of the state to act to protect its population. When such limits are necessary, the Church expects governments to target restrictions narrowly to address only the dangerous speech in question.

The Church recognizes a special responsibility of those in power to communicate a message that supports fundamental human rights, including all the facets of religious freedom. This responsibility is particularly pertinent to governments, as they are generally in a unique position to encourage robust respect for the rights of their people, and particularly minorities.

While recognizing the right to freely express religious beliefs, Seventh-day Adventists accept the responsibility to self-regulate their speech to ensure it is consistent with biblical teachings. This includes the obligation to be both honest and loving. This is particularly important when discussing another faith as religious passions can prompt a one-dimensional view of others. Honesty does not mean merely stating facts accurately, but also placing information in an accurate context. Seventh-day Adventists will be constrained by Christ's law of love in all they say and do. When the God-given gift of speech is used to communicate in love, we will bless not only our fellow human beings; we will honor the God who made us all with the gift to express ourselves.

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

A New Life in Christ

BY BETTY EATON

“**M**om, I want to become a Christian and be baptized. Would you allow me?” Pa Lu Kyaw had been drawn to the Savior’s love. He wanted to follow Christ all the way.

Pa Lu was raised in the countryside of Burma as a member of the Karen tribe. He and his siblings worshiped Buddha, the only god they knew, at an altar in their home. However, Pa Lu remembers his oldest brother questioning, “Where did Buddha come from?”; “How did he become a god?”; and “How was he enlightened?”

When he was about 12 years old, Pa Lu became a novice monk. Pa Lu assumed the role for two years because his family wanted him to become a Buddhist monk. He worked and studied in a monastery in Thaton. He cleaned, collected alms, and studied Sanskrit (the language Buddhist text is written in) and Burmese. Every morning, he took his alms bowl and went for the



Pa Lu Kyaw (left), a former Buddhist monk, returned to the faith of his grandfather, a Christian. Also pictured: Sam Ngala, the Burmese pastor for the Indianapolis area

whom he was just getting acquainted, “Lord, help me to know You more.”

Sam Ngala, the Burmese pastor for the Indianapolis area, also prayed at the same time, “Lord, lead me to those who want to know and accept You as their personal Savior.” Both prayers were answered. Pa Lu met an Adventist church member after arriving in Indianapolis this past February. That member contacted

Alms Round, collecting offerings of food from lay devotees who stood in front of their homes. He then had to eat the food in his bowl before noon. After noon, he would not eat so his mind could be clear for meditation and study.

Gradually, Pa Lu wished for more freedom than the monastery allowed. Without notifying his parents, he left novice monkhood and went to work on a farm, caring for cattle. Later, Pa Lu took up kickboxing for a living. As his health and home village conditions worsened, he fled to a refugee camp just inside Thailand. There, he had his first opportunity to attend church and learn about Christianity. One of his cousins, an Adventist, urged him, “Why don’t you learn more about Christ? Why don’t you choose Him as your personal Savior? God is a personal God who hears and answers prayers. I’m sure He will help you in your life.”

Learning about the possibility of resettlement for refugees, Pa Lu requested and was granted asylum in the United States. In the process, he prayed to the God with

Sam. The two men began to study the Bible together. After a few weeks, Pa Lu called his mother to discuss his baptism.

“You know, your grandfather used to be a Christian,” she said. “When you were small, we were forced to become Buddhists. If you would like to be a Christian, it is okay because you are going back to our tradition, your grandpa’s tradition.”

Joyfully, Pa Lu was baptized. “I am very happy,” he says. “Many people criticize me for leaving Buddhism. They ask, ‘Why would you become a Christian, especially an Adventist?’ I do not let them bother me. I just say, ‘I have the right to choose my path.’”

Pa Lu continues, “Back in my home village, there is more freedom now. When the Lord opens the door, I would like to return and build a church to help my people worship and learn about the true God.”

Betty Eaton is the communications secretary of the Indiana Conference.



Brian Powers

In November 2013, the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra, the Howard Performing Arts Center and AFIA held a benefit concert for Philippines relief.

Generous hearts benefit Typhoon Haiyan victims

Within hours after Typhoon Haiyan hit the shores of the Philippines, Andrews University students were in action. The Andrews Filipino International Association (AFIA) gathered to discuss what they could do to help from halfway around the globe. Their initial reaction was to just do what they could.

“We started with selling our extra club apparel,” explains Fares Magesa, AFIA sponsor and financial aid adviser for Student Financial Services. “We set up a table in the Campus Center and provided a bucket for cash donations, too. That small act has led to many opportunities to help the people of the Philippines.”

One such opportunity was a partnership with the University Symphony Orchestra and Howard Performing Arts Center for a benefit concert in late November 2013. Through the

emergency management initiatives of ADRA International, both the Orchestra and the Howard Center contributed 100 percent of the concert’s proceeds to aid victims of the devastating storm. AFIA also sold apparel at the concert as part of their fundraising campaign, “Many Hands, One Hope,” giving all proceeds directly to ADRA.

“In 2009, I coordinated the Orchestra’s tour to the Philippines and Hong Kong,” says Erica Griessel, manager of the Howard Center. “I was under-prepared for the poverty I saw in the Philippines. As we traveled, I was horrified to see the shanty homes that the people lived in. When I heard of the typhoon headed their way, I knew the outcome would be bleak.”

With moving pieces, including Rossini’s “Overture La Gazza ladra,” Paganini’s “Concerto for Violin & Orchestra” and Tchaikovsky’s *Symphony No. 2 in C minor, Op. 17*, “Little Russian,” the ensemble performed under the direction of Claudio Gonzalez, music director, and Jose Meneses, assistant

conductor. The Orchestra also welcomed guest soloist Haoli Lin, winner of the Andrews University International String Competition 2013.

Since the initial set-up of that small table in the Campus Center, AFIA has received large lump sum donations from churches as far away as Atlanta, and were approached by a catering company about holding a benefit banquet. In addition, the Filipino-American Church in Berrien Springs partnered with AFIA to hold a benefit international food fair, bringing in nearly \$3,000 for ADRA and the Philippines.

Between ticket and apparel sales as well as concessions during the concert, AFIA was able to raise \$1,900.

“In a situation like this, you truly see how the generosity of many hands and hearts continue to give the people hope,” says Magesa. “We are thankful for the support of our local and extended community, as well as Andrews University’s administrative support. It has been inspirational to watch people come together for good like this.”

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Christa McConnell

A student celebrates his success during the popular Egg Drop in November 2013, part of Andrews University’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) division’s first SciFEST. Raw eggs were launched from the roof of the Science Complex in handmade vehicles meant to protect them from the fall. For information on future science-related events at Andrews, visit <http://www.andrews.edu/cas/stem>.



