

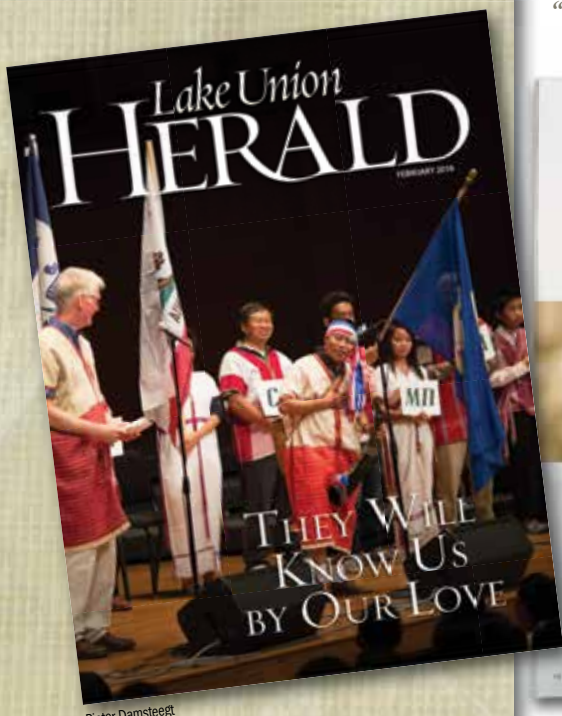
Lake Union HERALD

FEBRUARY 2016



THEY WILL
KNOW US
BY OUR LOVE

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



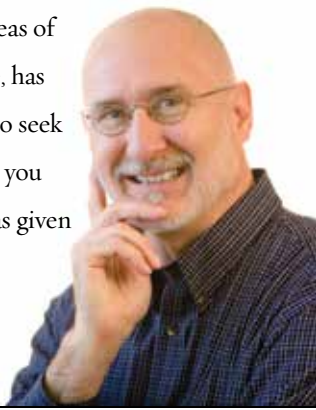
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In this issue...

I'm excited about this issue of the *Herald* because its all about the reason why we are here — to proclaim the message *to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people* (Revelation 14:6 KJV). Short-term mission trips is one of the most effective ways for young people to catch a vision of what God can do through them to touch the lives of others. There are also many full-time mission appointments available. Yet international travel is becoming a greater challenge, and the door to some areas of greatest need are now closed. However, God, in his providence, has made it possible for many from distant and inaccessible lands to seek refuge and opportunity right here in our own communities. As you read this issue, prayerfully consider what opportunities God has given you to fulfill your commission — maybe right here at home.


Gary Burns, Editor



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Answer the Call

We were closing out the Sabbath in my mother's hospital room. She lay somewhat pensive, yet comfortably confident that all would go well if the surgeon should walk through the door and say, we've waited several days now and we can't wait any longer. Tomorrow we have to do surgery.

As family from across the country filled the room, each of us were praying silently that, in her advanced years, she could possibly sidestep the surgeon's knife as we sang, "Now the Day Is Over." As we rounded out the chorus and headed into the last stanza, the surgeon did come through the door and confidently slipped into the circle. He waited for us to conclude the song at which time he very succinctly said, "Beautiful music. I'm a believer, too. Can I offer a word of prayer?" Wow, what a way to end the Sabbath!

In the many years I was privileged to serve as pastor to those who were about to be operated on, at my invitation more than a few surgeons joined hands with us as we prayed. I liked being able to pray, not just for the patient, but the one who would wield the knife as well. Sometimes I could see that the prayer was well received and in all the times I asked the surgeon if he didn't mind my praying for him also, never did one decline. Yet, never had one offered to pray, such as my mother's surgeon did. And what a powerful prayer he prayed. The whole family left Mom's room that night feeling, she's in good hands and that all would go well on tomorrow.

It's great to meet believers in the many venues of life, courageous people who are unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Are you a confident and courageous Christian willing to share your faith?

The Pew Research Center asserts in an article entitled, "America's Changing Landscape" that "the percentage of adults (ages 18 and older) who describe themselves as Christians has dropped by nearly eight percentage points in just seven years... Over the same period, the percentage of Americans who are religiously unaffiliated — describing themselves as atheist, agnostic or 'nothing in particular' — has jumped more than six points, from 16.1% to 22.8%." As contemporary society has moved in our life time from amoral stumbling, to tumbling, and now what appears to be a barrel roll down the hill of immorality, it won't be long before our society experiences a free fall off the cliff of no return. With this alarming data before us, the importance of understanding God's calling on our lives has become more acute than ever. God is looking for individuals who will commit their lives to ministry in whatever vocation they pursue.

After praying with us, my mother's surgeon stated that he saw himself as more than a surgeon. He declared, "I am a minister who happens to do surgery." You don't have to be a pastor or medical practitioner to be a minister for God.

As we begin this New Year, people need to know Jesus is real in *our* lives. We can't save society, but we shouldn't be sad, because we can't save ourselves either. But we can make Jesus happy. Why not ask God, *What is my calling in life?* He may ask you to use whatever discipline you are already pursuing to serve as a catalyst to touch someone somewhere or everyone everywhere.

Have you answered God's call on your life? If you haven't, you are missing out on the adventure of a lifetime! Better than the best roller coaster ride, Caribbean cruise, sport or resort, or the thrill of an ever-so-short skydive is the life-long pursuit of God's calling for you.

A Call to Care for Refugees

BY DANIEL R. JACKSON

To close the door to refugees cannot be an option.
To “welcome” them by marking them with shame and suspicion is unacceptable.
To incite fear based on prejudice is irresponsible.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are compelled to welcome ALL who are seeking refuge.

Throughout the Bible, God instructs mankind to welcome strangers and treat them as equals — with love, care and respect. Furthermore, in Matthew 25, Jesus raises the bar and says we should treat strangers much better than ourselves. We are to treat them as we would treat God.

As Christians, we believe God calls upon us to act not just in word but in deed. We are to take care of *the least of these*. These are the hungry, thirsty, sick, the poor, prisoners and strangers — refugees. We are to care for them without condition. There simply is no other option.

Historically the United States has welcomed strangers looking for a better life unto its shores. I myself am a stranger in your land.

I have come not seeking refuge, but to lead the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, which is part of the Christian family of churches.

Our religious community, like this country, is made rich by its diversity. In fact, according to a recent report by the Pew Research Center, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the most racially and ethnically diverse religious group in the United States.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is responding and meeting the needs of refugees. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency, the humanitarian arm of the church, has collected more than 25 tons of relief supplies in



Dan R. Jackson

Macedonia for Syrian refugees. Here in the United States, our church has an established ministry that assists refugees seeking a better life for their families. Our Refugee Ministries team is ready to assist Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

I have seen the plight of the displaced first hand. In 2008, my wife and I traveled to Nakuru, Kenya, to volunteer in a camp that housed some 16,000 of the nearly 600,000 people displaced internally by the deadly violence that followed disputed elections. We provided assistance to mothers and their

newborn babies. We spoke to many who shared stories of fear and spoke of their desperate struggle to survive — people looking for a better life.

During my five years as a guest in this country, I have been made to feel welcome by nearly every American I have encountered. I, however, hail from your neighbor to the north, Canada. I was not seeking refuge or escaping an unstable government, as are many who are fleeing Syria to seek a better life.

We all know that this country was built by immigrants and has always answered the call to take in those who seek refuge, security and a better life. Emma Lazarus best describes the principle of American hospitality in her poem, “*New Colossus*.” Her words are forever memorialized on a plaque inside the pedestal of that symbol of liberty and welcome:

... We must stop the rhetoric of hate and fear.



*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me:
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*

Some of the leaders of this country want to close that golden door to refugees from Syria and Iraq who are desperately trying to save their families' lives. The overheated rhetoric by leaders and presidential candidates is planting seeds of fear.

Some are calling for refuge to be offered to Christians — and not those who are strangers. Others are saying we need to close the door altogether to those from countries and religions they feel may harbor or breed terrorists.

Make no mistake, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America unequivocally condemns the terrorist actions of extremists that claimed innocent lives in Paris, Beirut, Iraq, Mali and other places around the world. We mourn with and pray for the families of all the victims of these senseless crimes against humanity.

Resorting to violence in the name of God or Allah is wrong.

But to deny innocent women, children and men who are fleeing war, hunger and disease refuge because of fear and prejudice is just as wrong.

This does not mean that the doors are left wide open. This country has the right to defend itself from radical militants who wish to bring terror to its shores. And refugees from Syria and Iraq already must pass through a stringent process to enter this country.

So, what has changed?

Fear. Fear is closing the golden door.

The families, who seek refuge from war-torn countries in the Middle East, whether they are Christian or Muslim, are children of God created in His image. They are our brothers and sisters, and we must provide them refuge without discrimination.

This nation, if it is to follow the principles upon which it was founded, needs to heed the call to not just welcome strangers, but to love them, care for them and protect them.

We must stop the rhetoric of hate and fear.

We must stop dividing ourselves by who and how we worship.

As but a stranger in your land, I ask that you not close the golden door — the door that offers sanctuary and the possibility of a new life to strangers in far greater need.

Daniel R. Jackson is president of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Integrity

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

In her groundbreaking turn-of-the-century book, *Education*, Ellen White called for men (and women) of integrity. “The greatest want of the world is the want for men, men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for right though the heavens fall.”¹

So what does integrity look like today? Brené Brown, researcher, author and public speaker, defines integrity as 1) choosing courage over comfort; 2) choosing right over fun, fast or easy; and 3) practicing our values, not just professing our values.²



Brené’s research identified integrity as a strong building block of trust. She was surprised to find that trust is built in the small moments, rather than the larger, more compelling experiences in people’s lives. Thus, integrity also is built in the small moments.

So, how do we choose courage over comfort? It’s disconcerting how political correctness and pluralism has distorted our thinking. I was taught that those who ran our country were to be respected, from the president to the local policeman. I’ve seen and heard the talk regarding the presidential candidates, and observed some of their own behavior on TV. Sadly, it was recently shared with me that several young adults who desire to be policeman are being strongly discouraged by their families. It seems that political correctness has put up an artificial barrier that determines for many what is right or wrong. I was surprised a few months ago when several people wanted to tell me “Merry Christmas,” but they were uneasy saying that and acquiesced to “Happy Holidays.” While perhaps not a moral issue, it illustrated to me one way society is deeming what’s right and wrong.

How do we choose right over fun, fast or easy? It’s when we choose to pay the posted admission prices rather than save a few dollars because our child is “small for

his age,” when we maintain the speed limit when there is no other traffic, when we pay the postage due rather than sending something “media rate,” and when we keep what we purchased, rather than return “slightly used” merchandise as new. Our children are well aware of these behaviors, and they are

influenced by our choices.

How do we practice our values, not just profess them? We must acknowledge the origin of our personal values and practice them on a daily, small moment basis. Do we set our moral compass by “thus saith the Lord” or by the influence of others?

Youth are looking to the adults in their lives to help them know and understand who they are and how they should be. Ellen White had no doubt about that when she wrote, “The youth need to be impressed with the truth that their endowments are not their own. Strength, time, intellect, are but lent treasures.”³

May we see our children and youth as the treasures they are and live our own lives with integrity and purpose, paying attention to the small moments.

