

Lake Union HERALD

JUNE/JULY 2015

 **Adventist**
HEALTH SYSTEM

Extending the healing ministry of Christ



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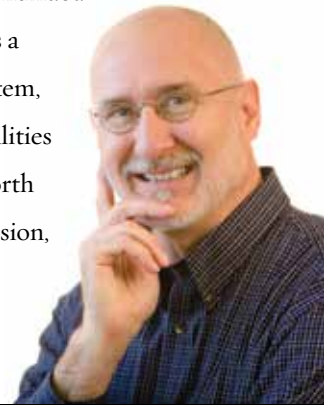
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In this issue...

Since the opening of the Western Health Reform Institute in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1866, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has continued to provide a biblical perspective on healthcare. We see this as a divinely-appointed responsibility. The Adventist Health System, based in Altamonte Springs, Florida, operates healthcare facilities in Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Texas, Tennessee and Wisconsin, and has as its mission, "Extending the Healing Ministry of a Christ."

Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor



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The Remnant and Its Mission: Part II

I pray last month's editorial brought some reflection on what it means to be part of God's remnant. Here is a review of the first part of our belief on the remnant and its mission: "The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."*

So what would called-out or remnant people look like? They keep the commandments of God in the context of living in and by the faith of Jesus. In other words, they receive the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Their faith is totally focused and dependent on Jesus. The result is a person holy in heart and conversation, elevated and refined; a sanctified partaker of the Divine nature (See *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 451).

Having received this message of truth in the revelation of Jesus Christ, they embrace the discipline of Christ that brings unity. The remnant will not be at variance, one believing one thing, and another having faith and views entirely opposite, each moving independently of the Body. Through the diversity of the gifts and governments that Jesus has placed in the Church, they will all come to the unity of the faith (See *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, p. 446).

The remnant sense their great need of Jesus and feel a dependence on him as their counselor, guide and protector. They spend much time in prayer, pleading that their faith will be strengthened to take God at his word (see *Review & Herald*, April 8, 1884).

Here are some behaviors inconsistent with the remnant: 1) the tendency to be separate and isolated — rarely interacting with anyone outside their faith group; 2) choosing to tell truth in ways that offend and drive people away rather than drawing them toward our Savior; 3) the inclination to persecute and condemn others who do not view things exactly as they do; and 4) having a focus on self-preservation rather than placing self on the altar of sacrifice for the salvation of others.

Now for the second part... "This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14."*

The remnant are moved with compassion by their love for Jesus to raise the voice of hope and warning to those around them (see *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, p. 176). It's a sobering thought to realize *only the remnant will be saved* (Romans 9:27 NIV), yet we are to extend the invitation to *everyone*. The apostle Paul reminds us that God does not show favoritism (see Romans 2:11).

In the cities and nations of our world, there will be found among unbelievers a remnant which will appreciate the blessed Word and receive the Savior. Christ will give men and women power to become sons and daughters of God (see *Review & Herald*, November 10, 1904).

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes... For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith" (Romans 1:16–17 NIV).

Please join me in accepting the invitation to be included among God's faithful remnant by making a commitment to keep the commandments of God, have the faith of Jesus, and accept Christ's commission to extend the invitation to all.

*See "Remnant and Its Mission," SDA Church Fundamental Belief No. 13



Strategies for Difficult Disagreements

BY JERRY N. PAGE

“I do some of my worst sinning when I am right,” a pastor friend once shared. I, too, have a list of such experiences. Some years ago, I worked with someone who had influence and responsibility in our conference. Even though we worked well in many situations, he and I disagreed quite often. Let’s just say we were on different sides of the fence — not in our fundamental beliefs and dedication to God’s work, but over methods and priority needs.

Sometimes our disagreements became passionate, even somewhat argumentative. Though I prayed and prayed about this, read Scripture and inspired writings, I was very convinced I was right about some principles of how the work should be done. I felt I had inspired writings on my side. Unfortunately, my friend felt he was very right, too!

As challenges to the ministry continued to mount, we established a select committee to work on improving all aspects of the ministry, though still more tension between this director and me surfaced. At times, we both handled our disagreements well and sometimes apologized if we got too forceful. But the people around us struggled with our disagreements and the tension they caused. Two years later, some areas were still not resolved.

We were seeing answers to prayer in that ministry, yet hadn’t seen the breakthroughs for which we hoped. In fact, we were at a logjam just at the time a meeting was scheduled to make final decisions. We all knew it would be a difficult meeting with a lot of disagreement.

I woke up early that morning, dedicating my time to the Lord. God began to bring conviction to my heart, regarding this friend, as I worshiped.



Jerry N. Page

As the Lord so often does, he set a mirror in front of me that allowed me to see my wrong spirit and un-Christlike behavior. I confessed my sin and asked for real repentance.

Then God gave direction. *Oh no, not that! Would I have to publicly ask for forgiveness from him in front of the whole committee? I hate that!* But God continued to convict me of my need to be reconciled with this brother.

At breakfast, I told my wife, Janet, what the Lord had impressed me to do. She got this look on her face like, *Oh, wow! He did it*

again! Then she told me the Lord had awakened her about 2:00 that morning. When God disturbs her sleep, she asks what she should pray about. This morning, she was impressed to pray for reconciliation between this man and me. This strong confirmation from Janet sent me straight to the committee with a clear mission.

After prayer and a few words, I jumped into my apology to this man for my selfish spirit and how I had too often treated him. I had tears, of course. He rose up and put his arms around me, and we hugged in a wonderful embrace. Then he said his own little piece about how the Lord had been convicting him that we just both had been through

different experiences in life, and he, too, wanted to work much better together. Tears all around, and Jesus in the room! Then we all had a time of group prayer together. It was beautiful!

We had an amazing set of agreements on difficult topics that day, and moved ahead in very positive ways. My friend and I were each still convinced of our perspectives, but could now work together with our hearts in one accord. That is God's strategy for dealing with each other even when we disagree about what is right and good for his church.

God's strategy is always for each of us to personally come in to his presence with open hearts to hear his word, ready to confess and make things right as he convicts us. Prayer changes all of us and every situation as God changes our hearts.

I have discovered that while our Lord has strategies to keep us united through major disagreements, Satan also has a set of strategies to divide us — even our own passionate concern for truth against false teachings expressed in the wrong spirit.

When Satan sends a false teaching into the midst of God's people, he has several strategies to lead us outside the Lord's will. Here are five of them.

1. The false teaching. Satan's first strategy is to mislead through people who promote the false teaching. It is often a close counterfeit designed with much truth yet includes a devastating error. Our safety is to prayerfully study the inspired writings for ourselves and not trust others' opinions. *To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them* (Isaiah 8:20 KJV). God has promised the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth (see John 16:13).

2. A motivation of fear. A secondary strategy, accompanying the false teaching, is one that can lead an even larger group of conscientious believers astray. As "teachers" seek to intensely warn of the false, they lead others to become so afraid of the false that they miss the great truths being counterfeited, which are essential to their spiritual growth in the Lord. *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind* (2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV).

3. Bearing false witness. In zeal to expose false teachings, many of us break the ninth commandment (see Exodus 20:16). Many find it easy to pass along the latest rumor, or supposed fact, that labels someone as a false teacher when we have not followed the counsel of Matthew 18 and gone to the source first.

4. Playing it safe by not speaking up. When we encounter a false teaching, one danger is for us to shy away from speaking up about it because of the controversy and not wanting to be labeled or attacked. However, it remains our responsibility as Christians, and especially as pastoral leaders, to love our people enough to warn them of the dangers that could ruin their souls.

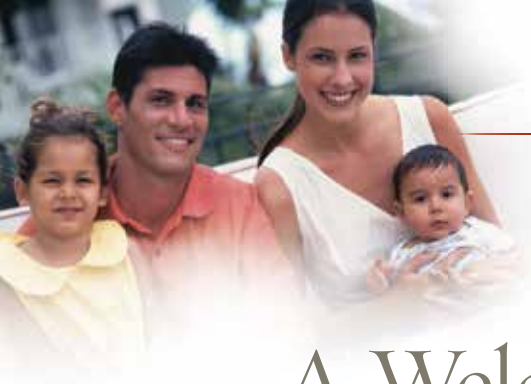
"Precious truth must be presented in its native force. The deceptive errors that are widespread, and that are leading the world captive, are to be unveiled. Every effort possible is being made to ensnare souls with subtle reasonings, to turn them from the truth to fables, and to prepare them to be deceived by strong delusions" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 242).

5. A harmful approach. *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted* (Galatians 6:1 NKJV). Even if we are right about the facts, if we are wrong in spirit we can cause great harm as we warn others of a false teaching.

Ellen White presents a needed balance: "But while these deceived souls turn from the truth to error, do not speak to them one word of censure. Seek to show these poor, deluded souls their danger, and to reveal to them how grievous is their course of action toward Jesus Christ; but let it all be done in pitying tenderness. By a proper manner of labor some of the souls who are ensnared by Satan may be recovered from his power. But do not blame and condemn them. To ridicule the position held by those who are in error, will not open their blind eyes, nor attract them to the truth. When men lose sight of Christ's example, and do not pattern after his manner of teaching, they become self-sufficient, and go forth to meet Satan with his own manner of weapons" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 242–243).

The Lord's people in the Book of Acts had the secret. They spent much time in corporate prayer, studied the Word, confessed and repented of all sin, fellowshiped together in a one-accord spirit, while being personally involved in the mission of sharing Jesus. The result was Pentecost and the gospel going to their world in 25 years. They came through some very difficult issues together while keeping their focus on their main mission to seek and save the lost. We can do the same if we embrace God's presence and power in our lives!

Jerry N. Page is secretary of the Ministerial Association of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church, which is headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland.



FAMILY TIES

A Welcome Hospital Visitor

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Most visitors mean well, but too many get it wrong. They head to the hospital to visit the sick without giving it much thought. There are things you should do to help make experience both positive and safe for you and the patient. Your relationship with the patient and familiarity with the hospital's policies and procedures make a difference. Visit the hospital's website beforehand to learn current visitation policies.

When you arrive, check in with the nurses station to be sure it is a good time to visit, and find out how many visitors the patient has had already for the day. Too many visitors wear on the patient, and it may be better to leave a note for them to read later.

Don't wake the patient or enter if hospital staff is in the room. If the door is closed, check with the nurse to be sure you should enter. Be sure to wash your hands or use sanitizer before each visit. When you enter the room, note the time and plan to stay 20 minutes or less. Making physical contact and sitting down, rather than standing at the end of the bed, make for a more comfortable visit. Turn off your cell phone, or put it on vibrate, and be fully present.

Let the patient guide the topic of conversation, allowing them to decide if they want to tell you how they are feeling. If staff comes into the room, excuse yourself unless you are there as an official advocate.

If other visitors are in the room, it's important to focus on the patient. Sometimes visitors get so involved in their own conversations that the patient goes almost unnoticed. Be aware that even if a patient is heavily sedated, they may observe what's happening in the room.

Gifts can uplift a patient's spirit, but be careful. Some hospitals don't allow fresh flowers, fresh fruit, or latex balloons. Some helpful items for patients include lip balm, pen



and notepad, a sleep mask, and even clean underwear! A Scripture verse written greeting card will be welcomed by most. Gifts of service can include offering to care for a pet, picking up the mail, cancelling an appointment, or offering to just sit quietly while the patient closes their eyes and rests in your presence.

What isn't helpful is for a visitor to

make the offer, "Call me if there's something we can do." Love is specific!

Some hospitals allow children to visit, but be sure that is the patient's desire. Little ones can bring great joy in times of distress but, for some, they cause needless discomfort and can be carriers of other germs and infections. If you are not well yourself, consider a phone call or card. Even if you cannot visit in person, your prayers will be appreciated.

As you prepare to leave, offering to pray for the patient can be powerful and comforting for all. If the patient so desires, a short prayer is in order. Consider sharing, *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need* (Hebrews 4:16 KJV).

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

Note: People can share updates, photos and videos, connecting with friends and family who care and want to help, with free sites such as <http://CaringBridge.org>

Refined sugar
and processed oils
are eliminated.

The Paleo Plan

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

It's highly endorsed
by celebrities.

“We guarantee you’ll lose weight and live longer.” Claims like this abound in the media, extolling the virtues of various diets. The latest is the Paleo Plan, presently one of the most popular weight-loss diets. It was the most searched for diet plan on Google in 2013. Paleo cookbooks have become bestsellers.

The Paleo Plan emphasizes eating like our ancient ancestors. It is hypothesized that people lived a healthier lifestyle before all of the modern food processing and high-calorie fast food existed, along with high rates of obesity, heart disease and diabetes. Proponents for the diet conjecture that humans have not metabolically adapted to the rapidly-changing Western diet resulting from modern food processing, animal-rearing practices and crop manipulation of the past 100 years or so. Critics of the Paleo Plan argue that it is an excessive food energy intake along with a sedentary lifestyle that is more likely to be the underlying factors for the high level of chronic diseases associated with Western lifestyle.

