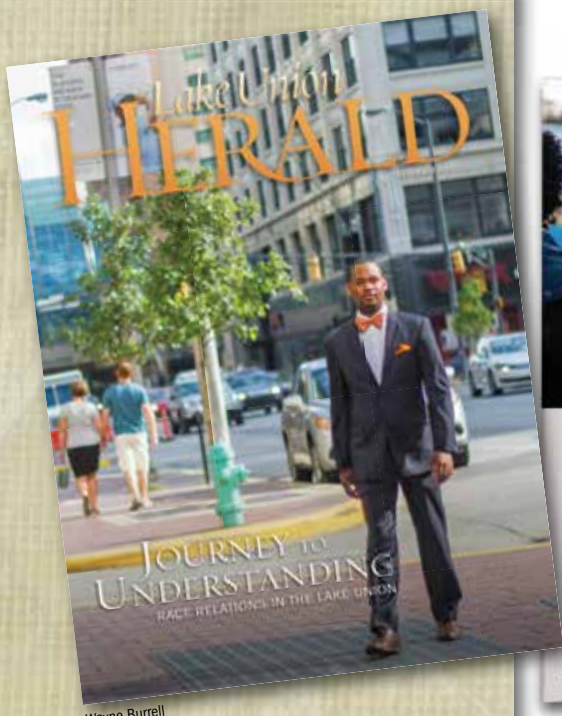


Lake Union HERALD

SEPTEMBER 2016

JOURNEY TO
UNDERSTANDING
RACE RELATIONS IN THE LAKE UNION



Wayne Burrell



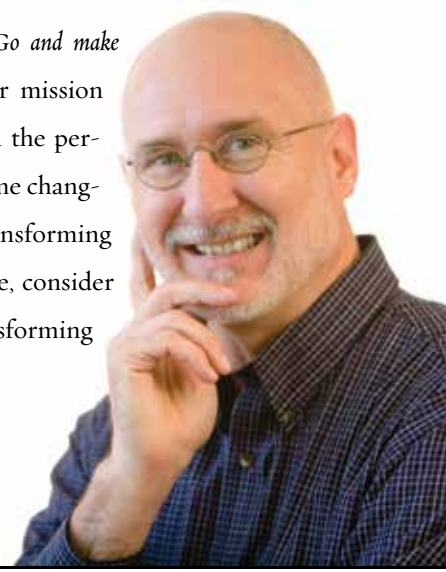
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In this issue...

When we accept Christ's commission to *Go and make disciples...*, we accept a mission-driven life. Our mission should drive our policies and practice, both on the personal and corporate levels. Yet we know that some changes can only be accomplished through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. As you read this issue, consider in what areas the Spirit needs to do some transforming work close to home.


Gary Burns, Editor



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY DON LIVESAY, LAKE UNION PRESIDENT



A Journey to Healing and Understanding

During my lifetime, my personal journey of understanding minority issues has bumped along, guided — or misguided — by periodic information continually flavored by the reality of my white and privileged perspective and understanding of the world. The general safety and financial security afforded to me by birth reduces my sensitivity to the journey of minority people around me.

I confess that, for most of my life, I thought that the obvious solution to most minority problems was to a) think like a white person, b) act like a white person, and c) respond to issues like a white person. I have lived in areas of the country where the general separation of races and cultures, or absence of minority populations, made it easier to continue to think in those ways without any context for understanding differently. I have even taken some pride and comfort in having close connections with several Black and Hispanic colleagues which I allowed to bring a false sense of assurance that I really understood other cultures. The truth is that my understanding was superficial.

Thank God, for nearly eight wonderful years I have been on a deeper and more progressive journey here in the Lake Union. Constant interaction with many minorities — seeing, listening *and hearing* stories of those who live day by day in a society that generally ignores, minimizes, and often passively or actively mistreats citizens of color has not only changed my perspective, it is changing my heart.

It would be arrogant to suggest I have arrived. The reality is, there is still much I don't know or understand. I am, however, in a new posture of seeking to fully come alongside my minority brothers and sisters in heart, head and hand. This disruptive, disorienting, yet immensely rewarding cultural passage has even been an important factor in my overall faith development.