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

1) White, E.G. *Education*, p. 57

2) Brown, Brené. *The Anatomy of Trust* video presentation, www.supersoul.tv

3) White, E.G. *Education*, p. 57

A healthy dose of
skepticism is valuable



Believing is Seeing

False health
claims can confuse
the public

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

A new health ethos has developed in America, characterized by consumers who self-medicate with all types of remedies promoted via the electronic and printed media. High profile individuals “show and tell” their promotions in front of the TV camera, and their huge followings believe almost anything they see and hear. All kinds of interesting health information get pushed in the mass media and then it is played out in social media. Testimonials appear daily in very convincing fashion to authenticate a particular product.

New products, books and gizmos continually flood the marketplace. These materials promise you better health, help to slow aging, promote weight loss, increase your energy level or enhance your personal beauty. Self-proclaimed health experts and over-zealous promoters often make exaggerated claims and promise miraculous cures. Health promoters often prey on the fears of the public. The chronically ill, the elderly, the naïve and the overweight are all targets of health promoters. Fraudulent health claims may cause a person to delay appropriate medical care in a timely manner. In addition, false claims can end up confusing the public about what constitutes good health.

In the weight loss market, *Garcinia cambogia* is the buzzword today. Its popularity soared after a television doctor highlighted it as “the miracle weight loss pill.” Promoters claim that extracts of the fruit increase serotonin levels in the brain and act as an appetite suppressant. However, tests of the efficacy of *G. cambogia* found that people taking it lost no more weight than those taking a placebo.

People claim that gluten sensitivity is a major cause of weight gain, that dairy foods can make a person lean, but butter is healthier than margarine since it is more “natural,” and eating eggs doesn’t have any impact upon your cholesterol levels. Some slick promoters claim that having a daily green smoothie is better for you than eating 2–3 servings of



green vegetables. Even though the makers of Mannatech are being sued for making fraudulent claims about their products, people still claim it is essential for optimal health and has special healing properties for diseases beyond the reach of modern science.

Others claim that your body needs a regular detox to cleanse the system of harmful impurities and rev up your metabolism. Many websites promote the idea that soy consumption causes cancer and soy can make men sterile or effeminate. Such claims have no scientific base. So, how can you tell when something is truly credible or if it is misinformation based on fake science? Websites to check a health claim are snopes.com, UrbanLegendsOnline.com and TruthOrFiction.com. Sound health information can be found on the Mayo Clinic website.

Paul admonishes us to prove the veracity of everything, hold on to the good, and reject the harmful (I Thessalonians 5:21, 22). In Proverbs 14:15, we read that *A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.* We should beware of claims that sound too good to be true. If you really believe in something, you could “see” a lot of stuff as if it was for real.

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



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

Fields Near at Hand

BY ELLEN WHITE

Immigration is currently a very volatile subject and it is our opinion that the enemy is using fear as a motivator to keep us from sharing the Good News with every kindred, tribe and nation right on our very doorsteps. The counsel given below is especially timely — a truth for the present. —The Editors

It is in harmony with God's plan for the extension of his work in the regions beyond that many are called to leave their native shores for distant lands, to act as leaders and teachers in soul-winning service. It is also in harmony with his plan that those who remain in their home fields shall unite in well-organized efforts to save the perishing multitudes living close by, within easy reach. Every true follower of Christ is a missionary, and whether he be at home or abroad, he will find many ways in which to labor for God. Realizing his accountability to make known to others the truth that has gladdened his own heart and made bright his hope of life eternal, the true Christian, wherever he is, will be a faithful light bearer.

It is the duty not of the minister merely, but of every member of the church, to represent Christ to the world. All who name the name of Christ are to catch the rays of light streaming from the throne of God, and reflect them upon souls blinded by error and infatuated with false doctrine. They are to hold up the only true standard of righteousness, which is God's holy law.

Precious are the results that will follow sincere, unselfish efforts to use every capability in the Lord's service. From the Great Teacher the worker will receive the highest of all education. The quickening influence of the grace of God will be made manifest in him. There will be an intensity of desire to follow in the path that Jesus trod. There will be an earnest longing to point sinners to *the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world* (John 1:29 KJV). The heart will be filled with loving zeal for the Master.

My brethren and sisters, let us come up to the high standard of God in Christ Jesus. Let us now consider, before it

shall be everlastingly too late, what is the measure of our responsibilities in this world in regard to the salvation of our fellow men. Let us watch and pray, and place ourselves in right relation to God, and study to see what good we may do — what words we may speak, what influence we may exert, what light we may diffuse as co-laborers with God, and what we can do to establish missions in places where now there are none, that lights may be continually shining forth into the dark corners of the earth.

Every individual Christian is required of God to be active in missionary service. He must wrestle with God in secret prayer; then he is to go forth in the spirit of Christ to hold converse with men. Anointed for his mission, he bears with him the atmosphere of paradise. His words are well chosen; his countenance reflects the image of his Master. He is the light of the world, a living epistle known and read of men.

Ellen White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, *Review & Herald*, October 22, 1914

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

- *What provisions are there for excluding one's self from mission service?*
- *When you share with others, does your countenance reflect the image of your Master?*
- *How can you ensure that you will speak the right, well-chosen words?* — The Editors

The Joy of Praise

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

Joy is at the very heart of God's plan for human beings. He knows that we are aching for joy. He wants us to have the joy of knowing him and being in his presence. Praise is one way that God gives us his joy. Praise gives rise to joy because praise makes God real to us!

Praise is a heartfelt response to who God is. Thanksgiving is a response to what God gives. Be sure that you don't confuse the two. When we give thanks, our thoughts still revolve around ourselves and what we may get from God. When we praise him, our thoughts focus entirely on God.

The joy of praise is really joy in God. It is responding to who he is. The Westminster Shorter Catechism reminds us that our chief purpose on earth is "to glorify God and enjoy him forever." Glorifying God and enjoying him are not two separate things. They are inseparably linked. To glorify God is to enjoy him. To enjoy him is to glorify him. Both lead us into an experience with God.

The Scriptures are packed with joyful praise to God. Nehemiah speaks of those who *delight in revering [God's] name* (Nehemiah 1:11 NIV). The prophet Isaiah professes, *I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God* (Isaiah 61:10 NIV). Psalm 100 invites us to *shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. know that the Lord is God* (Psalm 100:1-3 NIV). Those who praise God always seem to find a spring of joy bubbling up within their hearts.

Praise opens the door for God's joy to flood into our lives. Several years ago, I was led to begin spending extended time on Sunday morning just praising God and being in his presence. It started with fifteen minutes; then it was half an hour; then forty-five minutes; and, finally, an hour. I now find this hour to be the most delightful and refreshing

hour of the week. Though getting up early isn't easy for me, when Sunday morning rolls around I find myself hopping out of bed with the thought: "This is my morning to spend an hour just enjoying God."

Praising God not only gives us joy; it gives God joy, too. As we enjoy him, he enjoys us and takes pleasure in the fact that we find joy in him. We are God's precious children, and we have the ability to gladden our Father's heart. The prophet Zephaniah discloses just how good we can make God feel: *He will take great delight in you...[he] will rejoice over you with singing* (Zephaniah 3:17). Imagine that! Maybe there are times — when we are singing a song like "Rejoice in the Lord Always" — that God in heaven is singing too, except that he is putting your name into his song.

Would you like to be a radiant, joyful Christian? Then you must learn to enjoy God. Take time to focus your attention on him — his beauty, his glory, his majesty, his splendor, his holiness. Reflect back to him what you see. Make sure he knows how much you appreciate him for who he is. Not to praise God is to act as if he doesn't exist. To act as if God doesn't exist is to be a practical atheist, and atheists definitely do not enjoy God.

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.



Five-year-old Witnesses at the Jackson County Fair

BY MADLYN HAMBLIN

Promise InPower, a first-grade student at Timbuktu Academy of Science & Technology in Detroit, Michigan, who often attends the Jackson, Michigan, church, spent several evenings at the Jackson County Fair passing out literature. The Jackson church had two booths at this year's fair, and was staffed by different church members during the week.

Promise happened to be staying with her grandmother, Cheryl Brown, women's ministries director of the Jackson church, during the week of the fair. Cheryl brought Promise with her when it was Cheryl's turn to serve at the fair booth. Adults working the booth would stand at the entrance and pass out various pieces of literature as they spoke to people passing by. Many times when people noticed that it was a religious booth, they would look away or refuse the literature. Enter: Promise. Promise took handfuls of literature and stood right out in the middle of the walkway and would look up at the adults with her big brown eyes and beguiling manner and offer something to read. No one turned her down! She was so sweet, engaging and persistent, that it would have been unthinkable for anyone not to take what she was offering. The piles of literature that were on the booth tables began to disappear, once Promise took action.



Promise InPower

Literature that was passed out included a health book, several books by Ellen White, children's bedtime story advertisements, a flyer for an upcoming series of meetings and a colorful postcard for an upcoming cooking school. Promise was successful in getting out hundreds of pieces of literature.

At the cooking school which was held four weeks later, five people marked on their evaluation forms they heard about the "event" at the Jackson County Fair. Promise's work was not in vain. And credit must be given to her dedicated grandmother, Cheryl Brown, who led by example. The work this bright-eyed child did surely illustrates the simple truth that ... *a little child shall lead them* (Isaiah 11:6 KJV).

Madlyn Hamblin, communication director, Jackson Church



Un Plan para Organizar Nuevas Iglesias

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“La viña es el mundo entero, y hay que trabajar en todas partes. Hay lugares que ahora son un desierto moral, y que tienen que convertirse en jardines del Señor. Es necesario cultivar los lugares desolados de la tierra para que puedan reverdecer y florecer como la rosa. Hombres inspirados por el Espíritu Santo deben trabajar en nuevos territorios. Hay que establecer nuevas iglesias y grupos. Es necesario que haya representantes de la verdad presente en todas las ciudades y hasta en los lugares más remotos del mundo. La gloria de la verdad de Dios debe resplandecer en toda la tierra. La luz debe iluminar a todo lugar y a toda persona. Quienes recibieron la luz deben hacerla brillar constantemente. Puesto que el sol ha salido en nuestras vidas debemos reflejar su luz sobre el sendero de los que están en oscuridad” —Testimonios para la iglesia, Vol. 6, p. 32

En el mes de octubre de 2015 la Unión del Lago auspició un entrenamiento especial acerca de grupos pequeños en el gimnasio de la Universidad Andrews. El pastor José M. Espinosa, catedrático en la Facultad de Teología en la Universidad de Montemorelos, fue el invitado especial. Más de mil personas asistieron al evento entre los cuales se encontraban delegados enviados por la Asociación Regional del Lago y la Asociación de Michigan. Hubo reuniones todo el día sábado y en la última reunión cientos de personas respondieron al llamado de dirigir grupos pequeños con el fin de organizar nuevas iglesias.

Inmediatamente después de este evento asistí a las reuniones de fin de año de la División Norteamericana en Silver Spring, Maryland. Una de las muchas presentaciones de nuestros líderes de la División fue acerca del proyecto de plantar 1.000 iglesias en los próximos cinco años. Se estima que para que la obra de evangelismo avance debe haber por lo menos una iglesia por cada 25.000 habitantes. Esto significa que debe haber 14.162 iglesias. La verdad es, sin embargo, que en el año 2015 existían solamente 6.277 iglesias. Es el plan de la División Norteamericana distribuir más de un millón de dólares con el propósito de que se planten 200 iglesias durante el año 2016. Cada una de estas nuevas iglesias recibirá \$10.000.