Christopher LaFortune

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital Art Cart volunteer Ann Saladino asks a patient whether she might like to work on an art project while resting at the hospital. The cart is a part of the hospital's Healing Arts program.

Hospital art program reaches beyond physical healing

The man had been wheeled back to his hospital room and was about to return to bed. He was tired and very ill. Volunteer Ann Saladino trailed into his room and asked whether working on a little art might help him feel better.

Although he was tired, the man indicated he was interested, but he had a phone call to take. His room was dark — the lights were out and the shades drawn, and he spoke barely above a whisper. Saladino went to the room's doorway to wait.

A volunteer with Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Saladino was running the Art Cart, which carries a plethora of art materials — paints, pencils,

tissue paper, stamps, stencils, model clay, wooden birdhouses and crosses, notepads, and knitting and crochet supplies. The cart is a part of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital's Healing Arts program.

"All of our nurses are extremely caring, and our physicians are well-equipped to take care of people," said Sue Kett, who leads the Healing Arts program effort. "Art connects with people on a different level, connects them with who they were before they got sick."

Art reaches back to a person's creative spirit, said hospital chaplain Tricia Trefl, connecting back to their personal lives even at a time of illness.

That aligns the program with Christ's healing ministry, which reaches beyond healing physical ailments; it speaks to a healing of the spirit, as well.

As is stated in Psalm 23:3, *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake* (ESV).

"The Art Cart is another element for the staff as well," Tricia said; "it gives them another way to reach out to the patient."

Kett remembers a patient who made a simple tissue paper flower during her hospital stay. "Suddenly, she remembered she used to be the art mom for her child's classroom," Kett said. "It took her away from being in a hospital room. Just doing that simple project created that moment for her."

Former patient Sara Plotnick-Anderson had a similar experience. Because of complications with her pregnancy, Plotnick-Anderson spent nine weeks at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital on bed rest.

"Being in the hospital with the condition I had, I wasn't able to walk out of the room and go outside for a while," she said. "Having the Art Cart was kind of a nice escape for me, to have something to take my mind off of being in the hospital and the things that were going on."

During her stay, Plotnick-Anderson painted about 15 different pieces. She gave one painting to the nursing staff, thanking them for their care. The rest she took home as a memento.

Back in the hospital room, volunteer Saladino handed a pad of paper and pencils to the patient she was visiting. He enjoyed sketching and was self-taught.

"What are you going to draw for me?" Saladino asked. He decided to sketch a doctor.

"Go ahead," she said. "Let's see!" And Saladino pulled up a chair, sitting down to watch.

The man turned on the light above his hospital bed, illuminating his dark room, propped the pad on a leg and began sketching.

Christopher LaFortune, public relations specialist, Adventist Midwest Health

[EDUCATION NEWS]



Peterson-Warren Academy students collect Yoplait yogurt lids to help raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

PWA students raise awareness about breast cancer

Lake Region—On Oct. 25, 2013, instead of the typical school uniform, the color pink pervaded the halls of Peterson-Warren Academy in Inkster, Mich. Students from pre-k all the way through grade 12 united in support of breast cancer awareness.

According to the Susan G. Komen Foundation's website, in 2013 alone there will be more than 232,000 new cases of breast cancer across the United States. Recognizing the severity of this disease and striving for a cure, Peterson's Student Council decided to do something about it. Students have been collecting Yoplait yogurt lids to help raise money for the Coleman Foundation.

The Council also organized a special program to raise awareness and pay tribute to Peterson's own breast cancer survivors. The program included several biblical texts of strength and healing, special music and background information about the Coleman Foundation. In addition, two cancer overcomers were recognized. Current faculty member Nettie Gray spoke about the power of prayer and how without it she would not be here today. The strength of Shirley Fuquay, recently retired, also was recognized.

Encouraged by Gray's message of prayer and healing, students joined together to offer special prayer for current cancer patients, including the older sister of one of Peterson's eighth-graders. Erin Nowlin's older sister, Micha Logan, was diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year. Nevertheless, the power of prayer was recognized when on the same day Peterson students lifted up her name in prayer, Micha received positive test results clearing her of cancer.

To conclude the program, students each received a pink balloon and, from the youngest to the oldest, formed a human breast cancer ribbon. The picture has gone viral among Peterson's social media, and continues to encourage and uplift those who have fought and are continuing to fight cancer.

Elizabeth Harseny, English teacher, Peterson-Warren Academy



Peterson-Warren Academy students formed a human breast cancer ribbon for a photo, which continues to encourage those who have fought and are fighting cancer.



Andrea Taylor

Proclaim Him joined other musicians to raise funds for the Waterford Adventist School, Nov. 2, 2013.

Paw Paw Church musicians raise funds for Christian education

Michigan—Proclaim Him, a men's chorus from the Paw Paw Church, presented a program at the Waterford Church on Nov. 2, 2013, that was also a fundraiser for the Waterford Adventist School. Additional music was provided by other groups from Paw Paw, including His Story, a men's quartet; The Beatitudes, a women's quartet; and a saxophone solo by Michael Taylor, Paw Paw pastor. John Hood, Waterford Church pastor, was a member of Proclaim Him before he began to serve in Waterford, and he joined the group for vespers.

Proclaim Him is a group of 14 men from the Paw Paw Church who practice once a month. David Burghart, director, has a rich history in music education, and was a member of Christian Edition, a men's chorus, for many years. After moving to the Paw Paw Church and discovering how many musically-talented individuals are there, a group quickly formed.

Frances Robinson, principal/teacher at Waterford Adventist School, was delighted with the \$1,700 raised, and enjoyed the evening, too. "It felt like family getting together and meeting cousins whom we never met before," she stated.

Two sisters from the Livingston Church, Margaret Hedger and Marilyn Barber, commented on how they loved the harmony and found the program very uplifting.

The musical talents from the Paw Paw Church frequently are featured on Sabbaths, and plans are in place for other performances in Michigan.

Janelle (Burghart) Randall, first elder, Paw Paw Church

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



An Anaconda snakeskin drew onlookers. It was draped at the entrance of the southern Illinois churches' booth at the Du Quoin State Fair in September 2013.

State Fair offers opportunity to plant seeds

Illinois—The southern Illinois Seventh-day Adventist churches join forces every year to participate in the Du Quoin State Fair, which is held for ten consecutive days, ending on Labor Day. Churches donate for rented space, daily passes, literature and media handouts, and volunteer to set-up, tear-down and service the booth, deliver prizes and share their experiences with others to motivate for action. The theme this year was “Wheels and Deals.” Everything in the tent was free, starting with the ice water. Drawings offered music CDs donated by Three Angels Broadcasting Network and sets of *Bible Story* books.