Our American history overflows with incredible atrocities to ethnic groups ever since Columbus landed in the Bahamas. We have not been honest about our history nor are we inclined to assume any responsibility for wrong actions and policies that continue to result in personal benefit (white privilege) while contributing to unimaginable pain and loss of life for many African Americans. Personally facing/confronting that reality has led to my desire to actively seek a better understanding and more effective ways to bring God's church into greater unity through a personal willingness to accept difficult yet necessary change.

So, I urge you to join me on Saturday, October 1, 3:00 p.m., at the Village Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, for "A Journey to Healing and Understanding." We will share stories that originate from both within and outside the church and engage in a discussion designed to lead us to better understanding and healing.



Beyond Color

BY ELIZABETH HARSANY

“They’ll never hire me!” I adamantly told my husband.
“Why?”
“The entire school is black, teachers included. I wouldn’t fit in. I’m definitely not what they are looking for.”

One would think that this conversation took place decades ago but, no, the year was 2010. I had just come from an interview for an English teaching position in the Detroit area, and while the interview itself had been fantastic, I admittedly was skeptical and blinded by the racial reality or what I originally saw as a racial roadblock.

As the bustle of Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport flew by, I ended the call to my husband while waiting for my connecting flight back to Omaha, Nebraska, where I had been teaching for two years in a small, rural community. Only married for a few months, my husband and I had decided we needed to move to an area with greater business opportunities for him. I also wanted the chance to be a part of Adventist Christian education where I could openly pray with and for my students and incorporate spirituality into my lesson plans. After searching the internet and putting out applications, I received one call for an interview in Michigan. This was it.

Upon arrival at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport that cool April morning, I was picked up by a tall, caramel-colored man, the school’s health and physical education teacher. As he drove me to Peterson-Warren Academy, listening to me nervously babbling, he didn’t say much, yet what he said remains in my memory: “You have to be tough to work here.” Little did I know then how true this would be.

Like I said, the interview was amazing. I loved sharing my



Elizabeth Harsany with music teacher, Alice Stawbridge

passion and enthusiasm for English and for my students, and hearing about the mission of their school. I was given a tour by a current freshman student who beamed with pride as she led me down the hallway. As I followed her, asking questions and looking at the pictures of the academy alumni, I wondered, *Could I fit here? Could I make a difference? Could this be home? Would others be able to see past the color of my skin? Would I be able to do the same?* I was doubtful.

So I was completely surprised a few days later when a call came from Ruth Horton, then Lake Region superintendent, with the job offer to teach English, grades seven through 12, at Peterson-Warren Academy.

Not being one to back away from a challenge, I accepted.

When I tearfully told my current students and co-workers goodbye, several of my students were positive that it was not safe. From the way the media portrayed the Detroit area, they were certain that I would be mugged, shot or even worse. Many of my peers also were concerned. They knew about Detroit’s economic situation and weren’t sure whether my

husband would indeed find a job once we got there. However, I tried to optimistically push away their fears and doubts as we packed up our apartment and drove a rental moving truck across the Midwest to Michigan early that summer. What I didn't realize then was how this move was part of a bigger plan and a bigger calling which I wouldn't fully understand until years later.

Initially, it was a culture shock because I had grown up in a small, rural community and had just come from a similar teaching situation, both with predominantly white populations. I had never been in the minority before. The color contrast of my skin seemed blinding to me. It seemed to be the elephant in the room that I, and possibly others, was afraid to address. I tiptoed around it, trying always to be politically correct, ever mindful of barriers that I thought were apparent. I remember going to churches where my students and co-workers attended, dinners at people's houses, and various school events, but always feeling different, like I didn't quite fit.

As often occurs with teaching, it was my students who taught me, and it was my new school family who helped me to fit. They showed me how to get past these obstacles and loosen up. I vividly remember meeting some of my students for the first time, many during my first Sabbath at City Temple Church. These brave few came personally to introduce themselves, some shaking my hand with timidity, others with confidence, all undoubtedly wondering what my agenda was — why was I really there? I admit I wondered myself. It was one of these same students who helped break the ice.