La presentación que hizo la División Norteamericana sobre el tema de plantar iglesias me hizo pensar en todas las



El pastor José M. Espinosa, catedrático en la Facultad de Teología en la Universidad de Montemorelos, fue el invitado especial.

personas y grupos pequeños que el pasado mes de octubre habían respondido al llamado de abrir nuevas iglesias. Acaso ¿no es éste uno de los métodos de Dios para terminar la obra? No tengo duda que si confiamos en las promesas de Dios se puedan establecer aún más de 200 iglesias en esta División. Quiero animar a los hermanos y a los pastores hispanos a que hagan todo lo

posible para abrir nuevas iglesias. Si en verdad hacemos lo que Dios nos manda podremos en poco tiempo sobrepasar el blanco de 1.000 nuevas iglesias en este quinquenio y se apresuraría la venida de nuestro Señor.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



BACKGROUND

- Estimates are that there are some 70,000 Karens in the U.S.
- The Adventist church in the U.S. has two organized churches for Karens — St. Paul, Minneapolis and North Carolina.
- Within the Lake Union, there are four churches operating in the group or company phase and they are located in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Battle Creek, Michigan; Rockford, Illinois; and Rock Island, Illinois



DON AND TRUDY STARLIN

A MINISTRY TEAM TO THE KAREN

AS TOLD TO DEBBIE MICHEL

About the Starlins: Trudi came from Burma to America in 1975, not as a refugee. She currently serves on the board of ASAP Ministries and is part of the advisory of Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries. Don is one of the founders of Adventist World Aviation. They have been married for 25 years.

They don't have a car, they don't drive; meanwhile the Jehovah's Witness are knocking on their door and helping them.

How did you get involved with the Karen Refugees?

Trudi: I used to work at AFM [Adventist Frontier Mission], one of the development representatives was visiting a donor in Rockford, Illinois [in 2008]. He came back and he said, 'Trudi, you need to call this person.' The donor said they have this group of people from Burma visiting with them, worshipping with them and they cannot speak the language, they cannot communicate. So I called the donor and he was telling me about it, these poor people coming every Sabbath, they can't talk to them, they can't communicate with them in English. He in turn gave me the number for the refugee family and so I called them and talked to them and found out they were the Burma Karen tribe.

The next day Don and I went and visited them and found out that there are three families — three siblings, they are in their late 40s and early 60s — three generations of families worshipping faithfully in that church. The first thing they told us was that they looked for an Adventist church. They don't have a car, they don't drive; meanwhile the Jehovah's Witness are knocking on their door and helping them. When they found out there was an [Adventist] church nearby, that's the first thing they did, they attended.

They told us there are a lot of refugees here from Burma and are Adventists; because Eric B. Hare was a missionary to Burma. That's when we got involved to encourage them. They get discouraged. They go to churches, and as is typical, they greet you at the door, but after church they all disappear, so they were left stranded. So they went home. You have to understand where they come from, their culture: they worship on Friday night for vespers, on Sabbath, they have Sabbath school, church, AY, vesper; so they come to America because it was Americans who went over and say this is what's happening in America. Then they come and find out this is what it is.

What are some of the challenges you face?

Trudi: One of the Karen pastors Jimmy Shwe, he oversees the whole Karen group for the North American Division; he faces a lot of challenges. He said, 'I know why Baptists, Catholics, Lutherans are so successful; he said they meet

them at the airport and take them to the apartment, and show them stuff.' He's yet to see one Adventist who'll greet them at the airport. I don't want to say our church doesn't have any refugee ministries; we have Adventist Refugee Immigrant Services. It started in 2009 when they realized there's a lot of them were coming in. There is something; but they're trying to help the Adventist church members, but not as the refugees are coming to America, to be there for them or reach them.

What can we do to connect with these refugees?

Don: The simplest thing one could do is to contact a resettlement agency. Resettlement agencies are all over various cities and they specialize in resettling different groups. We did a GROW Group at PMC called "Reach the World Next Door" so we can help. Catholic Charities, Lutheran Services, Methodists. But [Adventists] there's none — we're it! ASAP ministries is getting involved. But as a church, we have no plan, which is really sad.

We can't go to many of these places and preach the gospel. AFM has been trying to recruit missionaries, to go to places such as Nepal, Bhutan, even Burma for 12, 15 years and it's largely gone unfilled. So what's God doing — he's bringing the people here. Time is moving on, we're near the second-return of Christ, and he's positioning representatives from all these language groups — just like it says in Acts 2: they were Jews from every nation under Heaven.

There are all kinds of things to do. When they first land, they have nothing, just go over and visit with them. Look in their refrigerator, on their shelves. Introduce them to where to go shopping, teach them how to use a kitchen. They're used to cooking over a charcoal fire and so they don't know what a refrigerator is for, because they cook every meal fresh. We went to one apartment and we found stir-fry broccoli in the cupboard.

Trudi: It was fresh, ready to eat, they didn't know what to do with it so they put it in the cupboard.

Debbie Michel is associate communication director of the Lake Union Conference and managing editor of the *Lake Union Herald*

Lichtenwalters Serving in Lebanon

KATHIE LICHTENWALTER INTERVIEW

Since January 2013 Larry and Kathie Lichtenwalter are stationed in Lebanon. Larry is the Dean of School of Theology, Director of Center for Islamic & Arabic Studies at Middle East University, while Kathie works in the Middle East and North Africa Union with the Tentmaker Initiative and is very involved in the support services of the university. Their arrival in Beirut coincides with the increased flow of refugees from neighboring Syria.



Students at the Bourj Hammoud Learning Center, a MENAU center of influence in Beirut.

Editor's note: The following interview was edited for length and readability.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

I feel like over the years the Lord has just poured resources and learning into our experience. My husband, in his work with ATS [Adventist Theological Society], wrote one paper comparing the nature of God and Christianity in the Bible with Islam as it's seen through the Koran. He'd had a mild interest in Muslim ministry here because our head elder, Brian Manley, was very much involved in work with Jordan and had started a Muslim ministry at the Village Church [in Berrien Springs, Michigan]. We attended it to be supportive but it's like a lot of people sitting in a room talking about ideas, and that's what's very easy to do especially here in America. [My

husband] also had met and providentially spent some time, intense time, with some workers in the Middle East who had a burden for Muslim ministry.

Homer Trecartin's [president of the Middle East and North Africa Union] mother was a part of this Muslim ministry at the Village Church and we basically say her prayers brought us there because she told Larry once, very off the wall, "I am praying that you will go there." And he said, "yes, yes," because he had gone to the university to teach intensives, and he said, "yeah, I'll be there, I'll be there." But she said, "no I'm praying that you can go there for good." So, you know, we just smile and she's a sweetheart but she's a prayer warrior, so you have to be careful. So one day we just got an email from Homer and Leif, the president of the university, to see if he would go there.

MY MISSION

The most critical thing I've done to increase the burden of my heart for the Muslim person is to understand what they're thinking, how they see the world. They have a different worldview and if we don't recognize that, we will feel like we have all kinds of bridges into their world and we don't. They talk about the soon coming of Jesus, the Judgment Day, health – they don't call it healthful living; it's just diet, morality. These things are very important to us, they are very important to them. But the entire framework of why they are important and what you do with that value is critically different. It's understanding that difference that I say, this is my mission.

REFUGEES FLOW INTO LEBANON

This refugee issue is challenging for the local government

and the local people because of the housing, the utilities, everything is strained — the school system — half a million, and this is an old figure, children, school age children, no school system can take that. If it's not a strong system to start with, it's very challenging. The Union just brought in and voted what we call a Center of Influence; it was decided this one COI in Beirut would establish a school like a remedial learning center for children who hadn't been in school for years. It has been very, very successful just as a little institution serving only 70 kids — but interacting with families, mostly mothers, and being in their homes and establishing relationships. So you're talking about three years and this is what's so much a part of what we've come to the conclusion that relationship is at the core of how we deal with the people at our doorstep. The Union could not just set up distribution centers. ADRA does that and they do it



in relationship to other aid organizations. But the returns of what that school is able to do I know are based on three years of taking care of their children, giving them coats, giving them backpacks, giving them supplies, visiting in their homes, eating their Ramadan feasts. This is ongoing, and to bring it to the point of having Sabbath morning meetings and a group in a home.

HOW SHOULD WE RELATE TO THEM?

Know their world. I need to understand their world. I need to understand the difference between their world and the Biblical message of hope. I need to understand no debate, no logical argument, we are not into persuasion, this is not about persuasion, proof testing, Koran or Bible. This

really doesn't work with anybody. You will always lose an argument with the Muslims. Always. Because they are not going to change. They are taught not to question. [Having] an absolutely genuine relationship — I'm talking about willing to make a lifetime commitment to a Muslim family, to a Muslim colleague, either in prayer, in actual friendly gestures of social interaction and concern — is the means by which God gives us to show our relationship to Jesus. I cannot sit and argue about who Jesus is. I have to have Jesus in my life. I have to be Jesus. And I have to have a loyalty to that purpose that is so genuine. The genuineness of that commitment is what's hard for us.

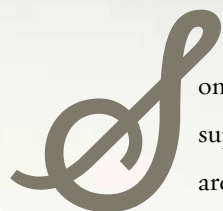
Debbie Michel is associate communication director of the Lake Union Conference and managing editor of the Lake Union Herald.



Mission Fields at Home

PORTION OF A TALK
BEFORE THE PACIFIC UNION
CONFERENCE, MOUNTAIN
VIEW, CALIFORNIA,
JANUARY 28, 1910

BY ELLEN WHITE



Some have expressed a desire during this conference to send a large amount of means to China for the support of the work in that country. It is right and proper that means be sent to China. God's people are to act their part faithfully in warning that field, and many other fields in various parts of the earth. Already a beginning has been made in many important mission fields in the regions beyond, and God is giving his servants some measure of success in winning souls. As the workers advance in faith, they will find that the Lord is going before them by his Holy Spirit, preparing the hearts of many to listen to the truths presented.

But while plans are being carried out to warn the inhabitants of various nations in distant lands, what is being done in behalf of the foreigners who have come to the shores of our own land? Are the souls in China any more precious than the souls within the shadow of our doors? God's people are to labor faithfully in distant lands, as his providence may open the way; and they are also to fulfill their duty toward the foreigners of various nationalities in the cities close by.

Those in responsibility must now plan wisely to proclaim the third angel's message to the hundreds of thousands of foreigners in the cities of America.

God desires his servants to do their full duty toward the unwarned inhabitants of the cities, and especially toward those who have come to these cities from the various nations of the earth. Many of these foreigners are here in the providence of God, that they may have opportunity to hear the truth for this time, and receive a preparation that will fit them to return to their own lands as bearers of precious light shining direct from the throne of God.

Although the needs of the great centers of population have been presented before our people over and over again, yet comparatively little has been done. Who is answerable for this neglect? Brethren, consider how you can ever expect to be clear in the sight of a just and holy God if you leave these cities unwarned? Very few of the ministers are

carrying forward strong, aggressive work in these large centers where so many thousands are in need of the saving truths we have to proclaim. The means that should be used to carry the message to the cities, seems to be taken away and used where it perhaps ought not to be used. But where is seen a burden in behalf of these cities that have long been pointed out as places that must be worked without delay? Who will take up the burden of this work? Who will labor faithfully to set a right example before the inhabitants of our centers of population?