Loren Cordain popularized the Paleo Plan, or “Caveman Diet” as it is often called. The diet he described emphasizes the foods that could only be obtained by hunting and gathering, such as wild game, fruits, nuts, non-starchy vegetables and fish. Missing from the menu would be legumes, grains and dairy, foods that generally are associated with modern farming. Dietary choices that eliminate two or more food groups raise dietary concerns such as nutrient deficiencies. A limited intake of nutrients such as calcium, certain minerals, many trace elements, a lot of B vitamins and fiber would be expected on the Paleo Plan. Archeological research suggests that early human diets probably included wild grains.

While there are no long-term clinical studies detailing the benefits or potential risks of the Paleo Plan, research



has shown that unrefined grains and legumes play an important role in the protection against heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer. In a national survey, people who ate legumes at least four times a week had a 22 percent lower risk of heart disease compared with non-consumers. In the Shanghai Women’s Health Study,

a regular consumption of legumes was associated with a 38 percent reduced risk of diabetes.

Of concern, the Paleo Plan typically emphasizes a higher protein, fat and meat intake than normally recommended by health authorities. On the positive side, foods that are highly restricted or avoided in the Paleo Plan include processed oils, refined sugar, alcohol and salt. Starchy vegetables also are restricted in the Paleo Plan.

The British Dietetic Association recently called the Paleo diet an unbalanced diet and a sure-fire way to develop nutrient deficiencies and compromise your health. They reported that the Paleo Plan ranked second among the top five worst celebrity diets to avoid in 2015. The *New York Post* ranked the Paleo Plan last on its list of the worst diets of 2014. So then, why are people attracted to follow this diet? Are they looking for some magical solution to lose weight and get lured by celebrity endorsement to follow a diet with unproven claims?

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., RD, lives in Walla Walla, Washington. He is a professor emeritus of nutrition at Andrews University.



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

The Power of Love

BY ELLEN G. WHITE

Do a Google search for “love medicine healing” and you’ll get over 14 million results claiming physical healing through some type of mind-body, psychological or transcendental experience, though the scientific support is, at best, sketchy. However, there is a much-overlooked biblical perspective that calls us to engage personally in God’s power to bring healing to ourselves, our church and others through love. —The Editors

“**T**he power of love was in all Christ’s healing, and only by partaking of that love, through faith, can we be instruments for His work. If we neglect to link ourselves in divine connection with Christ, the current of life-giving energy cannot flow in rich streams from us to the people. There were places where the Saviour himself could not do many mighty works because of their unbelief. So now unbelief separates the church from her divine Helper. Her hold upon eternal realities is weak. By her lack of faith, God is disappointed, and robbed of His glory.

“It is in doing Christ’s work that the church has the promise of his presence. ‘Go ... *teach all nations,*’ He said; ‘*and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*’ (Matthew 28:19–20 KJV). To take His yoke is one of the first conditions of receiving His power. The very life of the church depends upon her faithfulness in fulfilling the Lord’s commission. To neglect this work is surely to invite spiritual feebleness and decay. Where there is no active labor for others, love wanes, and faith grows dim...

“Divine love has been stirred to its unfathomable depths for the sake of men, and angels marvel to behold in the recipients of so great love a mere surface gratitude. Angels marvel at man’s shallow appreciation of the love of God. Heaven stands indignant at the neglect shown to the souls of men. Would we know how Christ regards it? How would a father and mother feel, did they know that their child, lost in the cold and the snow, had been passed by, and left to perish, by those who might have saved it? Would they not be terribly grieved, wildly indignant? Would they not denounce those murderers with wrath hot as their tears, intense as their love? The sufferings of every man are the sufferings of God’s child, and those who reach out no

helping hand to their perishing fellow beings provoke His righteous anger. This is the wrath of the Lamb. To those who claim fellowship with Christ, yet have been indifferent to the needs of their fellow men, He will declare in the great Judgment day, ‘*I know you not whence ye are; depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity*’ (Luke 13:27 KJV)” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 825).

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 is the source of life-giving energy and how is it appropriated?
- Have you experienced the “current of life-giving energy” flowing from you to someone else?
- How is God robbed of his glory?
- What is the wrath of the Lamb and how is it expressed?

The Lake Union Herald editors

Prayer, Fasting and Divine Protection

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

We are living in the midst of a hostile environment. Paul says as much to the church in Ephesus: *Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms* (Ephesians 6:12 NIV). Evil forces are trying to influence us through media to indulge in a host of self-appeasing sins. By nature, we are vulnerable to these attacks and need the protection that comes from God.

The Bible teaches us to think of prayer and fasting as key elements in Divine protection. That was true, for example, in the story of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, when confronted by a vast multinational army with the potential power to crush the people of Judah. Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast and the people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord. Humbly in prayer they said, *"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you"* (2 Chronicles. 20:12 NIV). As a result, God heard their prayers, spoke words of reassurance, and then came to their defense thoroughly routing the enemy. The day of deliverance ended with a joyful celebration.

When preparing to lead a large group of Jewish captives from Persia back to Jerusalem, Ezra also thought he should appeal for God's protection by means of prayer and fasting. Though God had directed this mission, Ezra did not presume that prayer was not needed. He understood that Divine protection was not automatic. *"I proclaimed a fast,"* said Ezra, *"so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions"* (Ezra 8:21 NIV). They prayed knowing *the gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him* (Ezra 8:22 NIV). God acknowledged their fast, heard their prayers, and answered with the gift of his Divine protection.

God wants to protect us just as much as he wanted to protect the people we meet in the stories of

Jehoshaphat and Ezra. But we do need to ask. With evil forces disrupting society, countering the truth of the gospel, and seeking to destroy the church, there is need for prayer and fasting. Christians who are struggling with sins like lust, greed, addictions, anger and selfish ambitions should be doing battle against these acts of the sinful nature with fasting and prayer. Parents and grandparents need to fast and pray for God to deliver their children and grandchildren from evil. We need multitudes of Christians seeking the Lord in fasting and prayer for the protection of his church.

God promises to protect us from our enemies, but his protection does not come automatically. We have a responsibility in securing that protection. We must ask. We may even need to enhance our asking by fasting. Is that something you are ready to do?

Why is prayer necessary to secure God's protection? Why doesn't God just always protect us automatically?

When might God want you to add fasting to prayer?

Tell God you are willing to accept a prayer and fasting assignment from him. Ask him for directions. Wait on his directions. Carry out the assignment that he gives with joy, peace and confidence.

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



SHARING *our* HOPE

Natural Encounters with God

BY RYAN ST. HILLAIRE

“God answered our prayers! God answered our prayers!” Donquarius yelled as he ran passionately down toward the beach. I unzipped my tent and peeked out to see what all the excitement was about. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing! The sky was completely calm and clear, and the sun was beating its warm rays across Lake Superior’s glassy surface. Just yesterday, an ominous thick fog and rain clouds thoroughly soaked our backpacking caravan. A national park ranger had passed us en route to our campground, and informed us that the next few days would be very wet and cold. What we were witnessing, on this particular morning, was nothing short of a miracle.

Just a few months prior to this, God impressed me with the idea of taking a small group of inner-city youth into the wilderness for the purpose of reconnecting with their Creator. The theory was that if we could prayerfully disconnect a group of urban youth from the noise of their media-consumed lives, we might be able to catalyze a powerful encounter with God. And so, in July of last year, with



Unscene Media Group, Inc., introduces inner-city youth to their Creator in a wilderness experience.

Ryan St. Hillaire

the help of a few sponsors, our ministry embarked with five city boys into the back country of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. That first day was terrible. The air was so thick with mosquitoes we could barely open our mouth without sampling a crunchy bug snack. And then the rain came, in a drenching fury that seemed like it would wash away every ounce of determination in our small group. I was at the rear of our mud-trudging crew, praying silently, “Lord, *please* change the weather... We brought these boys out here to encounter you. Please don’t let them get discouraged on the first day!” After several long moments of pleading with God, I felt impressed that he was going to do something amazing for us, but only after hearing the honest request directly from our boys.

Listening to the raw, genuine prayers of those boys — some of whom I imagine have never really prayed a day in

their life — was a blessing. But what really warmed my heart was when they started praying for each other: “God, please help Don’s feet to stop hurting, so he can make it on the hike tomorrow.” From our very first Bible study and prayer session, I knew in my heart that God was going to answer their prayers as a means of revealing his love to them. Providing these five boys with the opportunity to meet their Creator, in his creation, was such a powerful experience — not only for them but, also, for the three leaders of our trip. It helped us all realize that indeed God is a personal, caring God who inclines his ear to hear even the smallest requests. Our God desires to reveal his love to us if we will just stop and listen for his voice, and look for his fingerprints.

Please add our ministry to your prayer list as we continue to seek innovative ways to share the experience of God’s love with those who need it. You can watch the trailer for our Wilderness Encounter TV series online at <http://www.unscene.me/wilderness>.

Ryan St. Hillaire is executive director of UnScene Media Group, Inc.



Unidad en la diversidad: Nuestro gran desafío

POR CARMELO MERCADO

La Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día celebrará su sexagésima sesión general el mes próximo en la ciudad de San Antonio, estado de Texas. Es la opinión de muchos que sea posiblemente una de las sesiones más controversiales hasta el momento. En la sesión que se realizó en el año 2010, se votó organizar la “Comisión de Estudio de la Teología de la Ordenación” con el fin de que ésta estudiase el tema de la ordenación de la mujer. Después de una consideración cuidadosa esta comisión no pudo llegar a un consenso acerca de la ordenación de la mujer al ministerio, pero en su informe sí presentó tres posiciones diferentes sobre el tema. Presento a continuación en forma muy abreviada estas tres posiciones.

La primera posición afirma que la Biblia enseña que no se debe permitir la ordenación de la mujer porque en la Sagrada Escritura no hay ningún ejemplo de una sacerdotisa y porque la Biblia enseña que la mujer no debe tener autoridad sobre el hombre.

La segunda posición sostiene que tanto en el Antiguo Testamento como en el Nuevo hay ejemplos de mujeres que fueron líderes, y que de acuerdo con Gálatas 3:26-28 todos son iguales a los ojos de Dios y que Dios no discrimina.

La tercera posición entiende que la Biblia prefiere el liderazgo masculino. Sin embargo, Dios ha tenido la tendencia de hacer excepciones en algunos casos, por ejemplo cuando Dios permitió que Israel tuviera un rey. Los que creen en esta posición dicen que es un asunto de política eclesiástica y no un imperativo moral; como consecuencia creen que se debe permitir que cada división decida lo que es mejor para su territorio.

Este informe se presentó al Concilio Anual y se decidió finalmente presentar el asunto para voto a la Sesión General en forma de la siguiente pregunta: “Después de un estudio con mucha oración, sobre la ordenación, tanto en la Biblia como en los escritos de Elena G. White y los informes de las comisiones de estudio y después de cuidadosa consideración de lo que es mejor para la Iglesia y el cumplimiento de su misión, ¿es aceptable para las juntas directivas de las divisiones, según lo ven

apropiado en su territorio, hacer provisión para la ordenación de mujeres al ministerio evangélico? Sí o No”.

No es fácil que se logre un consenso sobre este asunto. En los estudios hechos por cada división, es interesante notar que cinco de ellas afirman la ordenación de la mujer, cuatro de ellas no lo aceptan, tres de ellas dicen “quizás” y una dice es mejor esperar hasta que se estudie aún más.

Se hizo una encuesta en la misma comisión de la ordenación de lo que cada miembro cree y los resultados son impactantes – 32 de ellos creen que solamente el hombre debe ser ordenado, 40 de ellos creen que las entidades que emplean pastores deben decidir si quieren ordenar o no, y 22 de ellos creen que se debe considerar el liderazgo masculino como lo ideal pero creen también que Dios no es un Dios exigente en este asunto y que se puede permitir la ordenación de la mujer si la entidad gobernadora lo permite.

De paso, si desean leer el informe completo (está en inglés) y también el informe de la División Norteamericana que está también en español pueden dirigirse a la siguiente página web: <http://multiculturalministries.lakeunion.org/>.

Al aproximarse esta sesión tan histórica quiero animar a la hermandad a que ore mucho para que la voluntad de Dios sea hecha y que la iglesia se mantenga unida.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



Just in Time

BY TERRI SAELEE

I stopped by a store this afternoon to pick up a few things on my way home; when I got back to the car, I noticed my lights were on but very dim. Evidently, I had turned them on in the dark, rainy weather, and now the car wouldn't start. The engine wouldn't even turn over.

Thankfully, my husband had equipped the car with jumper cables, so I unwound them, praying that, if it was God's will, someone would be willing to help me before too long. I was surrounded by parked cars, so I wasn't sure just how someone would get close enough to jump-start my car, unless they were parked nearby. I got out and lifted the hood, holding the jumper cables.