One day, I was struggling with the focus of my seventh- and eighth-grade students (which seemed to be a daily battle). I think I had gotten angry and lost my patience which inevitably causes my face to turn bright red. A brave seventh-grade boy, with a wide smile and a good heart, raised his hand and caught me off guard. "Why do people call us 'colored'? You turn more colors than anyone! You're red when you're angry, and you're pale or green when you're sick." I didn't know what to say, and it seemed as if all the students were waiting and anticipating my reaction. Finally, I just had to laugh, and it was this laughter that began to demolish the roadblocks I had previously seen and, admittedly, had built myself.

Now, six years later, I find myself embracing the cultural differences between myself and my students. What used to feel like a barrier and a roadblock has become multiple opportunities to learn, to grow and to change.

My school family has taught me much. I have learned that church will not end at noon, but keeps going sometimes until two or even three in the afternoon. I have learned about

greens, sweet potato pie, soul and "swag." I have learned not just about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, but also about Thurgood Marshall and Bessie Coleman. And I have learned that when my students and co-workers say they "have my back," they mean it.

I have grown with my school family. We have learned together, both in and out of the classroom. We have cried together, both for personal loss as well as losses shared. We have laughed together over things others just wouldn't understand. We have worked together on various projects for the betterment of our school. We also have succeeded together, reaching goals we carefully set for ourselves with God's guidance.

I have changed — for the better! Looking back over my six years here, I realize now how limited my perspective had been and how much clearer it has become. As I have watched the news in the past year and seen story after story of racial tensions and prejudice rearing its ugly head once more in our country, I realize how limited is the perspective of others. It saddens me because I think of all the missed opportunities for learning, for growing and for changing.

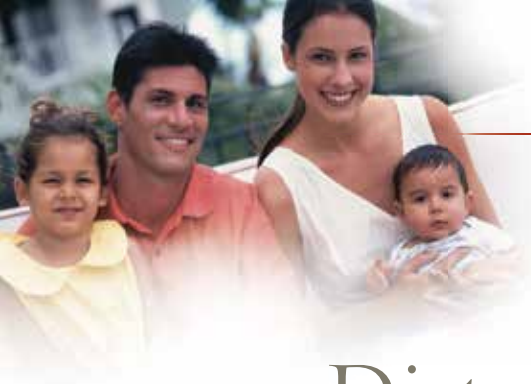
No, my teaching experience hasn't been easy nor has it been without its challenges. If it had, I don't think it would mean as much to me as it does. The world seems to go out of its way to make color an issue, and while some aspire to "color blindness," when I step into the hallway of my school, there isn't color blindness, but awareness.

A few months ago, while reading the writer's journal of one of my seniors (that same brave seventh-grader with the wide smile and big heart), I was surprised to read the following:

"I was in the 7th grade and this year was a new, new year. Now the reason why I said new twice, well, duh! It was a new year but something new was coming. A New Teacher! Mrs. Harsany was not just a teacher; she was a very special teacher. How could this teacher be special when I had no clue about her? Well, she was white! Mrs. Harsany was our first white teacher here that I know of. As the years have come, she has been the best teacher and unexpected Mom."

It's students like this who have taught me more than I have probably taught them. We are all multiple shades of color because we serve a creative and wonderful God who loves variety. He wants us to learn what truly matters is not the color of one's skin, but rather what is in one's heart. And what's in the hearts of my school family is pure gold!

Elizabeth Harsany taught until recently at Peterson-Warren Academy, Inkster, Michigan.



Distractions, Disruptions and Decisions

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

It wasn't easy that last few weeks. As Doris and Millard accepted help packing their belongings, it was marking the end of life as they had known it. Doris had to say goodbye, not only to her neighbors and friends, but also to the vast garden of flowers she had tenderly cared for through the years. But they had told their children, "When you know it is time for us to move and we can't manage well on our own, you are to let us know and we will comply." That they did, even though neither wanted to move. They moved, they adjusted for the most part, and now they await resurrection morning, buried next to each other. The lessons we learned from them are many, including "knowing when to let go and doing it with grace."