The ten-inch telescope raised the curiosity of those wanting to learn more about the wonderful universe God created. The Anaconda snakeskin made a nice arch over the front of the tent, and the visitors heard missionary stories. When the kids came over to chase bubbles from a bubble machine, it gave volunteers an opportunity to offer small bottles of bubbles, coloring and storybooks, which provided their parents a chance to look at other free materials. Volunteers also provided blood pressure checks while they talked

to participants about health magazines, CDs and DVDs that they were able to take home.

Bookmarks, CDs and DVDs, a health presentation or a children's program playing in the background drew visitors. But nothing can take the place of a warm welcome, a smile, an invitation to cool off or an ice-breaker customized to the individual, a candidate for God's kingdom. Another group tried the “watch and be amazed” approach, setting up camp across the street under the shade of a faithful and foliage-rich tree. They opened the tent to investigation to some who may have been intimidated by the name or just the unknown.

Len and Lee Wenzel decided to do the Bible Quiz like they did four years ago. Lee invited people to sit a spell, rest their weary legs, and take a Bible Quiz to win a prize. A couple of Len and Lee's friends and neighbors donated stuffed animals and toys for prizes, but anything off the table also could be taken. “One lady said, ‘Really? We can have anything off the tables?’ So when people took the Bible Quiz, all the DVDs, CDs and books became a prize they felt like they had won,” the Wenzels remembered.

Children were less impressed with the literature, so they got to pick out a stuffed animal and little bagged items from a basket. The larger stuffed animals were saved for those who answered three out of three Bible Quiz questions correctly. Some children came back a second time to take the quiz again. All questions had a Bible text reference and three multiple-choice answers. “One couple taking the quiz got all three wrong, so Lee told them they get the best prize of all, a free Bible to read and prepare for the quiz next year,” Len said. Several questions sparked conversations regarding Bible truths.

One evening, a video of microscopic creatures was shown. It caught the attention of young and old. Another time, Len sat and talked with a 65-year-old man who wanted to pick



A Bible quiz was offered to passersby, and some children came back a second time to take the quiz and receive a prize.



The many interesting items in the fair booth drew curious children. This gave the volunteers an opportunity to talk to their parents about spiritual topics.

up some more DVDs on the non-smoking plan. He had already given away several, and came back for more. How can you beat that — people taking our literature and handing it out to their friends? One man came back for another copy of *Christ's Object Lessons* because the previous night he read it, and now wanted the book for a friend.

Mary Pedigo said, “I was in the booth Thursday morning, and a woman walked in and flat-out asked, ‘What do you people believe?’ I've been asked that question many times before, and I always begin my answer with ‘I believe in Jesus Christ who died on the cross for me...’ I just think it's very important to begin my answer with what we

have in common; she and I spent the next 45 minutes actually talking and, for the most part, agreeing on what we believe. Turns out she is a lay leader in her Methodist church, and she was truly curious. By the time she left, she had collected *a lot* of literature that she wanted to read. You never know what's going to happen; we're not there to harvest, so we don't know what the final product is going to be; we're there to plant seeds.

"I remember the first couple of years we were there, and people would actually pass to the other side of the road to avoid 'the cult.' Just our presence there is changing people's impression of us; when they're willing to check us out, they figure out we've got something they want.

"I think about the woman whose sister had just died, and I was able to talk to her about death (that one was hard to keep from crying myself). I think about the teenager who wanted to know if Jesus really was coming soon. I think about the woman who had been watching 3ABN and just wanted to know where a church was. Those single encounters are so important," Pedigo said.

These and many other testimonies keep the southern Illinois churches going back every year in spite of challenges, extra work, heat or rain. They understand that seeds face all those natural adversities, too, but come to life in God's time. He is the One who brings the increase, and He is getting all their praise.

At the end of the fair, the church members counted their "losses" — almost 1,500 books and booklets were "missing" (in addition to numerous fliers or easy handouts), 333 DVDs and 153 CDs on different topics, and approximately 50 gallons of ice water were shared with visitors (see Matthew 10:42).

Adrian Amarandei, pastor of the Cairo, Carbondale Company, Eldorado, Marion and Metropolis churches, and Southern Illinois Fair Team member, with *Lake Union Herald* staff



John Rapp

180° celebrates 16 years of ministry

Illinois—180°: Going New Directions reached 16 years of ministry this year. Through song and testimony, prayer and preaching, tailgating food and watermelon, the 180° group celebrated this milestone on Sabbath, Aug. 24, 2013.

The service included much singing and a special sermon by John Rapp, Hinsdale Church senior pastor from 1999–2005. He said, "You actually practice grace. You don't preach it; you practice it. ... About grace, about new beginnings, you allow it to flourish in your life." He talked about how easy it is to make friends in 180° "because you share, because you propose the love of Jesus Christ. It shows and draws people to you. Thank you for 16 years of doing it. Thank you to everybody who creates the climate that is 180°."

The history of 180°: Going New Directions goes back to August 1997 when, in an effort to create a worship environment where people not attending church would feel comfortable and accepted, the Hinsdale Church added a contemporary worship service. Founded by then youth pastor Mike Knecht and a dozen Generation Xers who became the Direction Team, 180° was designed to blend Christian music

and the spoken Word. Its mission then and now is "to help those desiring to build a relationship with Christ and become an active part of a church community."

Since its inception, 180° has met regularly each Sabbath at 5:00 p.m. in the chapel. Fittingly, in 1999, members from the group donated supplies and helped complete extensive chapel renovations, including the addition of a platform. Pews were changed to chairs to provide more versatility.

The group's longest running evangelistic effort was "The Prodigal Son Project." Members visited neighboring Adventist churches where they shared 180° information and collected names of people who no longer attended church and may be interested in an alternative service.

Although the initial focus was on Generation Xers, those Xers have moved into middle age, and still lead the 180° group. Today, the service draws people of all ages and ethnicities. Regular 180° social events involve two Saturday nights monthly: Saturday Night In (an evening of food, fellowship and fun) and a Movie Night & Potluck (when a movie is shown and discussed). Both of these events are open to all church members.

For years, the group went camping at Warren Dunes in the summer and did a winter retreat together until dropped due to costs.

Baptisms are so special at 180° that they now take up the whole service. Chairs are placed on the sanctuary rostrum so everyone gets close and intimate with the baptism itself. The baptismal candidate chooses the music. Along with his or her own testimony, relatives and friends share comments about their friend's spiritual journey.

It's the social events combined with the contemporary style of service that binds this group into a cohesive fellowship. They become family to each other.

Dorothy Deer, communications co-leader, Hinsdale Church



The Scottsburg Church family welcomes new members. From left: James Royal, Rita McCauley, Izaak Kline, Leslie Kline and Eric Freking, pastor; not pictured: Cladia Pruitt, Jacob Keith and Krissy Spence

Evangelism provides opportunities to use spiritual gifts

Indiana—“I’ve gained so much during these meetings, and I’m so excited about what I’ve learned!” exclaimed Beth Thompson, a member of the Scottsburg Church since 2010. “These meetings have changed our church. It used to be nearly empty, and there wasn’t much going on. Now, every Sabbath, the church is full. It hasn’t been that way for years!” Thompson’s comments reflect some of the impact evangelism can have on a church.