About that time, the driver just to the left of the car directly in front of and facing mine came out of the store, quickly hopped in, and left. *The jumper cables might not have reached anyway*, I told myself.

I noticed there were two people sitting in passenger seats in the car to my right, so I went over and asked if they could help, but the young woman, in the front seat, told me her mother was in the store. Her brother, who appeared to be in his early 20s, just looked at me, suspiciously, from the back seat. I guessed that probably, if they really had wanted to help, they could have just pulled the latch from the inside and I could have opened the hood and hooked up the jumper cables myself, but they didn't seem too excited about the idea of helping this stranger, so I didn't want to push it.

Just then, the driver of the car to their right got in her car. I approached her car window to ask her if she would give me a jump start. She intently avoided eye contact as long as she could, then opened her window just wide enough to tell me she had to go.



When Terri Saelee was stranded in a parking lot and needed a jump-start, she was surprised when the answer to her prayers arrived.

Janessa Saelee

I went back to my car and hung the jumper cables on the corner of the raised hood, wondering what to do. I noticed that there was now an empty parking space to the left of my car. Just then, a pickup truck pulled up and parked in that spot. To my surprise, the driver popped his hood, almost before he came to a stop! He obviously had assessed the situation and was already planning to help. As he got out, I didn't even have to ask for help. He came around the front of

his truck, commenting that it was just perfect that his battery was on the right side (the side closest to my car).

As he took the jumper cables and connected them as quickly and easily as if he was a mechanic, I thanked him and said, "This is an answer to prayer!"

His response was as quick and natural as his willingness to help. He replied, "God works in marvelous ways." He evidently believed in God, too.

The stranger said I could probably go ahead and try to start it. I did, and it started immediately. As he removed the jumper cables for me, he reminded me to keep the car running for at least ten minutes to make sure the battery was charged up. I asked if I could give him something.

He extended his hand. "How about this?" he asked, as he gave me a hearty handshake.

I was so thankful, I said, "God bless you!" "God bless you, too!" he said.

As I got in my car, I breathed a prayer of thanks for the answer to prayer.

He turned off his pickup truck and started to walk behind my car to go into the store. Then he came back around to my window and commented that if I knew any high school-age kids, they were having open registration at Wisconsin Academy.

“Wisconsin Academy?” I exclaimed in surprise.

He answered my unspoken question. “I am the new History teacher there this year.”

Praise the Lord for Tyler Cantrell, and teachers like him who live their faith on campus and off!

Terri Saelee is the Adventist refugee and immigrant ministries coordinator for the North American Division. She lives in Rio, Wisconsin.

God Was Our Realtor

BY DAVID LOPEZ

Our pastor, Abraham Swamidass, preached a sermon about how all riches belong to God, asking what each of us would do if God entrusted us with additional resources.

During this time, unfortunate events forced us to sell our house in a hurry. My wife and I talked about the pastor’s sermon and decided we would make God our partner.

We prayed about the house and came up with a specific amount we needed in order to pay our debt and prepare for the uncertain future we were going to face. We promised God to return to him any amount over the part that we needed to pay our bills.

We could not afford to fix up the house or work with a realtor. The house was in reasonable condition, so we put it on the market in July 2014. Shortly after we listed our house, we found out that two neighbors also planned to sell their houses, and theirs were nicer. We prayed about it, and let God be our realtor.

We had a few showings but no offers. In August 2014, we received a very low offer. Accepting the offer would mean no money left for the church, other than tithing. My wife said, “What if it is the only offer we get?”

I reassured her that our prayers would be answered. I was equally worried, but we decided to remain firm in our trust in God.

In September 2014, we accepted an offer for the price we had in mind. The offer met our needs and left more



David Lopez and his wife, Noí Sinouthasy, members of the Madison Community Church, are pictured with their daughter, Dara Rasami Lopez. They recognize how God miraculously sold their home and provided for their needs.

than twice what tithing would have been for the church. The day after we accepted the offer, a neighbor put his house on the market. If this had taken place just a few days before, we would have lost the sale to our neighbor.

Accepting an offer that met our needs would have been a great end to the story, but God had more in store for us. A couple weeks later, the buyer made a counter offer to their original offer. The buyer wanted to offer us more money for our house. We were surprised, but gladly accepted the new offer from the same buyer.

The new offer not only helped us, but also helped our neighbors. By increasing the sale price of our house, our neighbors were able to ask for more money for their houses, and we were able to give more to God.

We were reassured of something we already knew — God is faithful and his promises are eternal. Although we still face an uncertain future, we trust God will continue to provide for us.

David Lopez and Noí Sinouthasy are members of the Madison Community Church. They shared their story with Titus Naftanalia, coordinator of Stewardship Ministries for the Wisconsin Conference.

Strengthening Our Mission

BY DAVID L. CRANE

For the last several years, our Adventist Health System facilities in the greater Chicago area, known as Adventist Midwest Health, have looked for ways to further enhance their healing mission, especially at a time when the economy, reimbursement changes and healthcare reform are creating an increasingly competitive healthcare environment.

This is especially true in the Chicagoland area, where there is a highly-concentrated number of hospitals surrounding us. As we've seen around the nation, health systems are cooperating with each other to deliver care in a more coordinated, comprehensive way, while ensuring the viability of their individual and specific missions.

In February, Adventist Midwest Health completed the legal work to make our new joint-venture affiliation with Alexian Brothers Health System official. Under this affiliation, the four Adventist hospitals and the five Alexian Brothers hospitals are now working together as an integrated healthcare delivery system, the third largest in Illinois.

Throughout this process, it was evident our two organizations were closely aligned on our mission priorities. That will not change. Each organization will preserve its religious identity and mission-focused culture. "Adventist" will still be part of our hospitals' name and identity. We will not waver in our commitment to our patients — we want them to feel God's compassion, grace and truth through our hands, giving them hope and healing.

We have formed a new joint operating company (AMITA Health), which allows us to pursue common goals while maintaining separate ownership of our assets and being respectful

of the values and religious philosophies of each organization. While Adventist Midwest Health and Alexian Brothers are both financially strong and have corporate parents (Adventist Health System and Ascension) with national operations, this relationship extends our physical reach, bringing together more than 3,000 physicians to offer better coordinated, more comprehensive care to a service area of more than 3.8 million people.

As part of this work, we have ensured that we each retain our unique core values and long histories of service that are firmly rooted in our separate faith traditions and past accomplishments. Our promise is to deliver the most efficient, highest-quality, faith-based care.

Our Adventist hospitals remain the property of Adventist Health System. Each of the 44 Adventist Health System facilities operates independently to deliver care and services to best meet the needs of the local communities they serve. While each entity is unique, all remain united in one mission: Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ. Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital and Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital will continue to be expressions of the mission and values of Adventist Health System in the greater Chicago area.

David L. Crane is the executive vice president and chief operating officer for AMITA Health.



David L. Crane

A Chaplain's Dream Comes True

BY JULIE BUSCH

When Renante “Ren” Gomez first accepted God’s grace, he was a young man attending high school in the Philippines, where he was born and raised. Ever since that initial moment of bringing Christ into his life, Ren dreamed of becoming a pastor.

He had worked hard to reach his goal and was actively employed as a pastor with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Philippines, when Ren’s parents petitioned the Church to bring him to the United States, where they were already living. Although excited about the prospect of moving to the U.S., Ren was devastated to give up his role as pastor in order to relocate to Illinois. According to Ren, “When I moved to Illinois in 2001, I thought I would never again have the opportunity to continue my dream.”

In Illinois, Ren immediately began training for hospital chaplaincy, while accepting a role as behavioral health counselor with Adventist GlenOaks Hospital. During his ten years with the hospital, Ren often traveled back and forth between the U.S. and the Philippines, struggling to bring his wife and two daughters to join him in the U.S.

According to John Rapp, regional vice president of Ministries and Mission with AMITA Health, Ren’s work was outstanding, “As a behavioral health counselor, Ren was a star; but this was not his calling. We set very high benchmarks for our hospital-based chaplain credentialing, and Ren exceeded all of them to earn his chaplain designation.”

In 2012, Ren was appointed Regional Night Chaplain for the AMITA Health Adventist hospitals. Working four days a week, from 7:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., Ren rotates among the four Adventist hospitals in suburban Chicago hospitals — in Bolingbrook, Glendale Heights, Hinsdale

and La Grange — and is on call to respond to any pastoral care needs that arise at any of the facilities.

Ren loves being night chaplain, “It is my joy to bring positive messages of hope to the families, patients and staff in any way I can.” He mentions a recent incident, “I saw a cafeteria worker driving away from the hospital when she stopped alongside me. She simply asked, ‘Chaplain, please pray for me.’ I was humbled by God’s grace that placed me in this role where I could provide comfort through prayer.”

On January 27, Ren’s dream came true, and he was ordained as a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In a small ordination service held at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, Ren’s close friends, family and colleagues joined Raymond Pichette, Illinois Conference president, and other Illinois Conference leaders, as Ren received his very special ordination to the gospel ministry.

According to John, few have worked harder and are more deserving of this honor, “Ren has extreme humility to do God’s will and an unfailing generosity that he shows in small, meaningful gestures that mean the world to those he touches — such as bringing delicious snacks to staff members. The people he supports on the night shift love him.”

Julie Busch is assistant vice president for communications for AMITA Health.



On January 27, Renante “Ren” Gomez’ dream came true, and he was ordained as a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The service was conducted at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital. From left: Delmar Austin, Illinois Conference ministerial director; Raymond Pichette, Illinois Conference president; Ren Gomez, Ron Aguilera, Illinois Conference executive secretary.

Extending God's Healing Ministry in Honduras

BY JULIE BUSCH

The patient was very depressed. Two years ago, his retina detached, and he lost his vision in both eyes. He had served in the military and worked in security, but now, at age 52, he was unable to work.

Bill Puga, a psychiatrist, talked to the man about making his life the best life he could. "You have to go from being disabled to looking at your abilities," Bill told him. The patient had gone through a mourning phase, which was important, but now it was time to focus on the future. Being blind does not define him. The man took it all in and said "Yes, that's the perspective I needed." They said their goodbyes, and that's when Bill told him, "I look forward to the day when we're in Heaven and we can look into each other's eyes and see each other."

Bill was part of a team of 30 physicians, nurses and staff, from the Adventist Midwest hospitals, that traveled to the remote mountains of Lago de Yojoa, Honduras, in January, as part of an annual mission trip to deliver care to those in need. Each day, the team visited remote villages to set up a medical clinic — ultimately, providing care to about 500 people each day during the week-long stay.

The team's host was Pan American Health Service (PAHS), which was founded in 1960 by Stephen Youngberg, a Seventh-day Adventist physician who graduated from Loma Linda University. PAHS works to break the cycle of poverty through nutritional rehabilitation and education. The organization also feeds starving children, provides a home with shelter and guidance to abandoned children, and matches medical professionals like our team to impoverished patients within the

nearby communities. PAHS also educates children and young adults to help eradicate poverty to build a brighter future.

On the team's first day, they set up their medical clinic at the Pan American Health center. When they arrived, there was already a crowd waiting for them and, as they walked inside, a man greeted each with a handshake and a hello. He was 102 years old. Many of the 200-plus patients told the team they had walked about one to three hours to come to the clinic; some patients even borrowed shoes in order to walk there.

One family brought their 80-year-old grandmother into the clinic, using a wooden beam and a hammock. Two men carried her in because she had broken her hip five years ago, but it had never been fixed.

Another patient touched everyone's heart who saw her. She was a 25-year-old girl with a severe short stature disability. She appeared to be about six-years-old, and her mother carried her like a baby. She was one of nine kids in the family. The young girl was severely anemic with a hemoglobin of 6. She has metabolic syndrome, so the team gave her iron and other medicine to help her. Out of all of the experienced physicians on the trip, no one had ever seen anything like this before.

The team also set up a clinic in the town of Zacapa. That day, there was a nine-year-old boy who was waiting in line with his mother. Heide



Fuentes was going through the triage paperwork for the 45-year-old mom, and she asked “Where’s your son?” The boy was off to the side, with a towel over this face, almost in a fetal position.

The team tried to assess him, but he wouldn’t take the towel off his face. Turns out, the boy had cataracts, likely congenital, and he was very sensitive to light. Plus, he was suffering from severe heat exhaustion. They took him to Mary Lewis, one of the team pediatricians, and cooled him with water and gave him Gatorade, and finally, he was well enough to walk out of the clinic.

The next day, a clinic was set up in San Jose de Oriente, a village in a very remote area. The ride there was quite treacherous — the road was barely big enough for two cars, the edge of the mountain was a foot away, and the potholes bounced everyone off their seats. The providers saw a six-year-old boy who was only 24 pounds, the average size of a two-year-old. The mother of this boy said he was fine — “He eats well, he’s doing good,” but then left with him before anyone could get him into the PAHS nutritional program. This mom had lost one child already to malnutrition, so some suspect she left out of fear. A lot of people were mourning losses. Some parents had lost children to rotavirus — there was a huge outbreak, and many children died.