What at first begins as a distraction — a loved one's forgetfulness, not caring for their home in the way they used to, hygiene and eating habits slipping, all too often become disruptions. A disruption causes family members to no longer ignore or hesitate to "push" in responding to an urgent issue. Sometimes decisions are made in haste, feelings are hurt, and needs are not met in the best way possible.

Before distractions become disruptions, how about starting the conversations early? In regard to a loved one's independence, some questions can include:

"What do you want us to do if we think it is no longer safe for you to drive, live independently or handle your personal affairs?"

"What do you want us to do if you become resistant to our attempts to help?"

"If you have care needs, would you prefer to stay home, move in with family or move to an assisted living facility?"

"Who is, or who do you want to be, your POA (Power of Attorney) to manage your personal and physical affairs?"

Regarding health and treatment, some questions can include:



"What are your thoughts about pursuing medical treatments versus alternative therapies to fight an illness?"

"What are your thoughts about pursuing surgery that might enhance your quality of life (e.g. hip or knee replacement) versus ones that will prolong life for a time but not cure your condition?"

"Do you have a living will or trust and where is it located?"

"Who is, or who do you want to be, your POA to make healthcare decisions for you if you are unable to do so?"

You, the reader, may have already had a version of these conversations, whether you are the grown child or the parent. However, many have difficulty bringing up the inevitable — sometimes it's the parents, other times the children, and sometimes it's both. Rather than making assumptions that may be mis- or uninformed, consider starting the conversation yourself.

End-of-life issues are sobering, but how much easier it is when we understand another's heart desires and know how they want to be remembered.

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

Sweet potatoes are a better choice than Irish potatoes

Choosing Your Carbs

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

White rice is not helpful in blood glucose control

While one in 10 persons in the U.S. has diabetes, about one-third of them don't know they have it. In addition, an estimated 57 million have pre-diabetes with elevated blood sugar levels. Overweight is responsible for 90 percent of type two diabetes. By the year 2030, 50 percent of Americans will be obese. This will burden the healthcare system with an additional eight million cases of diabetes, and seven million additional cases of heart disease and stroke.

Appropriate food choices can be made to provide meals with *lower* glycemic index (GI) value, which produces more desirable and *lower* blood glucose and insulin responses. Starch has been given a bad press, but not all starch acts the same. Refined breads, potato and sugar are foods with a high GI while beans and lentils have a low GI. Rice, pasta and vegetables have intermediate values. White rice has a GI value that is 10 points higher than brown rice. Replacing white rice with brown rice can decrease your risk of diabetes by about 20 percent.

White potatoes are a high GI food. The risk of type two diabetes was seen to increase 16 to 18 percent by a daily serving of white potatoes or two weekly servings of French fries. On the other hand, sweet potatoes can improve HbA1c values (a measure of blood sugar control). Boiled sweet potatoes have a GI value that are 40 points lower than those prepared by baking or roasting. The orange-fleshed sweet potato is a good source of beta-carotene while the purple-fleshed variety is rich in anthocyanins which have powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

Foods rich in dietary fiber assist with better blood glucose control. Eating 30 to 40 grams of fiber per day from a wide variety of sources is desirable. Soluble fiber from beans, carrots, apples, oranges, oats, barley, lentils, squash and prickly pear fruit lowers blood glucose as well



as reducing insulin needs. A regular intake of cereal fiber also substantially decreases the risk of diabetes. In a 10-year study, risk of type two diabetes was 38 percent lower for those consuming high amounts of whole grains compared with those consuming low amounts.

Substituting five percent of one's energy intake from animal protein with plant protein was associated with a 23 percent lower risk of diabetes. In the Adventist Health Study, vegetarians showed a 50 percent lower risk of type two diabetes. People consuming 3.5 ounces per day of processed meats experience a 2.3-fold increased risk of diabetes.