Evangelistic interest and excitement in the Scottsburg Church grew this fall as members witnessed the Holy Spirit at work. Moods changed from trepidation to rejoicing as more than 50 people turned out for the meetings, some driving 30–40 miles each night to hear the rapid-fire messages full of truth and hope.

“Pastor [Eric] Freking used lots of illustrations, stories and personal experiences to help us know we weren’t the only ones to have made mistakes,” said one attendee. “He made us feel good and gave us hope. We also learned more about Daniel and Revelation than ever before.”

“I used to feel a lot of fear about the future,” said Leslie Kline, who was recently baptized. “The more I learned, the more peace I felt. For years, I had needed a change but couldn’t find a church where I felt comfortable. Now, I feel a huge relief. I have a new start and a place to go to continue learning and achieving the things I want to accomplish spiritually.”

Kline attended the meetings along with her mother, Rita McCauley, and her 13-year-old son, Izaak. After they heard the Sabbath truth, Izaak told his football coach he could no longer play on Sabbath, and Kline told her employer she could no longer work on Sabbath. On Nov. 5, 2013, Kline, Izaak and McCauley were baptized.

The Scottsburg Church also rejoiced in two additional baptisms, James Royal and Jacob Keith. Both were the result of personal relationships that led to spiritual commitments. Three others were scheduled for baptism in November 2013, and others are continuing to study.

“I am blessed with churches that believe in the biblical message and mandate to reach out to our community,” states Freking. “They are active in sowing seeds through various avenues, including the healing message and friendship evangelism. They don’t just vote to have public evangelistic meetings and then say ‘Go get ‘em, pastor.’ They are with me every night — praying, befriending or whatever needs to be done. Many of them work hard during the day but still come out at night to support the meetings. Public evangelism gets members focused on mission, and helps them use their spiritual gifts. It provides an opportunity to explain the message and experience an intense outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It not only benefits those who are drawn into the church from the public, it blesses even long-time church members who become laborers together with God,” he said.

Betty Eaton, communications secretary,
Indiana Conference



Jackson Church on Franklin Street

Oldest Seventh-day Adventist congregation in the world relocates

Michigan—The Jackson Church family has moved from Franklin Street to 3600 County Farm Road in Jackson.

In December 2012, the Church Board agreed unanimously that the aging Franklin Street church, built in the 1950s with no social facilities, limited parking and poor accommodations for physically-challenged individuals and future growth, desperately needed replacing. Their large school on County Farm Road had been closed because of lack of students, and the building, which once housed more than 100, was sitting empty. As the Board discussed what to do, it was decided that the recently-refurbished school, with a large gym, kitchen and several classrooms, would be suitable for occupancy. An added incentive was the large lot next to the school on which a lovely new church could be built.

As Kevin Scott, Jackson Church pastor, led the Church Board in discussion, a history of the church was taken into consideration. Brian Strayer, a professor at Andrews University, stated, “On July 27, 1849, retired sea captain Joseph Bates, following a dream God had given him, came to Jackson and there established the very first band of Sabbath-keeping Adventists west of the Appalachian Mountains.”

[UNION NEWS]



Cindy Scott

The Jackson Church congregation now meets at the location of the former church school on County Farm Road. Their goal is to build a new church building, which will be part of a beautifully-landscaped campus that also will include a Community Services facility and a fully-functioning, refurbished school.

Bates preached his heart out while in Jackson to Dan Palmer and, within three weeks, the Palmer home became the first meeting place for 15 persons who accepted the seventh-day Sabbath.

“Joseph Bates did not erect a church building in Jackson, but he did light a torch for truth that spread like wild-fire. The early Advent band in Jackson blazed trails for the Lord. By the spring of 1854, they pulled together to build their very first meeting house in the midst of a great building boom in town,” said Strayer.

This past significance has encouraged the current Jackson Church members to unite in a tremendous ambition for carrying on the vision of those dedicated, self-sacrificing, early pioneer Adventists. The Jackson Church exists for mission. Building a new sanctuary in Jackson will make a visual statement on behalf of the mission: “To reach our community for Christ, spiritually, physically and emotionally, and spread the good news of Christ’s soon coming.”

In January 2013, the Franklin Street church was put on the market for sale, and the congregation rallied and moved everything moveable out to the school building on County Farm Road. It was a tremendous challenge, but today the building is functioning adequately as a church. A building fund is being added to regularly, and the goal is to build a new church which will be part of a beautifully-landscaped campus. This will consist of a church building, Community Services building and a fully-functioning, refurbished school.

Current members are willing to invest in the bank of Heaven as they look back at how God has led in the past. If you would like to consider sending a tax-deductible gift to support something new for the oldest continuous Seventh-day Adventist congregation in the world, please send your donations to Jackson Church, 3600 County Farm Road, Jackson, MI 49201.

Madlyn Hamblin, member, Jackson Church



S. James Ho

Wendy Plummer applies painter's tape to a door frame in preparation for a new coat of paint at the Juneau School in Alaska.

Cruisers' appreciation and gratitude for God is rekindled

Michigan—On Sept. 15, 2013, 43 young adults from across the country joined together for a new adventure: Cruise with a Mission — Alaska!

“CWM is not your typical mission trip; it’s much more,” says Richard Parke, CWM director. “It combines an on-board spiritual retreat, meaningful community-building opportunities and hands-on mission projects at ports of call. Young adults who attend CWM build friendships that last a lifetime and return to their communities with a heart of service.”

“Although the needs in Alaska may be more hidden,” Parke continues, “visit any city in the world, and you will find people in need.” With the beauty of God’s creative design surrounding them, 2013 cruisers were reminded that God is much bigger and more powerful than anything man can create.

Mission port stops were to include Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan. Poor weather conditions prevented stops in Sitka and Ketchikan, but the quick-thinking mission team was able to find projects in the final port of call, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Juneau missions included projects at the local Seventh-day Adventist church and school. The church, located just outside of Juneau, received a new coat of paint in its stairwell, basement hallway, two classrooms and



S. James Ho

Volunteers prepare vegetables at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sidney, British Columbia, Canada, in preparation for a chili feed the church planned for the community.

fellowship hall. The five-student/one-teacher school gymnasium floor was shampooed, some walls received a new coat of paint, and student computers were repaired by some IT professionals who attended the trip. (When they arrived, only one of five computers functioned properly.)