It almost seems as if scarcely any one dare ask a worker to go into the cities, because of the means that would be required to carry on a strong, solid work. It is true that much means will be required in order to do our duty toward the unwarned in these places; and God desires us to lift our voices and our influence in favor of using means wisely in this special line of effort. Over and over again has been repeated the message, "Go out into the highways and the byways, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." This is a work God's people must take hold of; for it is a work that must be done.

In this effort in behalf of the cities, all classes of laborers may co-operate to advantage. Especially valuable is the help that the physician may render as an evangelist. If ministers and physicians will plan to unite in an effort to reach the honest-hearted one in the cities, the physicians, as well as

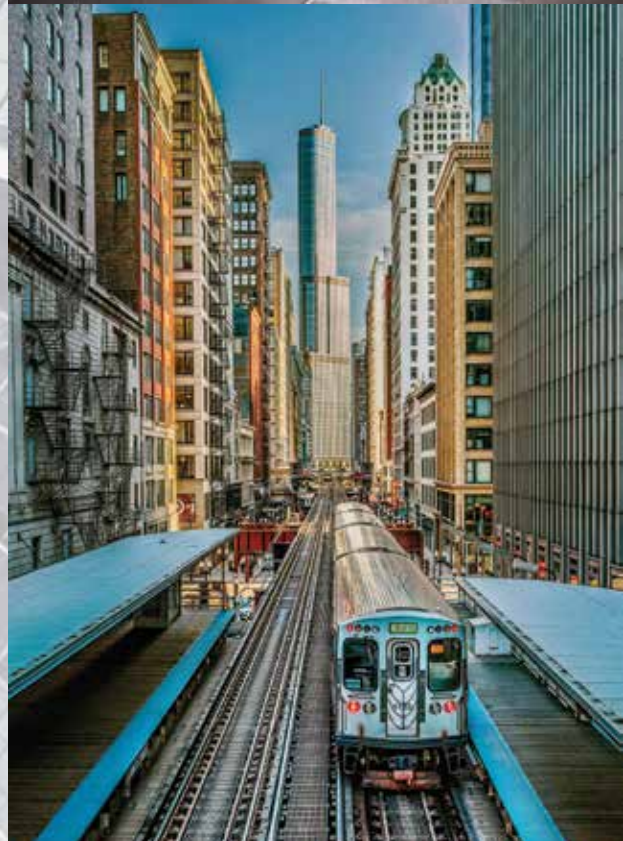
the ministers, will be placed on vantage ground. As they labor in humility, God will open the way before them, and many will receive a saving knowledge of the truth.

Great benefits would come to the cause of God in the regions beyond if faithful efforts were put forth in behalf of the cities in America. Among the foreigners of various nationalities who would accept the truth, there are some who might soon be fitted to labor among those of their own native land. Many would return to the places from which they came, that they might win their friends to the truth. They would search out their kinsfolk and neighbors, and communicate to them a knowledge of the third angel's message.

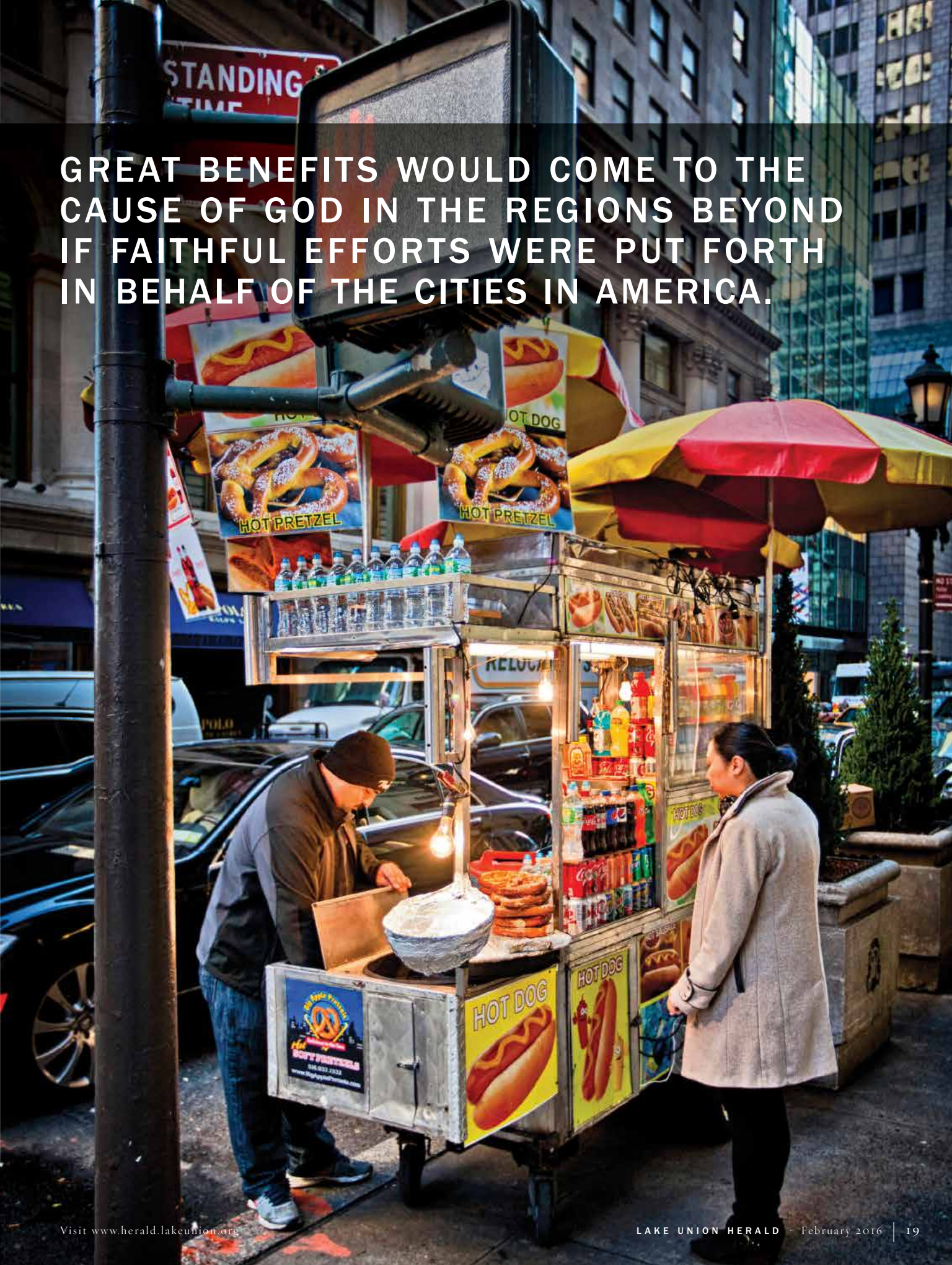
In New York City, in Chicago, and in other great centers of population, there is a large foreign element — multitudes of various nationalities, and all practically unwarned. Among Seventh-day Adventists there is a great zeal — and I am not saying there is any too much — to work in foreign countries; but it would be pleasing to God if a proportionate zeal were manifested to work the cities close by. His people need to move sensibly. They need to set about this work in the cities with serious earnestness. Men of consecration and talent are to be sent into these cities, and set at work. Many classes of laborers are to unite in conducting these efforts to warn the people.

When God's chosen messengers recognize their responsibility toward the cities, and in the spirit of the Master-Worker labor untiringly for the conversion of precious souls, those who are enlightened will desire to give freely of their means to sustain the work done in their behalf. The newly converted believers will respond liberally to every call for help, and the Spirit of God will move upon their hearts to sustain not only the work being carried forward in the cities where they may be living, but in the regions beyond. Thus strength will come to the working forces at home and abroad, and the cause of God will be advanced in his appointed way (Ellen G. White, *North Pacific Union Gleaner* April 13, 1910).

Ellen White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, *North Pacific Union Gleaner* April 13, 1910



GREAT BENEFITS WOULD COME TO THE CAUSE OF GOD IN THE REGIONS BEYOND IF FAITHFUL EFFORTS WERE PUT FORTH IN BEHALF OF THE CITIES IN AMERICA.



OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE



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A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

BY ADVENT INTERFAITH
INITIATIVE

Jesus is mentioned in the Qur'an as Messiah, Word of God, Spirit of God, supernaturally conceived, able to heal the sick and raise the dead, taken up to heaven to be near to God and presiding on Judgment Day, and more. How many Adventists, or even Muslims, know that Jesus is mentioned 26 times in the Qur'an?

Such an understanding helps to establish substantial common ground on spiritual issues heretofore considered impossible to bridge. It supplements traditional tracks of conflict resolution with one using spiritual principles that remodel the radical mindset.

Western governments are desperate and have failed to develop or employ an effective, comprehensive strategy against radicalized and militant Islam. A fatal flaw in current strategy is that policy makers do not know how to deal with the spiritual/religious dimension of these conflicts, and thus tend to leave it unaddressed.

While we must address underlying factors and conditions causing

radicalism, no amount of violence alone from either side can bring resolution. ISIS currently is filling the perceived needs of its recruits; a desire for revenge and significance — using 'religion' by distorting it to a violent and merciless end. These atrocities, along with a basic misunderstanding of the nature of Islam, have sparked fear and antipathy in the West.

Any violent response on our part — however, we justify it — serves to intensify the long-term crisis, creating yet another generation of willing martyrs avenging the deaths of family, friends and loved ones.

Increasing data profiles a typical radical as not especially poor, uneducated or mentally unstable.



TO THE ONE- AND-THREE- QUARTER BILLION MUSLIMS, WE AS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS ARE A KEY THAT COULD BE A CATALYST FOR CHANGE.

But with many young Muslims disillusioned that democratization will deliver them from ruthless regimes, they are frustrated with the failure and corruption of institutions. In desperation, they turn to groups like ISIS who use Islam, offering candidates the illusion of fighting Satan near the 'end of days,' and martyrdom as the assurance of eternal life.

The Arab Spring movement failed but it reflected a new willingness to challenge authority in many contexts, including political, economic and social justice, and today it is predisposing many toward a profound mass rethinking of Islam where a movement is expressing dissatisfaction with the extraordinary bloodlust of ISIS and other radicals who claim their actions are 'Islamic,' with the brutality of Islamist radicalism causing record numbers of Muslims not only to reject radicalism but to search for a fresh and more complete understanding of their faith in a rethinking and re-interpretation of the Qur'an and its application in the modern context.

Numerous Muslim leaders echo Egyptian President al-Sisi's call for reassessment, saying, "I see that the religious discourse in the entire Islamic world has cost Islam its humanity ... and desperately needs a religious revolution."

Islamist radicalism is at a point not so distant to where the Christian church was in the 17th century, where it took widespread dissatisfaction to birth the awakenings that eventually lifted the Christian faith out of barbarism.

Adventists would do well to herald what God is already doing, and become a vital part of a hope-led solution rather than expanding a fear-based problem! Adventists

authentically exemplifying the Greatest Commandment can play a key role by becoming effective participants in the real battle, which is spiritual. This should incentivize Seventh-day Adventists to support any effort that seeks peaceful, spiritual resolution of the current state of perpetual conflict. Expressions of love and compassion can help tip the balance toward an even newer movement, being a spiritual revolution toward Jesus and his teachings among Muslims. Untold numbers are dreaming dreams and seeing visions of Jesus the Messiah, and finding that 'where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is (true) freedom.'