On the last day, the team visited the PAHS educational center, which has several businesses

where students can learn a trade and start to become self-sufficient. There’s an oil change place, a woodworking shop, and a place to teach sewing. There’s also a small souvenir shop, where many of these items are sold. They also visited the nutritional clinic, known as “Casita Feliz” (Happy House). The 26 children who live there were running all around, laughing and playing, especially when Charles Paik, one of the physicians, began to make balloon animals. These children will live at the clinic until they are healthy enough to return home. And if that doesn’t happen, they will stay with the PAHS family until they can make it on their own.

From dental care to eyeglasses, the patients received outstanding medical care from the team of specialists. Some patients had never seen a doctor before ever; for others, seeing a specialist like an orthopedic surgeon or obstetrician was nearly unheard of. Those who participated were happy to have been a small part of this ministry as we fulfilled our mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ. We could not help but think this must have been what it was like to travel with Jesus, where large crowds of people gathered, hungry for healing and hope.

Julie Busch is assistant vice president for Communications for AMITA Health. This was her fifth mission trip.

From dental care to eyeglasses, the patients received outstanding medical care from the team of specialists from Adventist Midwest hospitals.

Windows into God's Creation

BY JULIE BUSCH

A significant renovation that began in January 2013 has transformed Adventist GlenOaks Hospital into a tranquil, healing environment more conducive to comfort and care.

The renovation included aesthetic updates with a fresh color palette, soundproofing, new lighting and updated amenities. The hospital updated all private patient rooms on its medical/surgical units and constructed a two-story space for oncology, physician office space and a new Wound Care Center.



Adventist GlenOaks Hospital transformed the hospital into a visual embodiment of the organization's healing ministry – CREATION Health, which is the Creation-based lifestyle for optimal wellness. The new artwork now displayed throughout the hospital, including this seating area of the hospital's café, provides a window into the beauty of God's creation.

A crucial piece of the renovation not originally planned was the replacement of the hospital's mismatched artwork, which was outdated and lacked any correlation to healing. Staff wanted to transform the hospital into the visual embodiment of the organization's healing ministry — CREATION Health, which is the Creation-based lifestyle for optimal wellness.

Its eight guiding principles are Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook and Nutrition.

“The importance of environment on healing is tremendous and what we see around us influences us,” said Bruce C. Christian, chief executive officer. “When in balance with these principles, we are Creation-healthy as God intended.”

After extensive research of best practices, the team presented an idea for CREATION Health artwork depicted through high-impact photographic imagery. Photos were printed on framed canvas.

Erin Gerber, administrative director, Hospital Services, personally selected each of the more than

500 images and their placement. She worked in tandem with artwork consultant and photographer Richard Duerksen of Mountain Friends Photography, who provided production services and many of the photos.

In addition to Richard, Erin contributed photos, along with a few staff members and a local photographer and physician. The artwork was grouped by the CREATION Health guiding principle as appropriate by location. The artwork is displayed in art gallery style with plaques that depict the significance of each principle throughout.

From the lobby to hallways, patient rooms, family lounges and the hospital's café, the art is a window into the beauty of God's creation, undergirded by God's grace and truth. “Our Adventist health message is a clear guide on our path to optimal wellness,” said Erin.

“What's most rewarding is the happiness, peace and joy we now see on people's faces as they stop to enjoy the artwork,” said Bruce. “Every day we hear stories of the dramatic impact it's making on healing and morale. It's such a blessing.”

“Most importantly,” concluded Erin, “throughout our facility, our new artwork plan features Christian imagery and plaques of our ‘Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ’ mission statement. It reinforces how much God's love surrounds us at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital.”

Julie Busch is assistant vice president for communications for AMITA Health.

Healing Messages of Love and Faith

BY JULIE BUSCH

The nurses and caregivers at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital in Illinois extend the healing ministry of Christ every day through their loving care of the patients in their charge. They touch these patients and their families in ways that extend far beyond the clinical, bringing God's grace to soothe souls, as well as bodies.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the uniquely beautiful and inspiring greeting cards collection, *Behind the Heart of Healing*, published by Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital in honor of National Nurses Week, May 6–12. There are 15 different cards in the set — each holding a special message and artwork, personally crafted by nurses and other caregivers from the hospital.

According to Mary Murphy, vice president and chief nursing officer with AMITA Health, the cards are a labor of love, “Forty-one of our caregivers painted their own hearts, inspired by the stirrings of their souls about what their everyday patient encounters mean to them.”

The healing hearts shown on the cards initially were created for the National Arts Program Healing Arts Exhibit, led by healing arts director, Sue Kett. This annual event showcases the artistic talents of the employees, volunteers and family members of Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, and other Adventist facilities.

The touching images inspired the creation of the greeting card collection, sponsored by the Nursing Department, Foundation and the Pastoral Care Department. Chaplain Aleksandra Tarnurdzic, manager of pastoral care for Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, championed the project. “The cards were created as a meaningful gift to acknowledge the heartfelt efforts of our nurses with images, quotes and scriptures personalized by their fellow caregivers. There is a powerful connection between art and the soul that comes forth

through these *Behind the Heart of Healing* cards. They show how the power of Christ works in our caregivers to build healing connections between our nurses, our patients and their families,” states Aleksandra.

One illustrated heart, “All wounds can be healed with God,” is the work of Rodney Telomen, a war veteran who survived serious injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and cancer. Working through these challenges, Rodney felt God's healing presence through others. Now, he helps his patients find paths to heal their own physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual wounds.

The greeting card that carries Rodney's heart also carries the Scripture from Psalm 147:3 MSG, *He heals the heartbroken and bandages their wounds*. It's a message of faith and hope that has helped Rodney greatly, and he hopes will lend strength to other wounded souls. According to Rodney, “Where we are no longer able to provide physical support, we lend spiritual and emotional aid to those in our care.”

The *Behind the Heart of Healing* greeting cards collection was gifted to the nurses at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital during National Nurse Weeks in May in recognition of their service in extending the healing ministry of Christ. The card collection is available in the hospital's gift shop.

Julie Busch is assistant vice president for communications for AMITA Health.



Greeting cards in the *Behind the Heart of Healing* collection hold special messages and artwork, personally crafted by nurses and other caregivers at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.

Empowering Nurses to Excel

BY JULIE BUSCH

The journey began years ago when Adventist Hinsdale Hospital's rankings in key quality indicators, such as patient outcomes and satisfaction, were sitting in the lower quartiles. Michael Goebel, chief executive officer at the hospital, challenged his team to see if they could attain the respected Magnet of nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

"As a facility dedicated to extending the healing ministry of Christ, we needed to live up to our mission, and take steps to better serve our patients and our staff. To be a Magnet hospital means we deliver the very best in care for our patients, while also providing opportunities for every nurse to become the best they can be through continuing education, training and empowerment," states Michael.

Marcie Calandra, director of nursing/Magnet, led the initiative under the direction of chief nursing officer, Shawn Tyrrell. Marcie notes, "We achieved our goal because it was the right thing to do, and we are blessed to be recognized for it." States Shawn, "We wanted to help our nurses fulfill the potential of their calling."

The Magnet program evolved from a 1983 study conducted by the American Academy of Nurses to identify why some hospitals were "magnets" for well-qualified nurses. They discovered that those facilities that encouraged continued nurse growth and education — giving them the autonomy to identify and build best practices — not only attracted and retained the most qualified nurses, they also had better safety records and delivered better patient satisfaction and outcomes.

Today, Magnet status is hard won and only achieved through the efforts of the nurses themselves. Hospitals must implement, track and document 49 sources of evidence showing year-over-year continuous nursing improvement and

best practice development with quantifiable data provided to the ANCC in a book-sized document that is then verified through exhaustive patient, nurse and community interviews.

Only about seven percent of the nation's hospitals have earned the Magnet designation for providing the highest quality patient care, teamwork, professionalism and innovation in nursing practice. What is particularly inspiring about Adventist Hinsdale Hospital's achievement is that the hospital's nurses also have earned "exemplar" status in several key areas, meaning they have developed innovative procedures and practices that will now serve as the templates for best practices in other hospitals.

Michelle Jordan is an ICU nurse who developed one of these "exemplar" practices. Jordan has been with the hospital for 30 years and was there when the initiative first began. "I believed in Magnet, but didn't have the drive for additional education and was the last to come on board," states Michelle. "Thanks to our hospital's Magnet sponsorship, I am proud to say that I attained my Bachelor's Degree in 2013, and my Capstone project on delirium recognition and management in ICU has become hospital policy," she notes, adding, "I love working here, where nurses are respected and given the knowledge and tools to make a difference."

Julie Busch is assistant vice president for communications for AMITA Health.



Nurses and staff react to the news that Adventist Hinsdale Hospital achieved the Magnet designation for nursing excellence

Reminders of Our Sacred Work

BY JULIE BUSCH

For 18 years, chaplain Vicky Syren has served the Adventist hospitals in the suburban Chicago area. She served for 11 years at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital then moved to Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital as the manager of Pastoral Care, just before it opened in 2008, and currently also serves as manager of Pastoral Care at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital.

One of the challenges Vicky found was how to keep the mission of the Adventist Health System — “Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ” — in front of a staff that was so busy; the great majority of them didn’t even have time to come to a chapel service.

“In 2008, I began to write brief, one-page devotions that could be sent out via email blast to all our employees. I found this was the best way to reach the most employees with an inspirational thought. Over the years, I sent these out once a week, and have found they are well-received and a great tool to keep our mission in the forefront,” Vicky said.

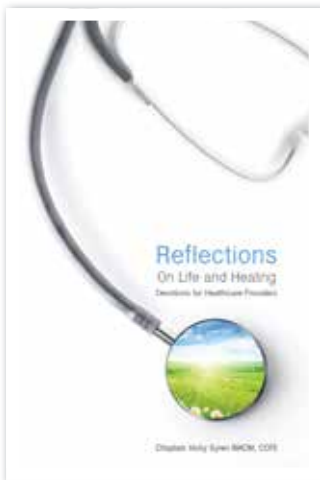
Recently, she was asked by John Rapp, regional vice president for Ministries and Mission with AMITA Health, to compile some of these devotions so they could be published as a book. John wrote the introduction to Vicky’s book, *Reflections on Life and Healing: Devotions for Healthcare Providers*. In his introduction, John said, “Through this book, Chaplain Vicky Syren has spoken directly into the heart and experience of healthcare providers, recognizing the world we live in, our sacred calling, and our deep dedication to wholeness of body, mind and spirit.”

Many of the devotions in Vicky’s book are centered on everyday problems and concerns of healthcare providers. She said, “Nothing is too

small to think about, like remembering we are ‘on-stage’ all the time, how we learn to be more patient, how we work better as a team, or how to be a better servant leader. Most of the time, these are things we already know, but need to be reminded. Sometimes, we need to remember to put the everyday things in the context of our mission. After all, it is our mission that sets us apart and makes us better healthcare providers, whether we are physicians, nurses, technicians, transporters, food service or chaplains.”

The book, released in May, was published by Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital and Adventist GlenOaks Hospital.

Julie Busch is assistant vice president for communications for AMITA Health.



Messages in chaplain Vicky Syren’s new devotional book, Reflections on Life and Healing, speak “directly into the heart and experience of healthcare providers,” says John Rapp, regional vice president for Ministries and Mission with AMITA Health.



Physicians find healing and enrichment through new Medical Arts Program

Every day, physicians face stressful, emotionally-charged situations. Studies show that physicians who participate in the creation of art find it to be a healing practice that enriches their lives and helps relieve some of the pressure and tension associated with their roles. Michael Brooks, family medicine physician at Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial hospitals, can speak firsthand to the benefits of tapping into his creative side.

Brooks states, "Painting is liberating for me. I believe that a successful painting not only reproduces the visible, it brings to light emotions and meanings the artist wishes to convey. When I once thought I had to give up art to be a physician, my aunt reminded me that I am more than a doctor and I could pursue my painting without sacrificing my profession."

As the healing arts director for AMITA Health's Adventist hospitals, Sue Kett understands the joy personal artwork can bring to both artist and audience. She spearheaded efforts to showcase the artistic talents of employees, volunteers and family members of AMITA Health Adventist hospitals through the annual 2014 National Arts Program Healing Arts Exhibit.

The resounding success of the exhibit has led to development of a new Medical Arts Program, managed by Kett and sponsored by the Physician Wellness Program, under the auspices of the regional Mission and Ministries Department. The initiative specifically targets physicians, illustrating how creative outlets can be used to offset the stress associated with their demanding practices.



Michael Brooks, family medicine physician at Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial hospitals, stands near some of his artwork displayed in the Adventist Hinsdale Hospital Doctors Lounge.