Due to the schedule changes, cruisers experienced a full day of mission

work in Victoria. Working with the local Seventh-day Adventist church pastor, they were able to assist Victoria's Salvation Army store by organizing items on shelves, folding clothes and passing out fliers advertising the store. The group's assistance saved weeks of work, possibly months, for the local volunteers.

Another group of young adults visited the local Seventh-day Adventist

church and helped prepare ingredients for an upcoming chili feed for the community. The final group visited a local thrift shop and helped organize a month's worth of donations.

Elden Ramirez, director of Volunteer Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, also attended CWM — Alaska. He shared insights into God's grace during the evening general session meetings. Ramirez is passionate about young adult missions and service, and connects thousands of volunteer missionaries with countless needs around the world.

Those who attended CWM — Alaska left with a sense of accomplishment, new-found appreciation and gratitude for what God has done in their lives, and a heart yearning for opportunities to serve others.

CWM is designed for young adults older than 18. They return to cruise the Caribbean, Dec. 14–21, 2014. Mission ports include Montego Bay, Jamaica, Georgetown, Cayman Islands and Costa Maya, Mexico. For booking information and to register online today, visit <http://www.cruisewithamission.org>.

Richard A. Parke, director, Cruise with a Mission, with *Lake Union Herald* staff

Adventist Midwest Health receives 14 Pinnacle Awards

Illinois—Adventist Midwest Health's Regional Communications team has won 14 Pinnacle Awards from the Illinois Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations (ISHMPR).

The awards were announced Oct. 24, 2013, during the organization's annual conference. ISHMPR, an affiliate of the Illinois Hospital Association, is the state's largest organization dedicated to the advancement of healthcare marketing and communications professionals.

More than 300 people from hospitals throughout the region attended this year's ISHMPR Conference, held in Lake Geneva, Wis. Awards were given



AMH

From left: Katie Klinger, Julie Busch and Christopher LaFortune are part of the regional communications team with Adventist Midwest Health.

out in 27 project categories, and a complete list of award winners will be posted at <http://www.ishmpr.org>.

The regional communications team, consisting of regional director Julie Busch of Yorkville, Katie Klinger of Hoffman

Estates, and Chris LaFortune of Roselle, is based in Hinsdale.

The communications team received an Award of Merit for their writing project in the July 2013 issue of the *Lake Union Herald*, which featured people and events at all four hospitals.

“Our communications team plays an important role in fulfilling our overall mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ,” said David L. Crane, president and chief executive officer, Adventist Midwest Health. “They tell the story of our hospitals to our patients and our home communities, and also work hard to ensure our employees remain informed on the latest news within our organization.”

Christopher LaFortune, public relations specialist, Adventist Midwest Health



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.herald.lakeunion.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.herald.lakeunion.org>.

Andrews University

The 11th annual Andrews University Music and Worship Conference is less than a month away, **Jan. 9-11!** The 2014 Worship Conference will feature a variety of outstanding presenters who will offer biblically-rooted principles and practices for worship and music ministry that glorify God, transform worshipers and change the world. For registration and more information, visit <http://www.cye.org/mwc>, or email worshipconference@andrews.edu. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn, be inspired, connect with other leaders and worship God together!

Do you love sharing Jesus with children? Then don't miss the Children's Leadership Conference, **March 28-30!** With great speakers like Brenda Walsh and Richard Aguilera, and workshops for every area of Children's Ministries, this event is for the whole CM team! Join us on the Andrews University campus for this very special event as we learn to "Bring Kids to Jesus!" Sponsored by NAD Children's Ministries, Lake Union Youth Department and the Center for Youth Evangelism. For more information, call 269-471-8357, or visit our website at <http://www.cye.org/events/clc/>.

Illinois

Youth Winter Retreat: This annual youth event will be held at Camp Kidwell (near Bloomingdale, Mich.), **Jan 17-20.** Come for worship, fellowship and fun winter activities (skiing, snowboarding, tobogganing, ice skating and snow tubing). The featured speaker this year is Tony Hunter, Illinois Conference associate for Young Adult Ministries. For more information, contact the Youth Department at 630-856-2857. To register, contact Carol Barnhurst at 618-922-5859, or email youth@illinoisadventist.org.

Lake Region

Lake Region Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the regular

Quadrennial Session of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday, **May 18, 2014**, beginning at 9:00 a.m., E.D.T., at the Pioneer Memorial Church, 8655 University Blvd., Berrien Springs, MI 49104. The purpose of the session is to elect officers and departmental directors for the ensuing term, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates to this session are duly-appointed representatives of the various churches of the conference. Each church is entitled to one delegate for each 35 members or major fraction thereof. Per constitutional requirements the Organizing Committee, made up of duly-appointed members from churches, will meet in advance of the Quadrennial Session on Sunday, April 6, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., E.D.T., at the All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4259 East Snow Rd., Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

Jerome L. Davis, president
Donald L. Bedney, secretary

Lake Region Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the regular Quadrennial Session of the members of the Lake Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventist, Inc., a corporation, will be held on Sunday, **May 18, 2014**, in connection with the 27th session of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the Pioneer Memorial Church, 8655 University Blvd., Berrien Springs, MI 49104. The first meeting of the Association will be called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m., E.D.T. The purpose of the meeting is to restate and amend the

articles of incorporation and bylaws, to elect trustees for the ensuing term, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates from the churches in attendance at the 27th Quadrennial Session of the Lake Region Conference comprise the constituency of the Association.

Jerome L. Davis, president
Donald L. Bedney, secretary

Lake Union

Offerings

- Jan 4** Local Church Budget
- Jan 11** Local Conference Advance
- Jan 18** Local Church Budget
- Jan 25** Religious Liberty

Special Days

- Jan 4** Day of Prayer
- Jan 19-25** Religious Liberty Week

Michigan

Battle Creek Tabernacle Sacred Concert Series 2014. Concerts will be held at 264 West Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. For more information, visit <http://www.battlecreektabernacle.com>.

Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m., Dick and Mel Tunney, pianist and vocalist. Free concert to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Tabernacle's grand piano. Dick is an outstanding pianist who is the music director and pianist for Christian singer Steve Green; his wife, Mel, is a talented singer.

Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m., Jarrod McNaughton, vocalist. Free concert. McNaughton's rich baritone voice can be heard on Three Angels Broadcasting Network, Trinity Broadcasting Network, Voice of Prophecy radio, and in churches around the globe.

March 1, 7:30 p.m., Buddy Houghtaling, singer and songwriter. Free concert.

April 5, 7:30 p.m., Michael Card, singer, songwriter and musician. Admission charged.

Marriage Commitment Retreat is held at beautiful Camp Au Sable, in Grayling, **March 7-9.** The purpose of this weekend is for you and your spouse to get away and take some time to reconnect with each other and with God. There are five seminar sessions throughout the weekend, each one with topics designed to help strengthen your marriage. To register or for more information, call Alyce at 517-316-1543, or ask your pastor, family life leader or bulletin secretary for an application. You also can download an application at <http://www.misda.org> (Family Life Department).