These Spirit-driven, fresh understandings of Jesus the Messiah directly undermine the factors that make ISIS, and radicalism in general, such a relentless foe. For those devoted to a certain understanding of Islam, instead of elevating war and violent death as the way to Paradise (Heaven), it provides a non-violent, noble path to Paradise for eternity.

Seventh-day Adventists can help by embracing these awakenings, and responding with some rethinking of their own. Muslims are not the enemy. Radicalism is seen as the immediate enemy, but, more pointedly, Satan is the enemy (see I Peter 5:8). We are not facing a 'clash of civilizations,' but we are facing a clash of the kingdoms of good and evil, ... which is throughout all societies. It is not Islam; it is evil that we stand against!

Jesus' command to love is not by pointing the finger at Muslims. Rather, by extending the hand of help. Adventists can directly affect the outcome of these movements. Discovering what we have in



common opens the door for friendship, which in turn creates new realms of opportunity. Without Jesus' followers ever lifting a sword, the Roman Empire ultimately adopted the very path they set out to annihilate. How did this happen? It was by the power of courageous faith in the face of terror. Over time, this 'Way' transformed the minds and hearts of those possessed with hatred and bloodlust.

Is ISIS more powerful than the 4th century Roman Empire? Is it so unthinkable that history could be repeated? Isaiah 59:19 describes a move of the 'Spirit' that will 'put to flight' the evil flood. This should stir hope and prompt action on the part of Seventh-day Adventists to pursue how to apply love (friendship), compassion and mercy in place of fear. And Muslims resonate with the prophetic 'end of days' scenario, which radicals distort.

The second coming of Jesus Christ, the state of the dead, the trumpets and the three woes of the book of Revelation — especially the third woe, are topics raised and discussed by Muslims to whom Adventist Interfaith Initiative (AII) is connected with urgency. End-time events, the failures of Islam, the growing Sunni-Shia divide, ISIS, all are on the table, including how they admire and support a certain presidential candidate who shares our biblical perspective of end-time events.

All AII's meetings hinge around discussion of a movement of true people of faith. A recent presentation before a Mosque audience was directly from the Bible, held before them, and they, in turn, also using only the Bible, to continue the program. Elsewhere, in a controversial

situation, the Great Controversy and the Beatitudes were used with success and it has gained the attention of many in Islamic leadership, achieving what they have been unable to achieve in the face of radicalism. Bible truth, used redemptively and restoratively, undermined the driving pseudo-Islamic ideology that underpinned the radical mindset confronted.

Some Muslims are starting to hang their coat in the closet. But they don't throw it away for it is good for them to be able to smell it, feel it, remember how it used to be, where they have come from, for it will be important for them into the future. The same for we who have come to Christ from outside. We must never forget how we used to think for in that is a key to our ministry. And for them it will be the same.

To the one-and-three-quarter billion Muslims, we as Seventh-day Adventists are a key that could be a catalyst for change. Our goal for them? 'Eternity.'

May we not limit God in his plan to share the Three Angel's Messages to all the world — and that must include the people of Islam.

Advent Interfaith Initiative, a supporting ministry accountable to the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



**MUSLIMS ARE
NOT THE ENEMY.
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New Cancer Institute opens this month

The vision of a comprehensive, convenient cancer treatment and imaging center for Adventist Medical Center Hinsdale and Adventist Medical Center La Grange will soon become a reality.

The 54,000-square-foot Adventist Cancer Institute & Outpatient Center will provide outpatient oncology services and general imaging, such as mammography, for both medical centers. It will open this month at Ogden Avenue and Salt Creek Lane in Hinsdale, near I-294.

“This new facility will offer convenient, comprehensive care in a comforting, healing environment,” says Mark A. Frey, president and chief executive officer of AMITA Health, a Joint operating company formed last February by Adventist Midwest Health and Alexian Brothers Health System. “Patients will benefit from the latest technology for cancer diagnosis and treatment — and from having multiple services in one location.”

The Center will provide a “one-stop shop” for patients on their journey from diagnosis to recovery. Patients will be able to visit their physician, have lab work performed, and receive chemotherapy and radiation treatments in one location. Today, patients must visit multiple facilities to obtain these services.

“Our objective is to ease the challenges of cancer diagnosis and treatment as much as possible for our patients,” Frey says. “This new facility not only will give our patients ready access to a comprehensive array of services, but also will optimize our ability to provide high-quality, holistic care.”

“The new center epitomizes our commitment to person-centered care,” said Michael J. Goebel, chief executive officer of Adventist Medical Center Hinsdale and La Grange. “Our hospi-



Digital renditions of the new Adventist Cancer Institute and Outpatient Center.

tals always have excelled at cancer care, and our team of cancer specialists is outstanding. As the program has grown and evolved, we’ve been hindered by space constraints. The Center will greatly enhance our ability to care for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our patients.”

The new center will feature:

- 28 chemotherapy infusion chairs, including 17 in private rooms, four in semi-private rooms, and seven in community rooms designed to foster patient-to-patient support and communication
- 21 exam rooms
- A pharmacy specializing in chemotherapy
- Two linear accelerators for radiation treatment

Another convenience will be the facility’s Wellness House office. Wellness House is a not-for-profit organization that offers an extensive array of support services for people living with cancer.

The facility will have separate entrances for the two different groups of patients it will serve. The southern entrance will be for cancer patients and feature valet parking. The western entrance will be for patients using the center’s outpatient imaging services, such as mammography, ultrasound and x-ray, located on the second floor.

“With an abundance of light, soft colors and comfortable furnishings, the entire center reflects and promotes a feeling of peace and comfort,” said Karen Giammicchio, assistant vice president, Oncology Service Line, AMITA Health. “We want to make the journey to recovery shorter and more comfortable. A peaceful setting is important for our patients and their families as they face the challenges of a cancer diagnosis.”

Julie Busch, assistant vice-president for communications, AMITA Health



Jessica Cheever felt God's calling as a child and followed his leading to Cambodia.

A childhood dream

When Jessica Cheever, junior elementary education major, decided to go on a mission trip during the summer of 2013, she never imagined that the process of getting to another country would prove as beneficial to her faith as the trip itself.

Cheever has dreamed of being a missionary since she was a child. During spring semester, the campus chaplain introduced Cheever to HeSaidGo.org where she could view mission trips for which she qualified. She was a match for over 50 trips.

"I tried to get the paperwork finished by the deadline," she recalls, "but I finally gave up because I couldn't get all the necessary signatures over spring break and the website was now only pulling up four locations, none for which I qualified."

Frustrated that things didn't seem to be working out, Cheever decided to work as a summer tour guide at the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Mich.

"During my second week there, a gentleman on my tour asked me if I had ever wanted to be a student missionary," Cheever recalls. "I shared about my recent failed attempt and he asked if I would be interested in going to Cambodia."

Cheever realized she would be willing to go anywhere at that point, if God called her there. The gentleman wrote an email address on the back of a business card and told her to email Tim Scott to get things started.

When Cheever emailed Scott, she found she had been given the wrong address. With renewed determination, she relentlessly Googled "Scott" and "Cambodia Adventist Mission" and finally found his email address on the same website she'd used before. The listing was for a music teacher.

With the paperwork in motion, Cheever began wondering where money for the trip would come from. Her grandfather offered to help pay off her student loans — the amount he offered was enough to pay off her loans and buy a ticket to Cambodia as well!

"I applied for my passport on June 26, which gave me just under four weeks before student missionary orientation began," she says.

Then she received an email from the Southern-Asia Pacific Division of the General Conference, asking her to be at orientation sooner. Cheever found herself at yet another roadblock.

"I did not want to leave without saying goodbye to my parents, my passport had not arrived and I hadn't gotten my vaccinations yet," she recalls.

Cheever didn't have the extra funds required for an expedited passport, so she prayed and left it in God's hands. Although passports typically take four to six weeks, Cheever received hers after only ten business days. She knew it was another sign from God.

"My flight was scheduled for July 16," recalls Cheever. "My parents were able to change their plans to come visit me the weekend before... and I was able to get my vaccinations the day before I left."

"I know without a doubt what God's plans were for me from the beginning," she says. "I know he wanted me in Cambodia. I hope my story will encourage anyone who, like I did, feels frustrated, overwhelmed and completely inadequate. To them I say, wait for God and do what he asks. You won't regret it."

For information on supporting the student missions program at Andrews University, or for information on how you can serve, email sm@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3211.

Danni Francis, student writer for the Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication

Hares in Burma

BY FONDA MWANGI

Hundreds of Karen Adventists gathered at the Howard Performing Arts Center last summer to celebrate one hundred years of Adventist mission in Burma, now Myanmar. One special guest was Esther Hare, the 94-year-old daughter-in-law of Eric B. Hare who served as the first missionary to the Karen group in 1915. Hare's books and stories are legendary to Adventist mission, as Karen people have responded to the gospel in large numbers.

"How often do you get to celebrate a 100-year anniversary of something in your lifetime? And not only that — knowing that the history part is still alive!" said Trudi Starlin, ASAP board member and one of the event's organizers.

Esther Hare, a Berrien Springs, Michigan, resident, and her late husband Leonard, served as missionaries in Myanmar in 1946–1951. It was a tumultuous time in the country, located in Southeast Asia bordering China, Laos, India, Bangladesh and Thailand, as the Karen people, an ethnic tribe comprising 7% of the population, began a movement to gain independence from Myanmar. The conflict created a civil war and a multitude of Karen were killed, or fled to places such as North America, where 70,000 refugees now live.

Hare remembers, "The war was going on and so we had to land in India till the Japanese were out of Burma. So, as soon as we were able we went across to Burma and we were the first of all the Europeans to go into the district as missionaries."

She and her husband began a school, but faced enormous challenges. "There was a big rebellion [by the Karen people], and the Burmese attacked, and we had soldiers going back and forth, and they bombed us a few times."

She witnessed the hand of God guiding her and the school on many occasions, most notably when the government officials in their area vowed they would bring soldiers to march around the school to protect them from the ongoing war.



Esther Hare holds a special place in the hearts of the Karen.

The Hare family was later forced out for helping the rebels, the Karen.

Esther Hare, along with her family members were joined on stage, and greeted enthusiastically by the audience. Esther Hare says, "It's very thrilling, and I am absolutely amazed at how much these folks are friendly and loving and so excited to see relatives of the Hare's."

During the centennial reunion titled "God's Plan, Our Purpose," and held July 24–26, Karens had a chance to reconnect with family and friends, gain spiritual strength, and learn of opportunities for Karens in the Adventist family. The celebration drew over 600 Karen from more than 15 different states plus a few from out of the country. Some Burmese delegates from the General Conference Session also attended.

Most Karens now living in North America spent years in refugee camps before being able to relocate under a UN sponsored program within the past decade. Having lost everything, they are grateful to have freedom, but often struggle to adjust to a new culture and language while making a living among neighbors who may not know the difference between "Karen" and "Korean."

There are estimated to be more than 5,000 faithful Karen Adventist refugees scattered throughout North America to date, and they are worshipping in over 40 groups.