According to John Rapp, regional vice president of Ministries and Mission with AMITA Health, "This new program recognizes the proven benefits of adopting a creative arts practice and offers our physicians access to a rotating gallery of artwork produced by their fellow doctors in the hopes of inspiring them to develop their own artistic talents."

The official opening of the Medical Arts Program and its rotating gallery took place in April at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital with an evening reception in the Doctors Lounge where the artwork was on display. The program premieres its rotating gallery with a showing of the beautifully detailed, classical oil paintings created by Brooks. The gallery eventually will move on to other Adventist facilities in the region, beginning with Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.

According to Kett, physician interest in the new Medical Arts Program is high. "Doctors are already reaching out

to me to share their own art pieces and stories. What's particularly rewarding is the opportunity for physicians to view their fellow practitioners in a new light. Even people who have known Dr. Brooks for years are amazed to learn of his talent as a painter and excited to view his work."

Additional art pieces reflecting other creative modalities, such as photography and poetry, will be featured in the gallery in the months ahead, with plans to bring in new artwork every two to three months as more physicians share their creative gifts through this inspirational, healing program.

Julie Busch, assistant vice president for communications, AMITA Health

Graduate communication program updated

The Andrews University Department of Communication has made changes and improvements to the Master of Arts in Communication program, including renovating a studio, revising the curriculum, reducing the tuition by 45 percent, and updating online course enrollment options. The Department of Communication is committed to providing quality education, and the changes to improve and strengthen the program will go into effect beginning fall 2015.

Students now will be able to complete the M.A. in Communication with 33 credits instead of the previous 40. The reduction will allow students to complete the degree in less than



Andrews University Department of Communication has added a live, synchronous online option that allows students some flexibility in location.

two years at a lower cost. In addition, students will automatically receive a 45 percent tuition discount on graduate communication course work for the next two years.

The department has added a live, synchronous online option that allows students some flexibility in location. Concentrations such as communication management, international communication and interdisciplinary

communication are available, but not required. Finally, a dual degree option is available with a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Communication. This program is designed to take three-and-a-half to four years and has two optional communication concentrations: media ministry or interdisciplinary communication.

Rachel Williams-Smith, chair of the department, says, “We want to become the premier program option for students from both Adventist and public colleges and universities who wish to earn a master’s degree in communication.”

To learn more about the Department of Communication, visit <http://andrews.edu/communication> or call 269-471-6314.

Jenna Neil, student writer, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication

United Way invites sophomore to Alternate Spring Break in Washington, D.C.

United Way recently invited Lianne Wynne, a sophomore social work major at Andrews University, to Washington, D.C., to participate in an Alternative Spring Break. The program is sponsored in partnership with Kimberly-Clark Corporation, and provides an opportunity for 25 young women, who are leaders from college campuses across the country, to join together for a week of service and advocacy.

The week-long event afforded Wynne an opportunity to learn about and participate in events focused on critical issues for women, such as human trafficking, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education for girls, women’s and girls’ health, women’s leadership and more.



Lianne Wynne (front, far right) participated in a cleaning project at the Rape Crisis Center in Washington, D.C., during the Alternate Spring Break program to which she was invited by United Way.

Wynne, who is minoring in leadership, says United Way’s Alternate Spring Break program was influential in helping her decide how to employ her talents and passions to empower women. Her previous experience with Girls On The Run and working with United Way of Southwest Michigan was helpful.

As part of the program, Wynne spent time with other driven, brilliant,

college-age women, carrying out service projects and advocating for policy change on Capitol Hill. When asked what her favorite memories include, she recalls, “having dynamic conversations with these brilliant girls from around the country and the world, and bonding with the program director, Lauri Valerio.”

Wynne brings an interesting perspective to her advocacy, and one that she thinks might have set her apart from other possible candidates. When asked what she thought was more important to empowering women — service or public policy, she chose service.

“I love the opportunity to be able to serve. I love being able to make someone’s life a little better, and this experience is definitely that opportunity. I want to cause and facilitate change! I want to get involved.”

Samuel James Fry, student writer, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication

[EDUCATION NEWS]

North Aurora students raise funds for mission projects

Illinois—At the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Administrators (ASDASA) meetings in Dallas, Texas, Feb. 15–18, Larry Blackmer, vice president for education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, took a step of faith and gave everyone at the convention a Restore a Child* cap. Blackmer shared with administrators that for just \$15, they could feed one child in Chad, Africa, for four months. It's hard to imagine that when one easily can spend \$15 for a meal at a restaurant in America, the same amount will keep a child from feeling the agonizing pains of hunger for four whole months in Chad.

This challenge was the spark that ignited a fire in North Aurora Elementary. During the last couple of months, students in grades 5–8 had been learning about Africa. Through study of its history, following current events like the Ebola outbreak, studying Matthew 25:34–40, and reading two mission stories set in Africa, the students expressed their desire to take on a mission project for people in Africa.

After learning about the plight of children in Chad, the students decided to raise enough money to feed 100 children for four months. This project seemed almost too challenging for six students. With prayer, the students formulated a plan — they would walk for hunger. For the next month, the students kept track of the distance they walked every day, and asked people to help them alleviate hunger by sponsoring each mile they walked.

God always has a master plan. The North Aurora Church had designated the month of March as a time for world mission emphasis. This seemed like the perfect time for this special project.

At the end of the project, the students were ecstatic to learn that through



North Aurora Elementary students in grades 5–8 raised \$2,860 and supported Restore a Child mission projects in Africa, Bolivia and Indonesia, exceeding their original goal of \$1,500 to feed 100 children in Chad, Africa.

the work of the Holy Spirit and their generous church family, they had raised \$2,860 for the Restore a Child mission project. Having more than enough to feed 100 children in Chad, they then had to decide the best way to use the surplus. There was a party-like atmosphere as the students looked through the Restore a Child catalog and started brainstorming about which projects they wanted to sponsor.

After prayer and with much enjoyment, the students chose to use the remaining \$1,360 for the following projects: 1) build a greenhouse for agriculture in Bolivia: \$390; 2) buy six chickens for eggs in Indonesia: \$120; 3) buy two fruit trees in Indonesia: \$120; 4) treat five sick children in Chad: \$100; 5) perform two major surgeries in Chad:

\$160; 6) pay for a year of tuition for six children, grades 1–6, in Chad: \$90; 7) pay for a year of tuition for six children, grades 7–10, in Chad: \$240; 8) purchase school supplies for six children in Chad: \$60; and 9) buy two goats for milk in Chad: \$80.

The righteous will ask, *Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ... The King will answer and say, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me"* (Matthew 25:37, 40 NKJV).

Teresa Smith, principal and teacher, North Aurora Elementary

*Restore a Child aims to "provide the basic needs for protection, nutrition, education and healthcare of orphans and under-privileged children so they may become fulfilled and productive adults." See <http://www.restoreachild.org>.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



Madlyn Hamblin

During the Kindness Campaign, Sabbath school members were challenged to do at least one kind deed a week for someone. Some reported shoveling snow for elderly neighbors, others called shut-ins or shared Florida citrus with fellow employees. "It was really fun to think about and do a kind deed each week," Pam Little said.

Jackson Church Sabbath school launches quarterly campaigns

Michigan—Today's Sabbath schools are organized in all kinds of ways. Some are well attended, some are not.

In order to make Sabbath school more relevant and to promote community and missing member outreach, Jackson Church members took part in a "Kindness Campaign" during the first quarter of 2015. Members were challenged to do at least one kind deed a week. On Sabbaths, reports were given during Sabbath school. A sheet listing 75 ways to be kind was passed out at the beginning of the quarter. Then, once during that period, cute postcards (Lily cards) were mailed to missing members.

Most weeks, members shared their good deeds and the results of reaching out to others. One member made phone calls to shut-ins and had prayer with them over the phone. Another



Madlyn Hamblin

From left: Gloria Kidder and Shirley Henning graciously help serve food to community guests.

shared Florida citrus fruit with fellow employees in her office. One business owner started having prayer with his office staff, praying for their special concerns and needs.

"This Kindness Campaign was a practical way to reach out to others and feel good about yourself," said Pam Little, a faithful Sabbath school member. "It was really fun to think about and do a kind deed each week," she added.

Because of the success of the "Kindness Campaign," the theme for the April-May-June quarter is "13 Weeks to Welcome Christ to Our Church." The thought is that when we are a kind, loving, praying church, Christ will love to dwell with us. During the 13 weeks, members are challenged to go on a spiritual adventure. This can be a time of accelerated spiritual growth.

There are five adventure disciplines:

- 1) Go on a Sabbath Search for how Christ will speak to you that day;
- 2) Commit to Daily Scripture Readings and expect to be blessed with a deepened sense of his presence;
- 3) Overcome Self-Destructive Habits. As you sense Christ's presence, know that he is able to heal you of your sins;
- 4) Secret Acts of Christian Love are done in a humble spirit for which we receive no reward; and
- 5) Freedom From What Others Think is a goal to renounce one's desire for human praise, public recognition and approval of our peers.

Following these five disciplines will lead members hopefully to sense an overwhelming presence of the Lord and rekindle the flame of revival.

Madlyn Hamblin, member and Sabbath school superintendent, Jackson Church

Spencer Church designates March 'Creation Month'

Indiana—March 2015 was designated "Creation Month" at the Spencer Church. Each Sabbath sermon was

devoted to a topic centered around creation. The first presentation, given by Kelly Ramsey, M.D., was titled "The Power of Creation." Her message focused on a literal seven-day creation and the meaning of creation when we look at our spiritual lives.

The next week featured Seth Fickett who asked the question, "Where Is the Power?" Fickett gave his own personal testimony and discussed how he navigated his struggle deciding between creation and evolution. He learned that the same Jesus who could speak life

into clay also could create a new heart within him.

Marcia Oliver, MSPT, brought her physical therapy and myofascial release expertise to a sermon about “The Omnipresent Fingerprint of God.” She described the long-term physical and mental effects of our human experiences and demonstrated how our loving Creator has prepared our bodies for all of them.

For the final week of Creation Month, microbiologist Jolene Ramsey presented “God’s Incredible Invisible Creation from a Molecular Biology Perspective.” Utilizing fascinating videos, she detailed an example of evidence of God’s creative power in the microscopic world.

Ramsey also developed several creation-themed afternoon activities, targeted for the youth that day. It was sunny and clear outside, which lent itself well to a scavenger hunt for items representing the seven days of creation week. Ramsey then used relay teams to illustrate the incredible rapidity and precision with which DNA is copied in all cells as they divide and replicate. Each team member was instructed to race to a location, accurately pair nucleotides for DNA replication, and race back, freeing the next member to run and match the next pair. Erroneous pairings had to be corrected before the process could continue, much like cellular proofreading and error-checking mechanisms in living creatures.



Alyssa Fickett (left) explains her symbols of creation week to judges. Also pictured: Holly Dubyna, Sonya Fickett and Taylor Dubyna.

Finally, a treasure hunt involving Scripture sent teams all over the church and yard searching for clues. Prizes were awarded to the winners of each activity, including the daily devotional book *God of Wonders*, by David A. Steen, and the book *Creation and Evolution* by Dwight Nelson for all participants.

March Creation Month was an exciting experiment in a theme-based approach to Spencer Church services. It was particularly meaningful in a culture that dismisses creation as unworthy of investigation. However, our Creator God used this series of sermons and activities to demonstrate not only our origins, but also his ongoing love and

interest in everything pertaining to his children.

Sandy Clark, communications secretary,
Spencer Church



From left: Andrew Coridan, Morgan Lowe and Tony Williamson demonstrate their symbols of creation week.

Tanglewood Ministries brings God’s Word to the underserved

Indiana—Tanglewood Ministries began March 16, 2007, as an outreach ministry of the South Bend First Church, when a member, Barbara Hales, responded to a friend and new resident of Tanglewood Trace, an active independent retirement and assisted living facility. Barbara began conducting a weekly

worship service at the facility when her friend expressed dismay that she could no longer attend church. Although Barbara’s dear friend now awaits the call of the Lifegiver, the ministry recently celebrated its seventh year. The current ministry team includes Don Hales, Miguel and Tita Arevalo, Bob and Eva Kasznia, Charles and Rebekah Pates, and Clinton and Firm Faith Watson, four of whom are local church elders.

Charles and Miguel are the main preachers who are helping residents discover the character of God through the

Scriptures, showing that the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament is the same God — a God who can be trusted to keep his promises, and whose Word is true. The residents are seeing God in a new light, and appreciate that the speakers preach only from the Bible; things they never understood are now clear to them.

The Lord has blessed the ministry beyond the Sunday evening service that ministers to 55 of the 150 residents, with an average attendance of 20. Approximately 165 sermon outlines are also

mailed or hand-delivered to residents who miss attending the weekly service or have moved to other facilities, to homebound and missing members from two local Adventist churches, and to friends of the ministry.