North American Division

Mesa Arizona Seventh-day Adventist churches celebrate their 50th Anniversary! Former members, pastors and friends are invited to the weekend event. Mesa Palms Seventh-day Adventist Church will host the event on **March 1** at 6263 E. Thomas Rd., Mesa, Ariz. For more information, call 480-985-3140, Facebook Mesa Palms SDA Church, or visit website <http://mesapalmschurch.com>.

Union College Homecoming, April 3-6. Honor classes are 1944, '54, '59, '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, and 2004. Special tribute to veterans and MCC. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68516; or alumni@ucollege.edu.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Academy Upcoming Events for 2013-2014. For more information on these events, contact the school at 920-623-3300.

- Feb. 1:** Junior Benefit
- April 3-5:** Elementary Music Festival
- April 25:** Alumni Golf Classic
- Apr. 25-27:** Alumni Homecoming 2014
- May 10:** Spring Concert
- May 23-25:** Graduation Weekend

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jan 3	Jan 10	Jan 17	Jan 24	Jan 31	Feb 7
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:26	5:33	5:41	5:49	5:58	6:07
Chicago, Ill.	4:31	4:38	4:46	4:54	5:03	5:12
Detroit, Mich.	5:12	5:18	5:26	5:35	5:44	5:53
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:32	5:38	5:46	5:54	6:02	6:10
La Crosse, Wis.	4:39	4:46	4:55	5:04	5:13	5:23
Lansing, Mich.	5:16	5:23	5:31	5:40	5:49	5:58
Madison, Wis.	4:34	4:41	4:49	4:58	5:07	5:17
Springfield, Ill.	4:46	4:52	5:00	5:08	5:16	5:24

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.herald.lakeunion.org>. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

Obituaries

BLOCK, Merle N., age 89; born April 19, 1924, in Manistee, Mich.; died Sept. 4, 2013, in Muskegon, Mich. He was a member of the Shelby (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Catherine (Kiestra) Koepke; son, Daniel; stepsons, James and Andrew Koepke; daughter, Cathy Vredevoogd; stepdaughters, Suzanne Hazlett and Sandra Hazlett; brothers, Neil, Donald and Bruce; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Ron Mills, and interment was in Rosedale Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Grand Rapids, Mich.

BURNHAM, Thomas L., age 75; born Dec. 31, 1937, in Jackson, Mich.; died Nov. 4, 2013, in Tecumseh, Mich. He was a member of the Tecumseh Church.

Survivors include his wife, Jacquelyn (Hubbard); son, Timothy; daughter, Teresa Burnham; and one step-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Fred Goliath, and interment was Roseland Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Jackson.

CHILDRESS, Keith L., age 57; born Aug. 1, 1956, in Detroit, Mich.; died Sept. 1, 2013, in Wyandotte, Mich. He was a member of the Ecorse (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Keith P. and Quintin L.; daughters, Jasmine S. Alessio and Camille M. Childress; stepdaughter, Kiarra C. Hubbard; father, Ralph; mother, Mildred (Brown); and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Errol Liverpool, and interment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

EDWARDS, June M. (Collins), age 89; born March 10, 1924, in Greybull, Wyo.; died Nov. 7, 2013, in Springfield, Ill. She was a member of the Springfield First Church.

Survivors include her son, Kenneth; daughters, Nancy Nelson-Perkins and Judy Gabrinias; brother, Norman Collins; eight grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Arthur Nelson, with private inurnment, Springfield.

FERGUSON, Lewis "Mick," age 78; born Nov. 7, 1934, in Ionia, Mich.; died Aug. 25, 2013, in Ionia. He was a member of the Ionia Church.

Survivors include his wife, Kathreen J. (Christensen); son, David; daughter, Debra Corn; adopted daughter, Vicki Ayers; brothers, Ken, Donald and Doug; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Jim Micheff Jr. and Monte Landis, and interment was in Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Ionia.

FRASER, Carolyn J. (Tremble), age 77; born Jan. 9, 1935, in Omer, Mich.; died April 11, 2012, in Saginaw, Mich. She was a member of the St. Charles (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Jerry; daughters, Barbara Clarke, Melanie Mann and Janet Isaac; sisters, Donna Myers and Audrey Burns; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Ben Garcia, with private inurnment, Hixson, Tenn.

FRASER, Jerry L., age 81; born June 19, 1932, in Muskegon Heights, Mich.; died Sept. 30, 2013, in Ringgold, Ga. He was a member of the St. Charles (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his daughters, Barbara Clarke, Melanie Mann and Janet Isaac; and one grandchild.

Private inurnment took place in Hixson, Tenn.

HOWARD, Juanita A. (Bryant), age 72; born Sept. 18, 1940, in Ecorse, Mich.; died

June 13, 2013, in Allen Park, Mich. She was a member of the Ecorse Church.

Survivors include her sons, Juan Jose and Cecil; daughters, Debra Stephens, and Mary and Artie Howard; sisters, Lillian Williams and Edith Caldwell; 16 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Errol Liverpool, with private inurnment, Ann Arbor, Mich.

HYDE, Irma E. (Sterling), age 95; born July 1, 1918, in Argentina; died Oct. 10, 2013, in Collegedale, Tenn. She was a member of the Wisconsin Academy Church, Columbus, Wis.

Survivors include her husband, Gordon; sons, Rodney and Bradley; daughter, Vickie Baily; brother, Stanley Sterling; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Rodney Hyde, with private inurnment.

LACOUNT, Charles K. "Chaunce," age 89; born Nov. 3, 1923, in Carney, Mich.; died July 24, 2013, in Escanaba, Mich. He was a member of the Wilson (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth (Schroeder); and daughter, Suzanne Hayford.

Funeral services were conducted by Anthony Ludwig, and interment was in Wilson Church Cemetery.

LAPE, Amber Lynn, age 20; born Oct. 5, 1992, in Tecumseh, Mich.; died Sept. 13, 2013, in Adrian, Mich. She was a member of the Tecumseh Church.

Survivors include her father, Kevin Findlay; mother, Diana Lynn (Cromwell); brothers, Craig, Dylan, Chris and Robert; grandparents, Gary and Jacki Cromwell, and Rose and Jerry Findlay.

Memorial services were conducted by Fred Goliath, with private inurnment, Adrian.

SNELL, John G., age 90; born May 31, 1923, in Watertown, Wis.; died Oct. 19, 2013, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Ruby (Brown); sons, Dennis and Douglas; daughters, Lynnece Abel and Joni King; brother, Gerald Snell; sister, Mae Gloede; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elia King and Ken Scribner, and inurnment was in Union Cemetery, Berrien Center, Mich.