Fonda Mwangi is a journalism student at Andrews University.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Women's Ministry group collects food for Thanksgiving

Michigan—“Redbud Area Ministries is an interdenominational and interracial ministry center started to organize the churches in the Buchanan and Galien School Districts to respond to individual and family needs. Their mission is to demonstrate the love of Christ by distributing food, clothing, household items and limited financial assistance to those in need within their community. Redbud Area Ministries only exists because of the support of the Buchanan and Galien communities, churches, schools, businesses and individuals” (<http://redbudareaministries.org>).

Ruth Walker, Buchanan Church's Community Service director and church representative to Redbud Area Ministries, had informed Kathleen DeLand, Women's Ministries director, that Redbud Area Ministries (RAM) food pantry shelves were running low on nonperishable food items. DeLand decided to have the church collect food in the month of November so that they could help restock the shelves of RAM for Thanksgiving. A collection box was put in the church hallway and DeLand promoted the food collection up front on Sabbath by telling the children's story titled *Stone Soup*. The story tells how a soldier, coming upon a small village that was starving, got the whole



Women's Ministries ladies of the Buchanan Church with the results of their Thanksgiving food drive for RAM. Pictured are (left to right): Anita Lewis, Kathleen DeLand (leader), Dorothy Kidder, Judi Doty, Marla Norton, Marilyn Christensen

village to work together by sharing their various available vegetables to make a delicious vegetable soup they all could enjoy. It was the joy of sharing that, in the end, provided the nourishment everyone needed. DeLand challenged the church to work together like the villagers to see if they could fill her husband Carl's red truck with much needed food for RAM.

Each week more and more food items filled the collection box until they were overflowing into other boxes and on to the floor. On Sunday, Nov. 15, ladies from the church got together

to fill boxes and bags with the food items collected and to carry them out to Carl's truck. The food collected indeed did fill Carl's red truck!

DeLand remarked that when she and her husband delivered the food to RAM, the woman receiving the food at RAM was very appreciative of the truckload of food items that would be a help to the Buchanan/Galien area during the Thanksgiving holiday and beyond.

Judi Doty is Assistant Communication Director for the Buchanan Church.

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Students at Carmel SDA School focus on needs of others

Indiana—The students at the newly-formed Carmel Seventh-day Adventist School are learning more than just reading, writing and arithmetic: character-building through service is

another foundational pillar. As the wise poet instructs, *He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor* (Proverbs 22:9). These young learners testify to the challenges, yet, more importantly, the rewards of focusing on the needs of others over their own concerns.

For their first class project, Debbie Gottke's students set out to collect canned goods. The objective was to fill

food baskets designated for families in need this holiday season. Thankfully, the children did not have to venture very far. Many of the school's surrounding neighbors were willing and able to help the kids. Fourth-grader Vance Taitano explained the collection process: “There were two teams sent out to collect the paper bags filled with donations. By the time we finally got back to the school building, we

collected 10 or 11 bags of food. I guess we were a little competitive, but all I can say is, we needed food, and we got food to help people for Christmas.”

The children discovered that the assignment was not always pleasant. The task proved hard and exhausting and, at times, disheartening. Add what could be suggestive of Siberian-like weather to the mix, and you can imagine a seemingly endless day. Many of the bags the students left at homes to be filled remained empty upon their return. Sixth-grader Zane Taitano summed up the experience this way, “You know what they say, ‘One is better than none; more than one is better than one for now.’”

However, he and his classmate, seventh-grader Caleb Tenold, experienced the reward of persistence. “When we came to some streets, we had lots of food,” he said, “probably more cans and containers than the rest of the students. We had a lot of fun!”

Seventh-grader Estazia Ayugi reflects on her participation, “Though the experience of putting bags on porches was fun, collecting them was



Carmel Seventh-day Adventist School; December 2015 (l to r): Debbie Gottke, Ashley Ndebele, Ikia Ayugi, Eve Lockley, Estazia Ayugi, Vance Taitano, Leroy Dewe, Elijah Ayugi, Caleb Tenold and Zane Taitano.

even better! I’m glad that people will get this food for Christmas.”

The students’ endeavor also highlights the fruits of selflessness. Fifth-grader Ikia Ayugi expresses the personal joy she felt, “The first bag makes you all jumpy and excited! It

gives you hope.” She goes on to say, “It makes you so happy!”

What an excellent lesson for both young and old this Christmas!

T.P. Parker, member of the Carmel church

[UNION NEWS]

Herald Managing Editor, Diane Thurber, takes up new responsibilities

October 6, 2015, was Diane Thurber’s last day as managing editor of the *Lake Union Herald*. Diane’s first issue of the *Herald* as managing editor was Vol. 96, No. 9, September 2004. At the time, she was serving as communication director for the Indiana Conference, and it was her exceptional work in that role that led us to invite her to join our staff.

Diane brought creativity, compassion and competency to the *Herald*. Her organizational skills guided our team of over 100 correspondents, reporters and editors through the creation of 132



Diane Thurber, President Christian Record Services for the Blind

issues as managing editor and display ad manager. For most of those issues, Diane worked from her virtual office

in Indiana and then Colorado through our *Herald* content management system. Then in 2013, she moved into our Lake Union Headquarters office when her husband, Gary, became our executive secretary.

In addition to her responsibilities at the *Herald*, Diane served as associate communication director, assisting our various departments and conference communication directors, coordinating news releases and managing our website. She also served as director of women’s ministries.

Diane has a real gift in helping people do their best and being on time — and she’s nice! Her calls and emails to remind people of their deadlines were always kind and affirming. Diane’s administrative, organizational and people skills were noted, and that is why the board of Christian Record Services for

the Blind in Lincoln, Neb., asked her to be their new president.

Christian Record is a General Conference institution serving the world church in 80 countries. Their mission is to improve “the quality of life for children, teens, and adults with visual impairments by providing them with free programs and services focused on

their needs,” providing subscription magazines in braille, large print, and mp3 disk, full-vision books combining braille and print for parents of blind children, a 1,400 volume braille and NLS digital cartridge lending library, gift Bibles and study guides, National Camps for Blind Children throughout North America, college scholarship

assistance and inSight4Vets players.

Although we will miss Diane, we know that she will touch thousands of lives around the world in her new role for which God has prepared her. Our hearts, prayers and blessings go with her. She will be greatly missed by all!

Gary Burns is editor of the *Lake Union Herald*.



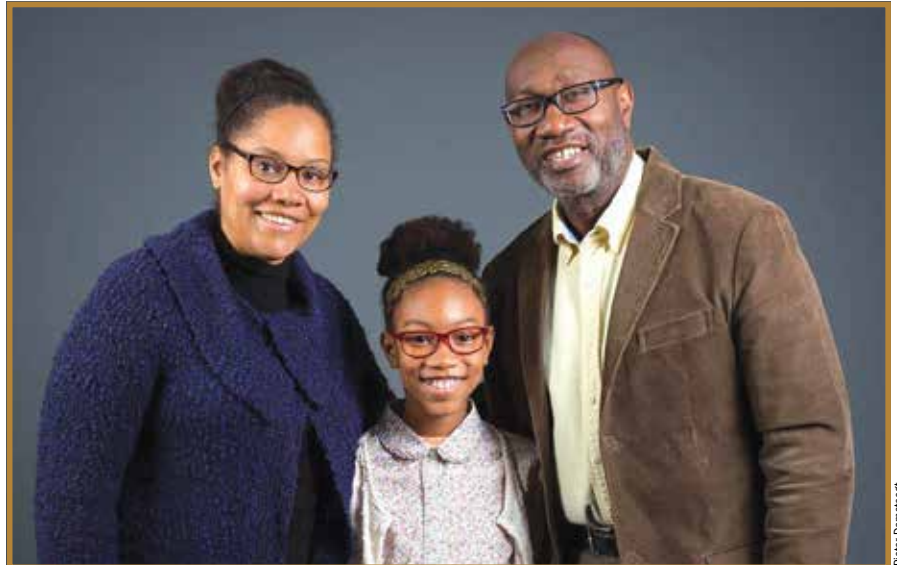
Jean-Irès Michel

Debbie Michel

Debbie Michel is new Managing Editor of Lake Union Herald

We welcome Debbie Michel as our new associate director of communication and managing editor of the *Lake Union Herald*. Debbie comes to us from Andrews University where she served as associate professor in the department of communication since 2008, teaching journalism and communication courses and created the award-winning *Envision* magazine, a practical teaching tool, as Editor-in-Chief.

From Brooklyn, New York, Debbie received her Master of Science degree in Broadcast Journalism from Columbia University, New York, New York. Before coming to Andrews, she was a producer for *Dateline NBC*, New York,



Peter Damsberg

From left, Debbie, Christiana and Jean-Irès Michel

New York, from 1996-2006. Prior to that she was a news associate for *Dateline NBC* and *Nightly News with Tom Brokaw*.

Debbie was an Emmy nominated co-producer of *Dateline's* “Saddam Hussein’s Capture,” and received the National Headliner Award for *Dateline's* coverage of the D.C. sniper story and the NBC “Ovation Award” for “Above and Beyond Effort” on the same story in 2003. In 2002 she received two recognition awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences “for contribution to the reporting of the momentous events beginning Sept. 11, 2001,” and “for participation in television coverage of the fighting in Afghanistan during the year following the attacks against New York and Washington on Sept. 11, 2001. Broadcast journalism again demonstrated its ability to provide

vital information under extremely difficult conditions.”

A member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, on the campus of Andrews University, Debbie, along with her husband, serves as co-director for Junior II Sabbath School, and assistant head elder.

Debbie is married to Jean-Irès Michel, photographer and media specialist; they have one daughter, Christiana.

We welcome Debbie and her family to our Lake Union team, and look forward to where her gifts and talents will take us in ministry to the Lake Union.

Gary Burns is Editor of the *Lake Union Herald* and Communication Director of the Lake Union Conference.

[NAD NEWS]

Drill or Die: Why your church needs Safety Sabbath 2016

It's Sabbath morning at your local church but one person in attendance did not come to worship. The gunman enters your sanctuary and pulls out a weapon.

When Carlos' mother comes to pick him up after Sabbath school, the other children say he left with a woman they had never seen before.

The church electrical system catches fire on Sabbath morning and most members and guests make it out, but Tessa is one of the last to exit because no one stopped to help her with her wheelchair.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

Responding appropriately in emergency situations is vital to minimizing loss. Does your congregation know what to do if an active shooter enters your church? Do your children know what to do if lost or if someone attempts to abduct them? Is your church prepared for an emergency evacuation in the event of a fire?

"Every church member and every local church needs to be prepared for any emergency," says Daniel R. Jackson, president of the North American Division. "Unfortunate situations do happen, but we need to do our best to be prepared for them." Safety Sabbath is a great way to get prepared for emergencies. Mark your calendar for March 26. Sponsored by Adventist Risk Management, Inc. and the North American Division, Safety Sabbath will feature



three drills you can use to prepare your church for emergencies.

Active Shooter Drill

Fire Drill

Missing Child Drill

Choose your drill and start learning more now at <http://SafetySabbath.com>.

Anna Bartlett, Writer & Education Specialist,
Adventist Risk Management, Inc.

5 Risk Management Resolutions To Make

1. Select a Safety Officer — The protection of your people and property is a team effort. Local church leaders, the safety committee, the church board, and ultimately, church workers, volunteers, and members all work together to keep people and property safe. The selection of a Safety Officer to work with your church and school leaders to accomplish risk management objectives places your ministry at the cutting edge of organizational safety.