In June 2014, the ministry launched a second half-hour worship service at North Woods Village, a memory care assisted living community and, in March 2015, added a third half-hour service at Heritage Point Alzheimer's Special Care Center.

At the memory care facilities, an amazing thing happens each week as the ministry team sees unresponsive residents "wake up" and join in singing hymns. At the end of the service, the now-engaged residents thank the ministry team for coming, giving hugs and handshakes. Truly, Jesus is the answer for their world today.

For these dear seniors, change is a reality and life so uncertain. It is natural that much thought is given to end-of-life issues, especially when death and dying occurs so frequently around them in the facility. Knowing Jesus as a personal friend, spending meaningful time in prayer and Bible study, sharing Jesus' love with their neighbors — this is what makes life worth living and brings assurance that God not only loves them, but he cares about them personally.

The residents' testimonies encourage the ministry team with expressions of gratitude for their weekly commitment. Many say they look forward to the church services. Some participate in the service. One resident looks forward to playing the piano each week for song service. Another resident said, "My family wanted to take me out to dinner, but I told them I'd go only if I can be back in time for church." Another expressed their deep connection with the ministry, "This is my church. Will you preach my funeral when I die?"

Barbara says, "It is our privilege, as lay undershepherds, to pray for, anoint and comfort God's little flock. We have conducted several funerals and ministered to families who have lost loved ones. In return, we receive lots of love



Tanglewood Trace Ministries team includes (back row, left): Clinton Watson, Miguel Arevalo, Tita Arevalo, Barbara Hales; (front row, left): Firm Faith Watson, Eva Kasznia, Bob Kasznia, Rebekah Pates, Charles Pates; not pictured: Don Hales



Don Hales (foreground), team leader, leads song service at Tanglewood Trace.

from the residents, and look forward to their hugs, kisses and notes of appreciation. What a blessing to comprehend what Christ meant when he said, *Other sheep have I which are not of this fold: them also I must bring* (John 10:16 KJV).

"The success of Tanglewood Ministries is God's doing; we are co-laborers with him and only serve well when we spend time with him in daily prayer and personal Bible study. Only then can he use our talents — music, prayers, health nuggets and preaching — for his glory," said Hale. "Our greatest need is help with visitation, and people willing to start church services in other facilities.

As God expands Tanglewood Ministries, truly *The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest*" (Matthew 9:37–38 NASB).

Barbara Hales, coordinator for Tanglewood Ministries, South Bend First Church, with
Lake Union Herald staff



Tanglewood Trace residents were invited to experience an end-of-year Agape Feast and service.



Eastside Indianapolis church members welcomed nearly 130 community guests for free health screenings and materials.

Eastside Indianapolis churches invite community for worship service and Health Fair

Lake Region—Sabbath morning, April 25, was very overcast; rain began falling, as if to signal that whatever plans one had for the day would be in jeopardy. However, the rain did not stop pastors Leon George and Edgar Pastran, of the Eastside English and Spanish churches respectively, from bringing their congregations together for morning worship and an afternoon health fair.

The theme for the day was “Save the Beat — Know Your Numbers” as the Indianapolis Eastside Church, located at 3243 N. Sherman Drive, opened its doors to the community to join the worship services that morning. The Sabbath school lesson study was very engaging for both young and old as George led the church in the review of the week’s lesson: “The Call to Discipleship.”

Randy Griffin, director of the Lake Union Adventist Community Health Initiative Department, delivered the worship message. His message focused on the Living Water talked about in John 4. Like the woman at the well, we need the physical water as well as the living, spiritual water we find only in Jesus.

By 12:30 p.m., the hallway of the church was teaming with people. Nearly 130 persons visited tables and rooms for free health and wellness screenings, and

to obtain the informational materials that were available.

This was the two churches’ first health fair. However, with Roy Bellinger, health and temperance leader; Shirley Wimsatt, event coordinator; Maribel Pastran, Spanish coordinator; and the Health and Temperance Committee, they hope to make this an annual event. “In Scripture, 1 Corinthians 6:19 reminds us that *your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you...* and we want people to have healthy bodies so they can best serve the Lord,” said Bellinger.

The program was possible by partnering with many agencies. The Indianapolis Fire Department provided safety tips about how to respond in a fire emergency and gave the children an opportunity to climb into the fire truck. Marion County Health Department offered diabetes and blood pressure testing. Indiana WIC, American Heart Association and American Stroke Association provided helpful literature. Walgreens, Marsh, Ossip Optometry, Q & H Medical, Costco Wholesale, Joy Happy Home Choice Health Care, and other health professionals and volunteers helped to make the day a success.

On behalf of the Lake Union, Griffin is available to assist with future health ministry outreaches. He may be contacted at Randy.Griffin@lakeunion.org for ideas or resources.

Leon George, pastor, Indianapolis Eastside Church, with Randy Griffin, director, Lake Union Adventist Community Health Initiative Department



The weekend women’s ministries retreats provided refreshment with music, messages, decor and activities.

Michigan women’s retreats offer rest in the Lord

Michigan—Nearly 700 Michigan women are feeling more relaxed after attending one of three women’s retreats offered by Michigan Conference Women’s Ministries Department during the first three weekends in April at Camp Au Sable in Grayling.

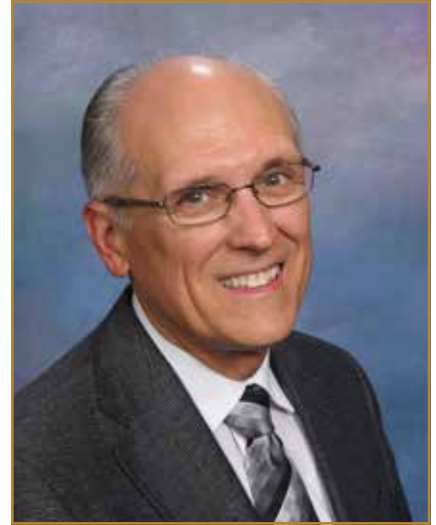
This year’s theme, *Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him*, taken from Psalm 37:7 NASB, reminded women that “a life in Christ is a life of restfulness” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 70).

“Sometimes we are so busy doing the good stuff that we don’t have time for the God stuff,” said Jane Harris, Michigan Conference women’s ministries director. “The retreat lets us set aside time to be with Jesus so we can hear God speak.”

The keynote presenter was Tami Milligan, patient experience coordinator with Munson Healthcare Cadillac Hospital who also serves in ministry with her husband, Pat, pastor of the Cadillac Church. Milligan turned the word “rest” into an acronym, Recognize and Evict Stinking Thinking (R.E.S.T.). She emphasized the need to be honest with ourselves and let God change us so we can stay in the “sweet spot” with Jesus.

The women appreciated Milligan’s encouraging messages and her openness about her own struggles.

[UNION NEWS]



Steven Poenitz

Indiana Conference elects new president

Indiana—Steven Poenitz has accepted a call by the Executive Committee of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to be the new conference president.

Poenitz served as ministerial secretary of the Indiana Conference from 2008–2015, located in Carmel, Ind. Before relocating to Indiana, he pastored in the Georgia-Cumberland, Northern California, Oregon, Kansas-Nebraska, Kansas and New Jersey conferences. Poenitz earned a B.A. at Southwestern Adventist University, and M.Div. and D.Min. degrees at Andrews University.

Poenitz has appreciated working with the previous Indiana presidents, Van Hurst and Gary Thurber, models of spiritual leadership and passion for outreach, who also expressed their love for Hoosiers.

“While I have not sought this role of leadership,” shared Poenitz, “I do find it a privilege to work with such dedicated pastors, teachers and laity in the state of Indiana.”

He has a passion to disciple Christ-centered people. “My desire is to experience the fulfillment of that classic passage in *The Ministry of Healing*,



“The retreat lets us set aside time to be with Jesus so we can hear God speak,” said Jane Harris, Michigan Conference women’s ministries director.



Nearly 700 women attended one of three weekend retreats offered in April at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Mich.

“She showed how simple and beautiful the Christian life can be,” commented Donna Bullock from Vassar.

Seminars — all taught by women — covered topics such as “Surviving and Thriving in a Spiritually Mismatched Marriage” and “Meal Planning for a Restful Week.” Renee Coffee’s seminar about ways to study the Bible was a favorite of many participants.

The retreat was also a time to refresh others. This year’s offering raised \$10,000 to assist Iraqi refugees through Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM). Attendees rejoiced to hear that their 2014 offerings had helped

AFM win its first convert in a closed Muslim country.

“Women’s ministries gives me a spiritual lift every spring,” wrote one attendee. “[It inspires] me to draw closer to my Savior.”

For Jan Ella Schnepf from Traverse City, the sight of Camp Au Sable’s placid lake, ringed by pine and birch, always promises a spiritual high.

“I came to be with God,” she said. “I can do it anywhere, but this is my mountaintop.”

Rachel Cabose, member, Lansing Church

p. 143,” says Poenitz. “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

Mark Eaton, Indiana Conference secretary-treasurer said, “We are happy

to welcome Elder Poenitz to his new post. It will be a privilege for us to work together to further advance the gospel in the heartland.”

Poenitz has been married for 30 years to Ernestine (Underwood) Poenitz. She works as background screening coordinator and spouses ministry leader in the Indiana Conference. They have extended family in Tennessee and Texas.

Happy, their 12-year-old Harrier dog, brings a lot of extra joy to their lives.

Poenitz officially stepped into the president role following Hurst’s departure in April. Hurst served as president of the Indiana Conference from 2009–2015 before retiring from denominational service.

Mark Eaton, secretary-treasurer, Indiana Conference with Lake Union Herald staff



Arise! Shine! Jesus is Coming!

World church prepares for women’s ordination resolution at upcoming General Conference Session

On Sept. 18, 2012, the General Conference voted to establish the Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) with the purpose of answering two questions: 1) What is the theology of ordination from a biblical perspective? and 2) What should the implications of this theology be for Seventh-day Adventist practices, including the question of women’s ordination? The TOSC was composed of 106 Adventists of diverse ages, ethnicities and professions, and the members included both women and men.

At the invitation of the General Conference, the North American Division (NAD) appointed a 15-member Biblical Research Committee to join with the world church in a study of the theology of ordination and its practical implications. That diverse committee of pastors, theologians and administrators came to the conclusion that “Ordination is a formal acknowledgment and authentication of one’s call to service

ministry by God. Authentication should be understood as ratifying what only God can dispense. Ordination neither supersedes God’s call nor enhances it. Ordination affirms the genuineness of the call as having borne the proper fruit of the Holy Spirit’s work. God initiates the call and equips the recipient for enacting it. God’s person accepts the call. God’s people affirm the call,” and used that definition as a point of reference.

The NAD Biblical Research Committee then made two recommendations: 1) “In harmony with our biblical study, we recommend that ordination to gospel ministry, as an affirmation of the call of God, be conferred by the church on men and women,” and 2) “The committee humbly recommends that the North American Division support the authorization of each division to consider, through prayer and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, its most appropriate approach to the ordination of women to gospel ministry.” In addition, the committee prepared a “Theology of Ordination Q+A” brochure for general distribution.

The Lake Union Conference also participated in the process by engaging its union and conference officers in a two-day study that began with five presentations: 1) “History of

Ordination,” 2) “Theology of Ordination,” 3) “Survey of Hermeneutics,” 4) “Position Opposing the Ordination of Women,” 5) “Position Supporting the Ordination of Women.” The second day was invested in small group study of the Bible and resource materials.

In February 2013, the Lake Union Executive Committee went through a similar process, then voted the following statement: “While affirming women in ministry, the Lake Union Executive Committee supports the world church in its process of the study of ordination and its decisions regarding ordination, with the understanding that the Church needs a clear biblical theology of ordination that will guide our policies.”

From January 2013 to June 2014, the TOSC reviewed some 65 papers and presentations, in addition to other commissioned and submitted materials. By June 2014, its members were ready to indicate their choice for one of three options, revealing that their study had not yielded consensus. Of the 95 members voting, only 32 (about one-third) affirmed the “practice of ordaining/commissioning only qualified men to the office of pastor/minister throughout the world church.” Forty members wanted to leave the choice whether “to have only men” or “to have both men and women as ordained pastors,” with each entity responsible for calling pastors. Twenty-two members recommended that denominational leadership at a proper level be authorized to decide if it “may be appropriate to [ordain both men and women] in their area or region.”

At the 2014 Annual Council, the TOSC gave its final report of its three

differing positions along with three corresponding recommendations for moving forward, and the following request for a vote at the 2015 General Conference Session was approved: "Is it acceptable for division executive committees, as they may deem it appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? Yes or No."

"We must remember that we are commissioned by God to carry the everlasting gospel to the world," says Don Livesay, president of the Lake Union Conference. "Our prayer is that each of us will be receptive to the direction of the Holy Spirit and be able to move forward in unity and on mission."

Delegates to the G.C. Session will convene in San Antonio, Texas,

July 2–11. For more information, visit <http://2015.gcsession.org>.