THOMAS, Wilford F., age 85; born Sept. 26, 1928, in Gladwin, Mich.; died Oct. 5, 2013, in Cumming, Ga. He was a member of the Midland (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Fred, Ted, Ed and Randy; daughters, Cindy Richardson and Sandy Hansen; sisters, Esther O'Dell, Mildred Jupe, Thelma Herzberg and Erma Miller; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Darryl Bentley, and interment was in Midland City Cemetery.

VARGAS-HERNANDEZ, Alex R., age 48; born Aug. 27, 1965, in Arecibo, Puerto Rico; died Oct. 27, 2013, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Nereida (Hernandez); daughters, Nerialex and Rossenery Vargas; mother, Candida (Hernandez) Vargas; and brother, Melvin Vargas.

Funeral services were conducted by Erik Del Valle, Hernan Caceres, Jose Bourget and Marcelo Caceres, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

ZALABAK, Ruth (Kingman), age 89; born May 14, 1924, in Sagola, Mich.; died Sept. 29, 2013, in Marshfield, Wis. She was a member of the Marshfield Church.

Survivors include her sons, Ralph, David and John; daughter, Wilma Zalabak; brother, Jack Kingman; sisters, Nita LeBard and Neda Harrison; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Wilma Zalabak, and interment was in Bethel Church Cemetery, Arpin, Wis.

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: \$36 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$46 per insertion for all others. A form is available at <http://www.herald.lakeunion.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.herald.lakeunion.org>.

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LOOKING FOR AUTHORS who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc.). Also accepting children's books, mission stories, biographies and inspirational/doctrinal topics. For

more information, call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844.

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.

Travel/Vacation

COLLEGE DALE, TENN., GUESTHOUSE:

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Miscellaneous

WANTED TO BUY AND FOR SALE used SDA books, new or old, and "Your Story Hour" tapes. For more information, contact John at 269-781-6379 or send email to jfschico@aol.com.

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER 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! Call 800-634-9355 for more information, or visit <http://www.wildwoodhealth.org/life style>.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS

MASTER'S DEGREES in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may

be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit <https://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies>.

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.

BIKES FOR CUBA:

The Master of Divinity Program at Andrews University solicits your help. Participating in a mission opportunity in Havana, Cuba, this March, we are raising funds to provide Bible workers and pastors with 100 bicycles that will aid in their ministry. Equipping a pastor/Bible worker with a bicycle does not only mean affordable transportation, but means speeding up the soul-winning process as well. If you would like to make a contribution or learn more about this ministry, please visit <http://www.andrews.edu/sem/mdiv/bikes/>.

THE JACKSON (MICH.) CHURCH has a unique distinction of being the oldest continuous Adventist church in the world, founded in 1849. We are currently fundraising for a new church building. Gifts of love would help secure a piece of rich Adventist history of proclaiming the gospel. Thank you in advance for your generous support of our goal. Send contributions and inquiries to Jackson SDA Church, 3600 County Farm Rd., Jackson, MI 49201.

Employment

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

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks dynamic professional for position of Research Services Librarian who is committed to providing excellent public service, reference and information literacy instruction. Successful candidate will have a master's degree or

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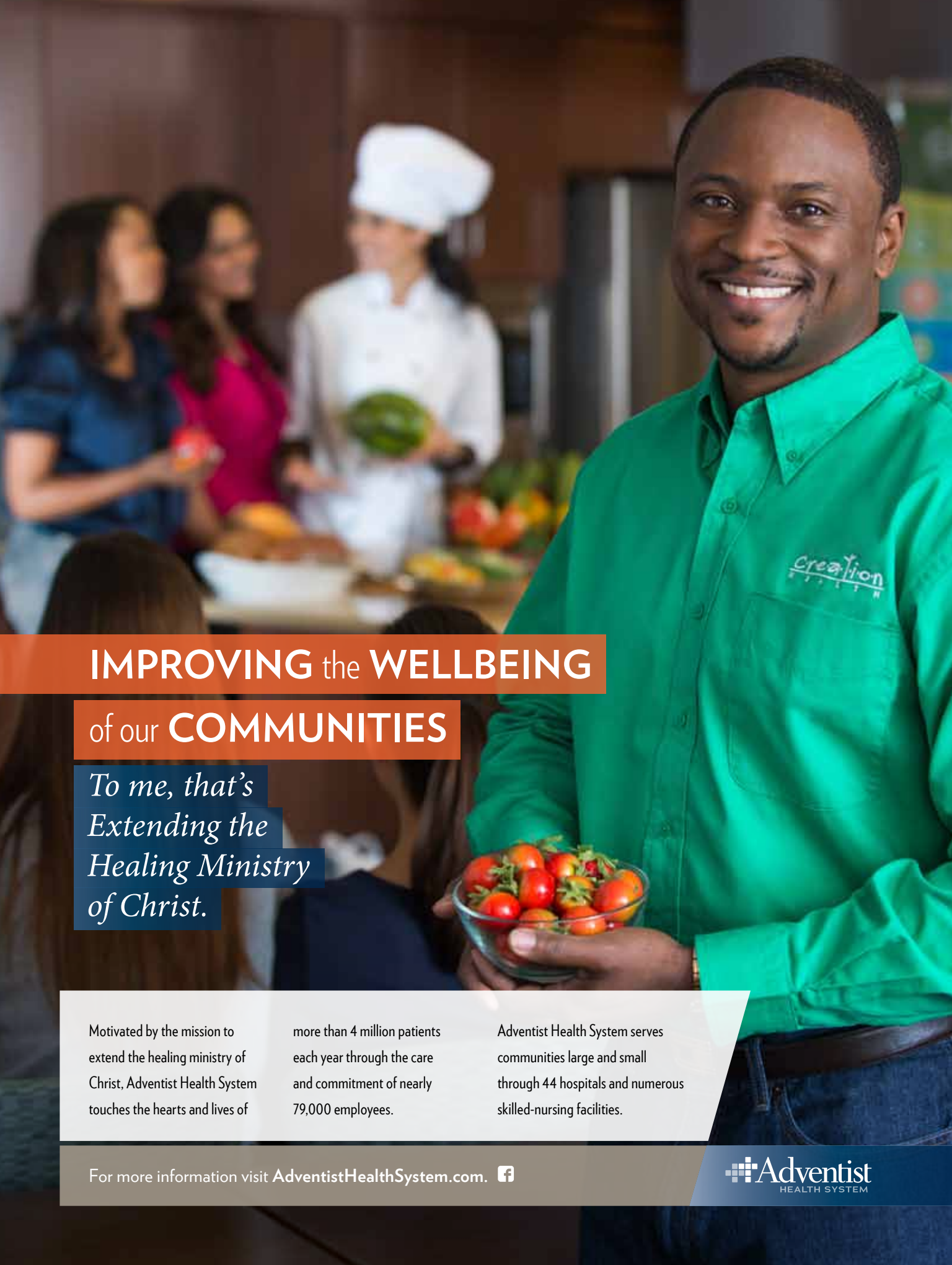
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higher in library/information science or related field, and will have an expressed commitment to Jesus Christ and be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good and regular standing. Must be comfortable with instructional technology. Prior library and/or teaching experience preferred. Send résumé and cover letter to dmaxwell@southern.edu.