2. Inspect and Protect — A major way to prevent problems is to identify and correct hazardous conditions before accidents happen. The World Meteorological Organization and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration predict that 2016 will see a major El Niño year event. Some parts of the world, such as Peru, Ecuador, and the Western United States, could experience significantly more rainfall than usual. Locations such as Indonesia and Australia could experience increased drought and wildfires. A walk through and inspection of your facility and property at least once a year allows you to catch any harmful situations that may arise due to weather-created conditions. These can be fixed before someone is injured or weather-related damages causes greater expenses in repairs.

3. Start Seasonal Maintenance — Every season comes with its unique type of risks for your congregation — from clogged gutters to icy walkways to expired batteries. Creating and following a seasonal maintenance schedule allows you to keep everything up and running. More importantly, it keeps your church family safe.

4. Have an Emergency Plan — Do your children know what to do if they get lost? Does your church have a plan in place if an active shooter enters your facility? Devising an emergency plan and holding annual practice drills prepares your church family to respond in the safest way possible in emergency situations.

5. Finance Your Risk — No matter how well you evaluate, plan, and protect, accidents and emergencies will still happen. Evaluation of the risks to your family and ministry and utilizing appropriate insurance coverages protects those under your care and completes the risk management circle. Adventist Risk Management, Inc. has a comprehensive list of insurance policies to protect your ministry.

Learn more at <http://www.adventistrisk.org>.



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

Andrews University

Please take notice that a quinquennial meeting of the members of the Andrews University Corporation (commonly known as a “constituency meeting”) will take place on **Tuesday, March 1, 2016**, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Garber Auditorium of Chan Shun Hall on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. At the meeting, the members will receive reports from Andrews University administration, elect a portion of the Andrews University Board of Trustees, and consider minor amendments to the bylaws.

Theresa C. Popp
Secretary of the Corporation

Andrews University will host Adventist Engaged Encounter (AEE) on the weekend of **March 4-6**. It is an enrichment weekend for engaged and recently married couples, which offers couples the insights, tools and confidence to develop their relationship and strengthen their commitment for one another. For registration information, contact the Undergraduate Leadership Program at Andrews University at ae@andrews.edu or 269-471-6636. Registration fees required; discount if at least one attendee is an Andrews student.

The 2016 Intensive Workshop in Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy will take place **July 31-Aug. 5** at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary on the campus of Andrews University. Lecturers from Uchee Pines, Andrews University and Weimar will teach the skillful use of natural remedies, water, nutrition, charcoal and massage. To register, visit <http://andrews.edu/go/nrhw>, email janinec@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3541. Preregistration is encouraged as enrollment is limited.

Howard Performing Arts Center events: For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, contact HPAC Box Office by phone at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or

email at hpac@andrews.edu, or on its website at <https://howard.andrews.edu/events/>.

Feb. 6, 8:00 p.m.: The Andrews University Wind Symphony will perform under the direction of Alan Mitchell. (Tickets required.)

Feb. 7, 2:00 p.m.: Ladysmith Black Mambazo in Concert. This group is known for its intricate vocal rhythms and harmonies borrowed from traditional music from the mines of South Africa. (Tickets required.)

Feb. 11, 7:00 p.m.: The Andrews University Symphony Orchestra will perform under the direction of Claudio Gonzalez. (Tickets required.)

March 4, 7:00 p.m.: The University Wind Symphony will perform a vesper concert.

March 5, 4:00 p.m.: Music Festival Concert

March 5, 7:00 p.m.: Music Festival Concert – Choir. The department’s faculty members will present the annual Showcase Recital as part of the University’s Band & Keyboard Music Festival.

March 6, 4:00 p.m.: The Andrews University Department of Music will host the Young Artists Concert. The concert will feature student winners from an on-campus competition who demonstrate excellence in their technical and emotive musical ability. These young artists will be accompanied by the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Claudio Gonzalez. (Tickets required.)

Illinois

Chicago Religious Liberty Rally Sabbath, “Terrorism, Security, Religious Freedom & Prophecy,” will be held **April 23** at the Hinsdale SDA Church, 201 N Oak St., Hinsdale. Special presentations for Sabbath school, Church and an afternoon program with panel discussion. Potluck provided. Presenters include Lake Union President Don Livesay, professor and attorney Nicholas Miller, and Religious Liberty leader Edward Wood III.

Broadview Academy Alumni Association BVA Alumni Weekend is **April 29-30** at North Aurora SDA Church, North

Aurora, Ill. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars. Call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes: 1946, ‘56, ‘66, ‘76, ‘86, ‘91, ‘96 and 2006. Friday night vespers, Sabbath school, church, lunch and afternoon music program. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses – postage is too expensive. Send it to Ed Gutierrez at edjulie1@att.net or call 630-232-9034. More information to come. Don’t miss it! Check the BVA website: <http://www.broadviewacademy.org>.

“**Mission Akita,**” **June 1-8**, is a unique mission opportunity for adult volunteers. Nestled in the rolling hills of central Illinois, our youth camp needs a boost of energy. You are just what is needed! Join us to help get camp ready for our summer activities. Morning work projects include gardening, painting, repair projects, mowing, cleaning and much more. Bring your RV, trailer or tent, and enjoy our rustic setting. Three scrumptious meals are provided each day. Spend your afternoon enjoying camp life and relaxing by the lake. Special workshops are planned! To request registration information, please email jdaum@ilcsda.org.

Indiana

Indiana Academy Admissions Dates for 2016-2017:

Oct. 23: IA Online Application Open
Oct. 23-Jan. 15: Priority Acceptance
Jan. 16-March 4: General Acceptance
March 5-May 13: Late Acceptance (as space is available)

Lake Union

Offerings

Feb. 6 Local Church Budget
Feb. 13 World Budget (Adventist Television Ministries)
Feb. 20 Local Church Budget
Feb. 27 Local Conference Advance

Special Days

Feb. 6-27 Black History Month
Feb. 13 Christian Marriage Sabbath
Feb. 13 Health Ministries Sabbath
Feb. 13-20 Christian Home and

Marriage Week

Feb. 20 Christian Parenting Sabbath

Michigan

Battle Creek Tabernacle Sacred Concert Series 2016: Concerts will be held at 264 West Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. All of the concerts are free. For more information, visit <http://www.battlecreektabernacle.com>.

Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., Steve Martin, Musician. Steve Martin is a talented and versatile musician. Whether he’s playing the guitar, banjo or a number of other instruments, Steve uses his God-given talents to praise God.

March 26, 7:30 p.m., Buddy Houghtaling, Singer and Songwriter. Buddy Houghtaling is from Battle Creek and is well known in Michigan. He also can be seen on Three Angels Broadcasting Network as a solo artist, as well as on the 3ABN show “Kid’s Time.”

April 23, 7:30 p.m., Jaime Jorge, Violinist. Jaime Jorge was born in Cuba and began playing the violin at age 10. Originally planning to be a missionary doctor, Jaime left medical school in 1996 to devote himself to full-time music ministry. He has traveled around the world presenting concerts, and has recorded and released 17 albums.

North American Division

Union College Homecoming April 7-10: Honor classes are 1946, ‘56, ‘61, ‘66, ‘76, ‘86, ‘91, ‘96 and 2006. Special start to our 125th year celebration and 30-year Warriors Reunion. For more information, contact the alumni office at 401-486-2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or alumni@ucollege.edu.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend 2016 will be held **April 22-23** on the LSA campus. Please update your mailing address and contact info: JNelson@lsak12.com or 951-351-1445, ext. 244. Honor classes: 1956, ‘66, ‘76, ‘86, ‘91, ‘96, 2006 and pre-50 year classes. For more information, visit <http://www.lsak12.com>.

Correction

Called to Serve Youth Evangelism Congress: Feb. 12-14. For more information, contact Alexandra Mora at email: alexandra@cye.org; phone: 269-471-8385; or website: <http://www.lucyouth.org>.

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

Obituaries

BERGER, Adeline M. (Mable), age 94; born Sept. 7, 1921, in Granton, Wis.; died Sept. 30, 2015, in Wilson, Mich. She was a member of the Wilson Church.

Survivors include her husband, Howard; daughters, Charlotte Moon, Aileen King, Maxine Henry and Margie Kettler; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

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

BREZZELL, John A., age 81; born Aug. 18, 1934, in Flint, Mich.; died Nov. 29, 2015, in Belleville, Mich. He was a member of the Ypsilanti (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Roberta I. (Thomas); sons, Douglas L. and Mark D.; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by William E. Joseph and Winston C. Patterson, and interment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

CUNNINGHAM, Tara R. (Henning), age 38; born April 12, 1977, in LaPorte, Ind.; died Oct. 19, 2015, in South Bend, Ind. She was a member of the LaPorte Church.

Survivors include her sons, Christian A. and Corey L. Cunningham; daughter, Danielle R. Henning; mother, Marcia (Gray) Henning; and brother, Jan-Michael Henning.

Memorial services were conducted by Bill Payne, with private inurnment, Oak Grove Cemetery, LaPorte County, Ind.

DE FLUITER, Gladys L. (Jensen), age 83; born April 25, 1932, in Tomah, Wis.; died Oct. 10, 2015, in Elkhart, Ind. She was a member of the South Bend (Ind.) First Church.

Survivors include her sons, Daniel D. and Richard L.; daughter, Jane L. O'Reilly; brother, Herbert Jensen; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Michael L. Nickless, and interment was in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Osceola, Ind.

DEDEREN, Louise (Fyon), age 89; born Feb. 15, 1926, in Pepinster, Belgium; died Dec. 13, 2015, in Ann Arbor, Mich. She was a member of the Ann Arbor Church. Louise was the developer and long-time archivist of the Heritage Center at Andrews University.

Survivors include her husband, Raoul; two grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Christien Hodel, and interment was in Bethlehem Cemetery, Ann Arbor.

GARLICH-KRAMER, Donna M. (Bollenbacher), age 85; born June 14, 1930, in Merrill, Mich.; died Dec. 2, 2015, in St. Louis, Mich. She was a member of the Twin Cities Church, Alma, Mich.

Survivors include her sister, Melba Demas.

Funeral services were conducted by Galen Miller, and interment was in Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis, Mich.

GUTH, Helen I. (Stevens), age 97; born Jan. 15, 1918, in Entre Rios, Argentina; died Nov. 25, 2015, in Walla Walla, Wash. During her life, she was a member of churches in Nobbsville, Ind.; Berrien Springs, Battle Creek and Grand Ledge, Mich.; and Bethel, Franksville and Columbus, Wis.

Survivors include her sons, William, Richard, Ronald and Leonard; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Steve Walikonis, and interment was in Mount Hope Cemetery, Colledgeplace, Wash.

INMAN, Irene (Gal), age 95; born Feb. 1, 1920, in Gary, Ind.; died Nov. 13, 2015, in Cicero, Ind. She was a member of the Cicero Church.

Survivors include her sons, Marion and Dennis; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Vic Van Schaik, and interment was in Cicero Cemetery.

MASSEY, Abdul B., age 82; born April 14, 1933, in Punjab, India; died Sept. 19, 2015, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his sons, Sanjiv R. and Rajiv S.; daughters, Regina F. Armster, Rekha F. Bitterman and Shalini R. Randolph; brothers, Sardar and Aziz; sisters, Nazira Bramuel and Bimla Singh; and ten grandchildren.