Documents, presentations, statements and resources from the General Conference, North American Division, Lake Union Conference and others are available at <http://www.ordination.lakeunion.org>.

Gary Burns, communication director, Lake Union Conference

[NAD NEWS]

Karen Adventist Centennial Reunion slated for July

Karen Adventists throughout North America are making plans to attend a gathering to be held July 24–26 at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. The Karen Adventist Centennial Reunion will celebrate a century of Adventist missions among the Karen people of Burma, according to Jimmy Shwe, coordinator of the event.

Shwe, based in Chapel Hill, N. Carolina, is the North American Division's minister to 2,000 Karen Adventists organized into 40 church groups, scattered throughout the U.S. and Canada. He estimates there are 5,000 more Karen still to be organized into Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Karen (pronounced "kahREN") are the second largest ethnic minority in Burma, now known as Myanmar. The persecution of the Karen by the military government in Rangoon is a matter of public record. Amnesty International repeatedly details these "crimes against humanity." Many Karen refugees in America spent years in refugee camps on the Thai-Burma border before being able to relocate under a U.N.-sponsored program. Having lost everything, they are grateful for a new start, but often struggle to make a living while adjusting to a new language and culture among neighbors who often don't know the difference between Karen and Korean.

The Centennial Reunion, themed "God's Plan, Our Purpose," will give the



Pastor Jimmy Shwe, minister to Karen Adventists in North America, speaks to a group of young Karen at the 2014 Karen Family Conference in Union Springs, New York.

scattered Karen a chance to reconnect with family and friends, gain spiritual strength through fellowship with other believers, and learn of opportunities for service among their people. A varied bilingual program (Karen and English) will feature inspiration from guest speakers, music, folklore, sports, a side trip to Adventist historical sites in Battle Creek, Mich., and special presentations for children. The Sabbath afternoon and Sunday morning programs will be of special interest to anyone wishing to learn more about the Karen.

The reunion coincides with the 100th anniversary of Eric B. Hare's arrival in Burma. Hare's books and recorded stories celebrate Karen Adventist heroes, Karen life, and the family's dedication to reaching this special tribe. Members of the Hare family will be in attendance to help remember his life and work.

Though the event is being organized by volunteers, there will be expenses involved in feeding and housing the large number of attendees. Those

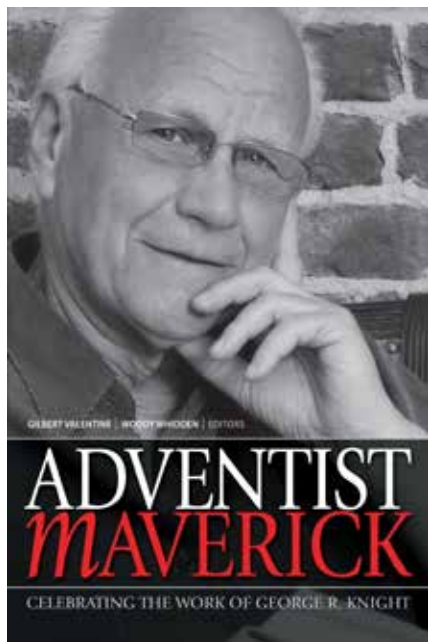


Among attendees at the July 24–26 Karen Adventist Centennial Reunion will be Pah Moo Gay (right), shown here with Trudi Starlin. A land mine explosion took his hands and eyesight. He came from Mae La Refugee Camp and now attends the Karen Church in St. Paul, Minn.

who would like to help sponsor the Centennial Reunion may inquire at ASAP Ministries: 269-471-3026. Additional information is available at <http://www.asapministries.org>.

For questions about the program schedule, contact Trudi Starlin at 269-471-5052.

Trudi Myang Starlin and Jimmy Shwe, event coordinators, Karen Centennial Reunion, with Penny Hare Tkachuck, granddaughter of Eric B. Hare



Festschrift presented to George Knight, prolific Adventist author

The Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary chapel was packed with guests, faculty, staff and students on Tuesday, April 21, for the presentation of a Festschrift to George Knight, professor emeritus of church history. The recently released book, *Adventist Maverick: A Celebration of George Knight's Contribution to Adventist Thought*, was presented to Knight in honor of his distinguished teaching, research, editorial and publishing career. The volume, published by Pacific Press Publishing Association, is a collection of writings by 19 colleagues and students, edited by Woodrow W. Whidden and Gilbert Valentine.

Reflecting on the methodology Knight used, Andrews University president Niels-Erik Andreasen said, "He [Knight] has written a good many books about early Adventist history, and he told me once that he wrote



George Knight receives a Festschrift on April 21 at the chapel of the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. In his response, Knight said, "I was an Adventist for 14 years before I became a Christian. My life since that day has been dedicated to helping other people understand who Jesus is...."

these books the same way the pioneers wrote their books, using pen and paper... That is a mark of distinction!"

Festschrift tributes were given by Valentine, chair of the Department of Administration and Leadership, La Sierra University; Jerry Moon, chair of the Department of Church History, Andrews University; and Whidden, professor emeritus of religion, Andrews University. Brian Strayer, professor of history, also gave a tribute to the late Gary Land, whose scholarly contributions in the area of Adventist church history are notable.

Valentine began by noting the impact of Knight's scholarship, "It's not an exaggeration to say that, apart from Ellen White, Professor George Knight is probably the most prolific author the Adventist church has seen.... [He] has become one of the most influential voices in the contemporary Adventist Church."

Jane Thayer, associate professor emerita of religious education, shared Moon's tribute, which focused on Knight's teaching role. Moon wrote, "Forty-plus years of distinguished teaching and publishing have made George Knight a magisterial figure in Adventist education. He has taught in Adventist colleges and seminaries

all over North America and literally from Australia to Zimbabwe." In 2003, Knight was the first recipient of the Daniel A. Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award, as well as the Teacher of the Year Award.

Whidden spoke of Knight's role as an editor. In this category of literary productivity are doctoral dissertations (he directed 13), the Bible Amplifier Commentary Series, the Adventist Pioneer Series of biographies, and the Ellen White Encyclopedia, which he launched, plus countless informal manuscript reviews.

In his short response, Knight spoke of the need for perspective and humility after listening to what had been said. He put the focus on Jesus Christ, stating, "That's why we're here today." He said, "I was an Adventist for 14 years before I became a Christian. My life ... has been dedicated to helping other people understand who Jesus is... Let's never forget who we are in relationship to Jesus Christ and what he has done for us."

If you wish to view the entire program, go to <http://andrews.edu/go/youtube>.

Pat Spangler, editorial manager, *FOCUS* editor, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University

Announcements



Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* website at <http://www.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>.

Lake Region

The Ypsilanti Church Prayer Ministries will host the 4th Annual Prayer Summit, **Aug. 21-23**. Pastor Phillip Willis Sr. will present "Pentecost! At What Cost?" The weekend begins on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. with the prayer walk. After the divine service on Sabbath, there will be an anointing service, an afterglow praise concert, and a prayer breakfast on Sunday. A charge is required for Sabbath lunch and Sunday brunch. Pre-registration is recommended. For more information, contact Catherine Wright (see wright48@att.net) or Monica Johnson (monykasu@att.net).

Lake Union

Offerings

- June 6** Local Church Budget
- June 13** G.C. Session Offering for World Mission
- June 20** Multilingual Ministries/Chaplaincy Ministries
- June 27** Local Conference Advance
- July 4** Local Church Budget
- July 11** Women's Ministries
- July 18** Local Church Budget
- July 25** Local Conference Advance
- Special Days**
- June 13** Women's Ministries Emphasis Day
- June 13** Refugees Awareness Sabbath
- July 11** Griggs University

Attention Church Clerks: If there are young adults in your membership records who no longer live at their family home, please secure their current

address to update your records so they will receive the *Lake Union Herald*. If records are not updated, these young people may feel disconnected from their Church, and miss out on the blessing of hearing how God is working in the lives of his people in the Lake Union territory.

Michigan

Adelphian Academy Alumni Reunion will be held **June 25-26**. Friday, 7:30 p.m., to be held at Holly Church on Fish Lake Rd. Sabbath, 9:15 a.m., at Academy chapel. Potluck dinner after church at church school gymnasium. Afternoon program, 3:30 p.m., at Holly Church. For more information, contact Peggy Hoffmier at 248-634-4749.

What: 2015 Fall Health Professionals Retreat & AMEN Regional: Midwest. Speaker: Dr. Phil Mills. When: **Sept. 18-20**. Where: Camp Au Sable. Contact: schristie@misda.org or 517-316-1527. Do you have a passion for medical evangelism? Do you wish you knew how to share Christ with your patients? Come, bring your family and be inspired by spiritual presentations, blessed by personal testimonies, and enjoy wonderful food and fellowship with medical, dental and other health professionals. Please consider inviting another health professional to attend with you. Dr. Mills is a dermatologist, speaker and writer from Blue Ridge, Ga. He is past president of AMEN.

Grand Rapids Adventist Academy Homecoming 2015 will be held Sabbath, **Oct. 17**.

This will be the ten-year reunion for the class of 2005, the first senior class. Sabbath school begins at 10:00 a.m. For more information, "Like" the school on Facebook or call the office at 616-446-2313.

North American Division

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend, Sept. 18-19: All alumni and former faculty and staff are invited to this special reunion weekend. The 2015 Honor Classes are: 1940, '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75 and '80. Location: Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, Iowa. Make plans to attend. For more information, contact Allayne Petersen Martsching at 402-312-7368 or email allaynemartsching@gmail.com.

Save the date! Greater New York Academy 95th Anniversary will be held **Oct. 9-11**. Honor classes end in 0 and 5. Friday night: vespers and welcome table; Sabbath: worship service, lunch, "Music and Memories"; Sunday: breakfast and basketball. Send your name and contact info to alumni@gnyacademy.org or "Friend" us on Facebook at Greater Nya. For more information, write GNY Academy, 41-32 58th St., Woodside, NY 11377, or call 718-639-1752.

World Division

The 60th General Conference Session will convene Thurs., **July 2**, in San Antonio, Texas, with the theme "Arise! Shine! Jesus Is Coming!" For more information on housing, exhibits, meals, parking and schedules, visit website <http://2015.gcsession.org>

NAD and G.C. Young Adult Ministries present IMPACT San Antonio (ISA), a young adult (ages 18-35) leadership and discipleship experience, concurrent with the 2015 General Conference

Session. During the G.C. Session, young adults, from around the world, will join together for iSA, **July 2-11**, at the Marriott RiverCenter. IMPACT is not a program, service, conference, summit or convention. It is a ten-day global experience for SDA young adults. IMPACT is community. IMPACT is growing in Jesus. IMPACT is leadership in action. IMPACT is you. IMPACT will not be the same experience without you. For more information, go to <http://www.impactsa2015.com>. To register, go to <http://www.adventsource.org> or call 800-328-0525.

Collonges alumni and friends, will you be in San Antonio, Texas, during the G.C. Session in July 2015? The "Campus Adventiste du Salève" delegates invite you to an alumni dinner meeting on Friday, **July 10**, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Hilton Palacio del Rio, near the Convention Center, to reunite old friends and reminisce about "the good old times!" in Collonges. It will be great to have you there. Tell your friends! *A bientôt!*

The 2015 ASI International Convention will be held **Aug. 5-8** in the Spokane (Wash.) Convention Center. Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries is a cooperative network of lay individuals, professionals, business owners, and ministries who collectively support the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each year, ASI members, supporters and friends gather at the ASI International Convention to encourage one another and exchange ideas vital to their lay-driven ministry goals. The focus for this year's convention, "Lift Him Up," will be carried over into the seminars. For more information about this event, visit website <http://www.asiministries.org/convention>.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

| | Jun 5 | Jun 12 | Jun 19 | Jun 26 | Jul 3 | Jul 10 | Jul 17 | Jul 24 | Jul 31 | Aug 7 |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Berrien Springs, Mich. | 9:16 | 9:21 | 9:23 | 9:25 | 9:24 | 9:22 | 9:19 | 9:13 | 9:06 | 8:58 |
| Chicago, Ill. | 8:21 | 8:25 | 8:28 | 8:30 | 8:29 | 8:27 | 8:24 | 8:18 | 8:11 | 8:03 |
| Detroit, Mich. | 9:05 | 9:09 | 9:12 | 9:13 | 9:13 | 9:11 | 9:07 | 9:02 | 8:55 | 8:46 |
| Indianapolis, Ind. | 9:09 | 9:13 | 9:15 | 9:17 | 9:17 | 9:15 | 9:11 | 9:06 | 9:00 | 8:53 |
| La Crosse, Wis. | 8:42 | 8:47 | 8:50 | 8:51 | 8:51 | 8:48 | 8:44 | 8:38 | 8:31 | 8:22 |
| Lansing, Mich. | 9:12 | 9:16 | 9:19 | 9:20 | 9:20 | 9:18 | 9:14 | 9:08 | 9:01 | 8:53 |
| Madison, Wis. | 8:32 | 8:37 | 8:40 | 8:41 | 8:41 | 8:38 | 8:34 | 8:29 | 8:22 | 8:13 |
| Springfield, Ill. | 8:23 | 8:27 | 8:29 | 8:31 | 8:31 | 8:29 | 8:25 | 8:20 | 8:14 | 8:06 |

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.