CENTRAL VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, located in central Calif. with easy access to the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east and San Francisco and the Monterey coast to the west, is seeking an outstanding, well-organized music teacher to oversee instrumental and vocal classes for grades 3-12. Our ideal candidate will have a track record of success in engaging students in music. A bachelor's degree in music is required along with SDA Denominational Certification. Email résumés to Wayne Dunbar at principal@cvca online.net.

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Native English speaker, hold a bachelor's degree, preferably with some teaching experience. Education Center run by Adventist professionals. For more information, visit <http://sgg.com.sg/career/jobs.htm> or email gateway@sgg.com.sg.

LOMA LINDA SCHOOL OF RELIGION invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track position in its ethics area to begin Aug. 15, 2014. We seek candidates who have Ph.D.'s in theology or philosophy, or a related area. For more information, immediately contact gheinrich@llu.edu.

BETTER LIFE TELEVISION: Seeking broadcast engineer for 20 stations and Grants Pass, Ore., headquarters. Requires knowledge of RF broadcast engineering, FCC regulations. SDA member in good standing. Send résumé to Ron@BetterLifeTV.tv.

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking a law student for a 6- to 8-week summer clerkship in 2014. This position is limited to students who have finished only one year of law school.

Ideal candidates would be in the top 25% of their class. Duties include legal research and other projects. Please send résumé and transcript to david.gordon@ahss.org

Real Estate/Housing

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, independent living, nursing home and transportation as needed. For more information, visit <http://www.summitridgevillage.org>, or call Bill Norman at 405-208-1289.

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD Shining Like Stars

BY GARY BURNS



We wonder how the people could have been so blind as to not have seen and known what Jesus was all about. Not even His closest companions understood that this Messiah's kingdom was not of this world. All their hopes and dreams of a return to the glory days of David's kingdom were shattered that dark Friday afternoon.

Today, it appears that more and more believers are putting their confidence in their leaders rather than God. Many of Christ's modern-day followers have forgotten His words: *My Kingdom is not of this world* (John 18:36 NIV), and their hopes and dreams also will be shattered. To them, the prophet Jeremiah delivers a message: *Cursed is the one who trusts in man, and Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him* (Jeremiah 17:5, 7 NIV).

Paul provides a clear citizenship contrast: *Many live as enemies of the cross ... their minds are set on earthly things, but our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a savior from there* (Philippians 3:18-20 NIV).

How does a not-of-this-world citizen live? *They do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that [they] may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then [they] will shine among them like stars in the sky* (Philippians 2:14, 15 NIV).

Heaven's citizens should make a difference, not in the demonstration of political, economic or military power, but in the power and influence of a pure and blameless life, the inevitable result of their partnership with God.

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

Why I'm Still in the Church

BY PARIS ROLLINS

First of all, it's because I grew up Seventh-day Adventist, but it's not why I stayed. I was brought up in the Church. Because both of my parents went to Seminary, I grew up knowing a lot of the doctrine. I knew what the Bible said on this, what the Bible said on that, and I understood a lot of it, but I feel like, at the same time, there were some things I missed. I got so much information that, somewhere, I missed the heart of it. I knew everything I was supposed to know.

I was baptized when I was 11 years old. Somehow, in the midst of getting baptized, I didn't quite understand it, I don't think. I thought that when I got baptized that meant I had to be a new creature, which meant I couldn't sin anymore. I had to be perfect or as close to perfect as possible from then on out. That's a lot of pressure for an 11-year-old. That is part of what broke me when I got older; I asked, "God, why do You have these expectations of me? You can't expect me to be perfect!"

I got so frustrated I wanted to give up on God but, because of my background, I couldn't completely let go. I knew that if I did, that was the end! So, I struggled with God for a couple years just where I was, "I know I need to follow You, but I don't want to." Finally, He brought me to the point where He showed me that it wasn't about what I had to offer Him; it was about the fact that I was willing to give myself to Him and He loved me for that.



Paris Rollins

It wasn't until later that I was able to go back and look past the information I received from my parents to see that what they really had inside was the love of Jesus. I realized that when I was about 15, and that's when I really started to make God my own and come into my own personal relationship with Him — where it wasn't all about me, but it was about Him with me. That's when I started to see God doesn't expect us to be perfect. He expects us to follow Him and to search after Him, even if we have to crawl toward Him, even if we can't run. That's all He wants from us.

I decided to get re-baptized when I understood that baptism is not me stopping my sin. It's me giving myself to God and allowing Him to do what He wants with me.

Paris Rollins is a junior at Andrews University, majoring in Pre-med/ Behavioral Neuroscience. Paris plans to become a neurosurgeon. She lives with her mom in Kaneohe, Hawaii, and attends the Honolulu Central Church. Paris shared her story with the *Herald* in 2012, when a staff member at Camp Akita.

Hotel Ministries

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. — Isaiah 58:10 NIV

Michael Rayos is no stranger to community service. The high school junior has served food to Hotel Yorba residents since before he can remember. Thanks to his father, who took over their church's Yorba Ministries some 15 years ago, Michael has learned to appreciate the simple things in life.



Michael Rayos

Hotel Yorba, in Detroit, exists to house low-income residents and those without a home. Once a month, Michael, his father and several members from the Warren Church spend the afternoon at the hotel and serve warm lunches to its residents.

"When we get there, we prepare the meal, go upstairs and start knocking on the doors to tell everybody that dinner is ready," says Michael. "We pray with them and serve the food."

During these Sabbath afternoons, Michael and the church members work hard to make the residents feel cared for. Depending on who makes the dinner, hotel guests may enjoy spaghetti, sloppy joes or shepherd's pie, as well as fruit, chips, dessert and bottled water for their meal. The food is served in an assembly-line style where church members can talk to and catch up with the residents.

"It's just a fun, simple way to help people out and do God's work," says Michael. "I feel really content and happy when we're done."

Michael says he's learned a lot from his experiences at Yorba. He claims to understand better the importance of not judging others, saying, "Everyone has their own story" and "You never know what someone has gone through or what they're going through." He also has learned not to take things like air-conditioning and home-cooked meals for granted.

Besides this outreach, Michael enjoys playing music at his church. He often performs pieces on the guitar and even picked up the trumpet several years ago. He also has witnessed to community members by doing literature evangelism.

Wherever he ends up in life, Michael has one goal: to be extremely happy.

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

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