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

RUSCH, Clyde, age 70; born Jan. 8, 1945, in Oconto Falls, Wis.; died Nov. 16, 2015, in Green Bay, Wis. He was a member of the Green Bay Church.

Survivors include his daughter, Beth Richter; brother, Walter Jr.; sister, Rellen Hayes; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bill Ochs and Wayne Miller, and inurnment was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Oconto Falls.

SHOREY, Doris A. (Watson), age 80; born Feb. 9, 1935, in Madison, Ind.; died Nov. 29, 2015, in Ypsilanti, Mich. She was a member of the Ypsilanti Church.

Survivors include her husband, Hugh; son, Reginald; daughters, Deborah Young and Lynnette Jefferson; and sisters, Betty Brown, Janet Cervantes and Florence Tamayo.

Memorial services were conducted by Winston Patterson, with private inurnment, Ypsilanti.

STARLIN, Crystal F. (Hewitt), age 65; born Feb. 18, 1950, in Fremont, Mich.; died April 23, 2015, in Vestaburg, Mich. She was a member of the Frost Church, Stanton, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Gary P.; daughters, Nicole M. Barron and Danille J. Pina; brother, Mike McCrory; sisters, Marge A. Howes and Judy L. Hilliard; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Gary Starlin, with private inurnment.

TABBERT, Virginia L. (Wood), age 93; born Feb. 5, 1922, in DuQuoin, Ill.; died July 28, 2015, in Gallatin, Tenn. She was a member of the Stewardson (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Darrell E.; daughters, Judith Syfert, Dawn Tabbert and Greta Cooper; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Private graveside services were conducted by family members, and interment was in Spain Cemetery, Stewardson.

TAIT, Spencer R., age 85; born Nov. 16, 1930, in Flint, Mich.; died Dec. 29, 2015, in Midland, Mich. He was a member of the Midland Church. Spencer was involved in Pathfinders nearly 60 years.

Survivors include his wife, Ardith; sons, Stanton, Bradley and Weston; daughter, Shannon Houda; brother, William H.; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Darryl Bentley, and interment was in Homer Township (Mich.) Cemetery.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26	Mar 4	Mar 11
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:04	6:13	6:22	6:30	6:39	6:47
Chicago, Ill.	5:09	5:18	5:27	5:35	5:44	5:52
Detroit, Mich.	5:50	5:59	6:08	6:17	6:25	6:34
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:07	6:16	6:24	6:32	6:39	6:47
La Crosse, Wis.	5:19	5:29	5:38	5:48	5:57	6:06
Lansing, Mich.	5:55	6:04	6:13	6:22	6:31	6:39
Madison, Wis.	5:14	5:23	5:32	5:41	5:50	5:59
Springfield, Ill.	5:21	5:30	5:38	5:46	5:53	6:0

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>.

For Sale

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB NAME

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

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[HTTP://ADVENTISTSINGLES.ORG](http://ADVENTISTSINGLES.ORG): Free 14-day trial! Join thousands of active Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, detailed profiles, match notifications! Two-way compatibility match, 10 photos, confidential online mail. Witnessing opportunities to the world through articles, friendships, chat, forums. Matching Adventists since 1993! Adventist owners. Thousands of successful matches! Top ranked.

Travel/Vacation

"NEW TESTAMENT ALIVE" Tour of Rome/Greece/Patmos/Turkey. June 1-12, 2016. Sites include Roman Coliseum and Forum, Catacombs, Mamertine

Prison, Vatican, Revelation's Seven Churches, ferry to Patmos, Athens, Mars Hill, and Sabbath worship in Corinth. Co-led by Andy Nash and Greg King. \$2,150 plus flight. For more information, email andynash5@gmail.com. (Israel tour June 12-22 also available!)

Miscellaneous

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

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

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GOSPEL MUSIC RECORDING ARTIST, LoLo Harris, "Sharing the GOSPEL through song." LoLo is currently accepting ministry requests for concerts, evangelism, AYS, retreats, conventions and more for 2016 and 2017. For CD and contact information, visit <http://www.LoLoHarris.com>, call 937-545-8227, or write to P.O. Box 492124, Atlanta, GA 30349.

LoLoHarris.com, call 937-545-8227, or write to P.O. Box 492124, Atlanta, GA 30349.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF-

FERS 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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Vladimir Slavujevic and his family have testimonies to share with you

through music and spoken word. Come celebrate God's blessings past and present through heartfelt songs of victory in Christ. In addition to being an active musician/educator in Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, and Andrews University as an adjunct voice instructor, he has recorded/appeared on 3ABN and performed as soloist at the 2010 GC in Atlanta. For more information, contact Vladimir at vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com or call 269-473-2826. Appointments accepted through Mar. 31.

ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN COACHING

ALLIANCE: We are ready to meet your coaching needs today. We are a dynamic faith-based Christian Life Coaching alliance designed to coach, support, train, edify and equip those seeking to be professional coaches or who already are coaches and desire to be part of a team of professionals with a solid Christ Centered and Biblical emphasis. We also seek to serve those who desire advance Christian Coaching via training,

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development and certification. Contact us at AdventistChristianCoaching@gmail.com or call 715-310-2196.

NATIONAL FAMILY RETREAT 2016: March 30-April 3. Practical messages. Breakouts. Family recreation. Exhibits. Topics: Parenting, Family, Marriage, Youth, Young Adult, Media. Speakers: Waters, Rayne and Nebblett families and Scott Ritsema. Wewoka Adventist Center near Oklahoma City. For more information, visit <http://restoration-international.org/nfr> or call 918-827-7012.

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Academy Principal. The Principal is Andrews Academy's leader and is responsible for ensuring that the school fulfills its mission and goals. The Principal provides leadership for Andrews Academy by ensuring the continuation of Andrews Academy as an excellent Seventh-day Adventist secondary school and positioning the school for a successful future. He/she administers the school consistent with the policies and procedures adopted by the Operating Board and will be responsible for all faculty and staff of Andrews Academy. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/743>.

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking a Summer Associate to work in their Corporate Legal department for at least six weeks in 2016. Candidate must be in top 25% of class. Interest/experience in healthcare industry preferred, but not required. Duties include legal research and other

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks faculty in Management/Marketing. Responsibilities: Teach Marketing and related courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as perform various duties described in the *full position description*. Qualifications: doctorate in Marketing as well as sufficient teaching experience in Marketing at the graduate and undergraduate levels and be actively engaged in research, student advising and supervising student projects. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6.

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experience in teaching/scholarship, as well as some knowledge of accreditation processes. For more information and to apply, visit: <http://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/900>.

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

“Well Done!”

BY GARY BURNS



As I write, some hours have past since I conducted services for our dear friend, David Merkel. I met David and his wife Sue, in 1989, when Maryann and I stopped into Berrien Buggy, their nationally known VW dune buggy business. What caught my eye was the pea green and white 1976 VW Transporter (Hippie Van). We drove two vehicles home that day!

The following year, we were called to serve as youth pastor for the Pioneer Memorial Church. And when summer came around, David was at Lake Chapin every week to take our youth group skiing and tubing at no cost to them or the church — not even gas money.

When we returned from the Dakota Conference in 2003 to serve the Lake Union, David and Sue offered us their pasture for the two horses we brought

with us. That put me in contact again with David almost every day.

During today's service I told David's family that I believe God had put David in my life to help me become a better pastor. Our conversations were about family and faith, and his actions taught me lessons in generosity and integrity. We prayed through trials together and experienced an abundance of God's blessings, even through the trials, challenges and disappointments.

David's work had earned a national reputation of perfection and fairness and I think it met the standards of the Carpenter from Nazareth. His partnership with God included every area of his life. He held nothing back.

On resurrection morning, I believe he'll hear the words, "Well done!"

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

The Deeper Meaning of Life

BY NEEMA MBELE

College is a time to explore what you might want to do the rest of your life. It's a time of growth. Some are trying to find out who they are spiritually and questioning the deeper meaning of life. That's why I'm a part of the Adventist Christian Fellowship on the campus of the University of Madison. The people at ACF are really welcoming. They hold Bible studies every Tuesday evening on campus at the student union. It's nice to know that there is a community of students who are there to support you.

College can be a confusing time. For some of us, it's the first time we're on our own and learning how to live with independence. Going to the ACF Bible studies has helped me stay grounded. My ACF community has helped me remember where I have come from and to remember my faith.

Although I went to public high school, college is another level. There are a lot of students and, obviously, a lot of partying — it's a party school, and it does live up to its name. If you're lonely and you have nothing else to do, it can be tempting. But when you have a group of people who care about you and you have a place to go where you can stay grounded,



Neema Mbele

you're able to keep your faith strong. I really like that.

The ACF group gives us opportunities to stay involved, like feeding the homeless, visiting the elderly, and learning more about our faith and how to share it. Madison East is our home church where we find a lot of support.

Another thing that has given me support is the annual Wisconsin Youth for Christ conference at Camp Wakonda. It was at that conference that we decided to form a youth group at our church.

Neema Mbele is a first-year bio-chemistry student at the University of Madison, in Madison, Wisconsin, and attends the Madison East church.

If you are a creative teen or young adult who has something to say, it's time. We are looking for 450 words of hope, inspiration and challenge for our readers. If you have something to say, send your One Voice article to: herald@lakeunion.org. Place "One Voice" in the subject line and we'll send you a \$100 scholarship to help with your education.

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Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at <http://herald.lakeunion.org>.

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

The Freedom to Serve

BY GARY BURNS

Originally from Jamaica, Elaine Welch is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Wisconsin studying developmental genetics. “My family was not religious,” she reflects. “We went to church, but I wasn’t raised [as] anything. When I went to college, I met a group of students who were Adventists. I didn’t have a car ... so they would take me to church.”



Elaine Welch

That group of students became her closest friends. In the summer, they invited her to Camp Meeting. It was her first time. She also attended the Wisconsin Youth for Christ; it was during that event that she decided to give her life to Christ and was baptized.

“I had people reach out to me ... so I try to do that same thing with other students.”

That passion to minister to her fellow students led her to become the coordinator for Adventist Christian Fellowship Madison (ACFM), a registered student organization on the UW campus where she leads out in Bible studies each week.

“Oh, I’m just a student,” she says humbly. “I don’t give myself a title. Some universities have chaplains and that’s their job, but I don’t get paid for this. This is just something that I do.” Elaine admits that she does get frustrated sometimes, but her response is prayer. “I pray that people will have willing hearts. I pray that I have understanding and just patience to lead the group because, if the leader is lacking, I feel like the group can also fall apart.”

Elaine’s responsibilities includes coordinating a lot of logistics for various outreach activities. On Sabbath morning, Elaine provides transportation for students to attend Madison East where there is an active youth group engaged in Bible studies, feeding the homeless and visiting those in nursing facilities.

She observes that UW is a very secular campus and, in her chosen field of genetics, she feels that she is surrounded by atheists. That has led her to get more involved and try to be an example. Her growing service-driven faith has helped her be able to talk more openly about her faith, especially in her department. “I try not to talk religion all the time, but people know that I am a Christian or that I don’t do certain things that everyone else is doing, so I think it has given me this freedom to just be like, *Oh, I can talk about what I believe in.*”

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

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