Anniversaries



Ken and Joan DeWitt will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary by a family get-together in the summer of 2016. They have been members of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich., for 26 years. They also were members of the Traverse City (Mich.) Church for 13 years after Ken graduated from Loma Linda University in 1969.

Kenneth DeWitt and Joan Bentley were married April 25, 1965, in Owosso, Mich., by the late Pastor Robert Kachenmeister. Ken practiced physical therapy at hospitals in Traverse City, Mich., Madison, Tenn., and St. Joseph, Mich., retiring in 2006. Joan worked in the Registrar's office at Andrews University for 17 years before retiring in 2006.

The DeWitt family includes Kimberly and Dan Smith of Leesburg, Fla.; Stephen and Lisa DeWitt of Burtonsville, Md.; and three grandchildren.

Birthdays



Evelyn (Keith) Sonnenberg celebrated her 100th birthday on April 6, 2015, by a

gathering of her family and Fairplain Church family at her home in Benton Harbor, Mich. She is a member of the Fairplain Church, Benton Harbor.

Evelyn was married to the late Fred Sonnenberg.

Evelyn has been a nurse. She received her nursing degree from Tacoma Adventist Hospital in Greeneville, Tenn., then came to work at a hospital in St. Joseph, Mich. She met her husband, Fred, in South Bend, Ind., and they were married in 1943.

Evelyn has one son, Gene, and his wife; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

BERNARD, Bastian P., age 92; born Jan. 2, 1923, in Jacmel, Haiti; died March 15, 2015, in Livonia, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Alice (Legend); son, Kennedy; daughter, Judith Bernard Fisher; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Clifford Jones, Roberne St. Louis, Julius R. Everett, Keynel Cadet and Michel L. Porcena, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

HOLLAND, Constance (Shafer) Otto, age 93, born April 4, 1922, in Twelve Mile, Ind., died April 6, 2015, in Kokomo, Ind. She was a member of the Kokomo Church.

Survivors include her husband, Bernard; daughter, Virginia Geik; brother, Frederick D. Shafer; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Blake Hall, and interment was in Flora (Ind.) Cemetery.

LASLETT, Gerald "Gus," age 70; born Dec. 6, 1944, in Allen Park, Mich.; died March 12, 2015, in Livonia, Mich. He was a member of the Metropolitan Church, Plymouth, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Sally (Osgood); sons, Gerald and Gus; daughter, Alana Rupert; brother, Harry; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Gilbert B. Chapman II, and interment was in Parkview Cemetery, Livonia.

McDANIEL, Ilea A. (Ahlers), age 77; born Feb. 18, 1937, in Madison, Wis.; died Jan. 5, 2015, in Newton County, Ind. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Kevin; daughters, Janice Watts and Karen McDaniel; brothers, Floyd Ahlers and Larry Crawford; sisters, Joyce Shepard and Bonnie McGowan; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Dwight K. Nelson, Kevin McDaniel and Don Dronen, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

McDANIEL, Robert L., age 86; born Nov. 27, 1928, in Petersburg, Ill.; died Jan. 5, 2015, in Newton County, Ind. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his son, Kevin; daughters, Janice Watts and Karen McDaniel; sister, Lois White; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Dwight K. Nelson, Kevin McDaniel and Don Dronen, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

PETERSON, Raymond M., age 83; born Jan. 1, 1932, in Moline, Ill.; died March 22, 2015, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Lorraine (Darst); and son, Conny.

Memorial services were conducted by Esther Knott, with private interment.

RHEINSCHMIDT, Jeannette (Youngs), age 88; born Aug. 11, 1926, in Oakdale, Wis.; died April 12, 2015, in Berryville, Ark. She was a member of the Wisconsin Academy Church, Columbus, Wis.

Survivors include her son, Glenn; daughters, Connie Moore and Rose Poyner; and one grandchild.

An inurnment service was conducted.

RORABECK, Bernita M. (Lunz), age 84; born July 30, 1930, in Clintonville, Wis.; died Nov. 3, 2014, in Stevensville, Mich. She was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Richard A.; son, John A.; daughter, Donna J. Davis; sisters, Helen Hyde, Bernice Taylor and Ardyce Moravetz; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Ron Kelly and Bruce Hayward, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

UNDERHILL, Opal J. (Bowman), age 92; born Feb. 23, 1923, in Rexton, Mich.; died March 28, 2015, in Chippewa County, Mich. She was a member of the Lakeview (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Henry D., Frank and Bill; daughters, Karen Livermore, Ruth Derusha and Nina Davis; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by David Gotshall, and interment was in Altona Township Cemetery, Lakeview.

YETMAN, Gladys (Waugh), age 91; born March 16, 1924, in Mitchell, Ontario, Canada; died April 12, 2015, in Midland, Mich. She was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include her son, Robert; daughters, Gloria Stonerock, Glenda VandenBosch and Julie Moe; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Cory Herthel, with private interment.

ZAGER, Annabelle (Vartenuk), age 90; born Nov. 13, 1924, in Akron, Ohio; died March 18, 2015, in Keene, Texas. She was a member of the Holly and Lapeer (Mich.) Churches.

Survivors include her husband, Earl J.; sons, Stephen and Stanley; daughters, Judith Foose and Janice Leogrande; sister, Cynthia Vartenuk; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Terry Dodge, and interment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly.

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>.

Miscellaneous

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>.

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Employment

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Development Officer/Grant Writer. Responsibilities include grant writing, donor relations, event coordination and case articulation. Exceptional written and verbal communication skills are essential. Bachelor's degree required and previous success securing grants. Submit cover letter and CV/résumé to Human Resources at denise.rivera@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT OFFICE seeks full-time Director of Alumni Relations. Focus areas include alumni events, engagement strategy, volunteer coordination and fundraising; includes some travel. Submit cover letter and current CV/résumé to Human Resources at denise.rivera@swau.edu.

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ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (ADU) in Orlando, Fla., seeks a Department Head for its Center for Academic Achievement who provides oversight for general education and nursing tutoring, career advising, mental health counseling, disability services, testing accommodation, coaching and testing services. Master's degree in Counseling, Psychology or related field required. Reply to Fred.Stephens@adu.edu.

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school fulfills its mission and goals. A preferred qualified person should have an experience as a secondary school principal, a secondary school teacher and/or a doctoral degree. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_1.

Real Estate/Housing

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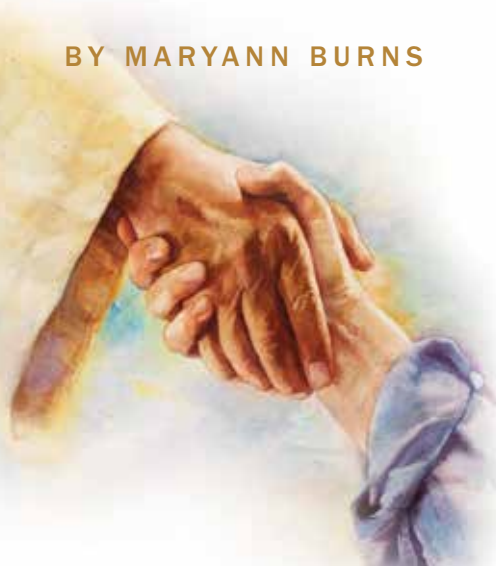
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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

More to Life

BY MARYANN BURNS



Some say, "If you have your health, you have everything." I disagree. When I had my health, I had other issues that could actually make one sick – stress, worry, anxiety, uncertainty... When I was diagnosed with incurable cancer, those issues were magnified. But then God began to take me on a different path. He began to teach me to trust him and take him at his word. I began to focus on the promise of eternal life, but even more on the day-to-day assurance that God is with me each step of the way.

God doesn't promise we won't have difficulty, heartache or pain, but he does promise to be with us. I decided to live in the reality that God walks with me through this and anything else that may come my way.

My issue with cancer was just one of many other issues in my life – issues that are uncomfortable to deal with, even maddening at times! Now I'm learning to give those things to God, too.

My husband has a strong, steady faith. The support he gives has helped a lot. God demonstrates his faithfulness through him and through so many others (at just the right time, I might add). So, God is good. Life is good!

When you really believe, you have the assurance that God is walking in partnership with you every moment of every day. When you're walking in partnership with God, you share his goodness with others. That's when you have everything!

Maryann Burns is a freelance writer who lives in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She recently retired from Andrews University where she partnered with God to minister to the many students he placed in her path daily.



Go Out

BY CESAR ROJAS

Every year, the School of Architecture, Art and Design organizes a summer abroad as part of its core curriculum for Architecture students. The following is an edited journal entry from one of last year's students while the group stayed in Stockholm, Sweden.

Yesterday, I visited Gustav Vasa Kyrka, the church in front of the hotel. The exteriors, though relatively stripped down, hide a gorgeous, baroque-like interior. Frescoed ceilings, a dome, and full-on sculptures... The receptionist, Urban, took me outside after I asked about tomorrow's service, since it's the holiday of Ascension. He pointed toward "beyond" the library and said it would take place at the observatory green area. After asking about the choir and an invitation to join it, I asked the man: "What is your personal opinion on Sweden being a very secular country?" (It seems as if there are no social needs in this country. Even the beggars are clean.)

He started with "We're in better shape than you would think," comparing a 60 percent membership from the country's total population, versus 10 percent in Britain's Anglican Church. When I inquired further about actual attendance, there is a smaller engaged minority and an even smaller active community. When I suggested "going out" and being more involved in daily life, Urban mentioned freedom of choice, and restated the high membership of the Swedish population in the Svenska Kyrkan (Church of Sweden).



Cesar Rojas

such as the Gustav Vasa Kyrka, should not limit us inside. The mindset of its members should not be "take, take, take" but "give, give, give." Still, church architecture should be pleasant to attract its members to congregate. How much décor is too much? This brings us back to the open-ended question: Can church architecture help to promote outreach rather than merely an inward focus? How can the design and programming of the building help us "go out" rather than simply wait inside a beautiful sanctuary for people to come in?

The question nobody has answered — at least according to Urban — is how to engage the people back. I think that instead of attempting to draw people into the church building with sacred concerts, masses and sermons, they should go outside of the building first and form disciples. Matthew 28:19 reads: *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...*

The architecture reflects the mindset of the church. Are churches that disconnect you from the world in need of the best [architecture]? However, the building,

Cesar Rojas is a senior, studying architecture at Andrews University. He plans, God willing, to finish with his Master of Architecture in 2016. Cesar is a member of the Benton Harbor (Mich.) Spanish Church.



Cesar Rojas

Second Chance

BY GARY BURNS

When Jeffrey Saelee, of Rio, Wisconsin, was invited to accompany his uncle's family to Laos, he thought, *No way!* because he was a respected player in his YouTube channel video gaming. "I hated to think of leaving that," Jeffrey says. But then he remembered how his classwork had suffered, and he had prayed for a drastic change to happen in his life. Jeffrey was already familiar with Lao and Hmong culture so, with his parents' and sisters' encouragement, he decided this might be just the right thing and took off for what he thought would be a three-month stay.



Jeffrey Saelee

While in Laos, the schoolwork Jeffrey still had to complete seemed like a mountain and, at times, he became discouraged. During a Skype call one day, his father explained that one of the reasons he had wanted Jeffrey to go to Laos was to "experience hardship, and learn to overcome it and be strong." Jeffrey recalls. "That changed my whole outlook on life; I no longer looked at the hard stuff as hard stuff — now they were simply challenges to conquer."

Jeffrey met a woman who was "somewhat Christian" but still went to the *wat* (a Buddhist temple). He and his uncle invited her and her 18-year-old son to church. "It happened to be communion Sabbath and they, of course, had no idea what the service meant," Jeffrey remembers. "As we were doing the foot-washing, my uncle explained a little bit about the meaning, and then I washed his feet. Later, after everyone went back inside for the rest of the service, the son asked if he could wash my feet. I said 'yes' (though reluctantly, I admit)."

After that experience, Jeffrey taught the son English, and the young man invited several friends to come, too. "The story isn't finished," Jeffrey says. "I pray we were able to plant some seeds in his and his friends' hearts."

"I've learned while being here that God always has a plan for us; we just need to let him work. The invitation to come to Laos came at just the right time to rouse me from my spiritual slumber and lazy video-gaming lifestyle. I can't wait to see what he has in store next!"

Jeffrey is an avid photographer and also teaches guitar to the youth in Laos who are eager to learn. He's discovering that special place where faith meets action.

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

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