Various studies have found that a greater intake of green leafy vegetables, cruciferous vegetables, broccoli sprouts, apples, blueberries, legumes and soy milk were associated with a better glucose control and a significant reduction in risk of type two diabetes. Regular use of nuts or nut butters can lower risk of diabetes 20-30 percent. Use of spices, such as cinnamon and turmeric, improve blood glucose control. Adding one serving of yogurt per day to the meal was associated with, on average, an 18 percent lowered risk of diabetes. Finally, regular exercise is a real weapon to combat the onset of diabetes since it helps with weight management and improves insulin sensitivity.

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

In His Steps

BY ELLEN WHITE

Your Union leadership is on a journey to seek healing and understanding in race relations. This journey was prompted by a reflection on our history in the Lake Union these past 70 plus years since the establishment of the Lake Region Conference and the acknowledgment that, as a church, we have much for which to apologize, not only for yesterday, but for inequities in policy and practice that continue today. Please join us in our journey to healing and understanding in order to better accomplish our shared commission. — The Editors

The law of God contained in the ten commandments reveals to man his duty to love God supremely and his neighbor as himself. The American nation owes a debt of love to the colored race, and God has ordained that they should make restitution for the wrong they have done them in the past. Those who have taken no active part in enforcing slavery upon the colored people are not relieved from the responsibility of making special efforts to remove, as far as possible, the sure result of their enslavement.

As a people, we should no longer say by our attitude, "Am I my brother's keeper?" We should arouse ourselves to do justly, to love mercy. We should make manifest by our actions that we have the faith for which the saints are to contend. We should go forth to seek the oppressed, to lift up the fallen, and to bring help to those who need our assistance. We should remember that many among the colored people who have been entrusted with God-given ability, who had intellectual capabilities far superior to those of the masters who claimed them as their property, were forced to endure every indignity, and their souls groaned under the most cruel and unjust oppression.

God's object in bringing us to himself is to conform us to the image of Christ Jesus. All who believe in Christ will understand the personal relation that exists between them and their brethren. They are to be as branches grafted into the same parent stock, to draw sustenance from the root. Believers, whether white or black, are branches of the True Vine. There is to be no special heaven for the white man, and another heaven for the black man. We are all to be saved through the same grace, all to enter the same heaven at last. Then why not act like rational beings, and overcome our unlikeness to Christ?

Ellen White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, excerpts from "Spirit and Life for the Colored People," *The Review and Herald*, January 14, 1896.

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

- *How does one repay a debt of love?*
- *Can we say restitution has been accomplished when white privilege continues to create an unequal playing field?*
- *Is it true that many laborers today have God-given ability and intellectual capabilities far superior to their employers?*
- *What does God have yet to do to conform us to his image? What would a church look like whose members were conformed into the image of God?*

—The Editors

Praying for the Spirit

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (Luke 11:13 NIV).

It is one thing to pray by the Holy Spirit. It's another thing to pray *for* the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Father's primary gift to assist us in our spiritual lives. The Holy Spirit is the Father's crowning gift and is promised to all who ask the Father for him. The word for "ask" in this verse literally means "keep on asking." What askers receive is not just the person of the Spirit but all the "good gifts" that the Spirit brings into our lives (Matthew 7:11).

There is no more important prayer of the believer than the prayer for the Holy Spirit. He is the source of every spiritual blessing. Through the Spirit Jesus lives in us. Through him we receive new hearts, holiness, knowledge, power, wisdom and assurance. He produces the fruit of *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control* in our lives (see Galatians 5:22–23). He writes the law of God in our hearts so that we know and want to do what's right (see Ezekiel 36:27). He is the One called to our side to guide and counsel us (see John 14:26). What a remarkably simple way God works — one gift, many blessings.

When we ask for the Spirit we are not asking for something — we are asking for Someone. We are asking the Father to send a person — the thinking, feeling, willing, acting, talking, listening Third Person of the Godhead. When he comes, as promised, he comes with all his quickening power, with his infinite wisdom and understanding, with unlimited love and grace, and with his keen awareness of all the realities of our lives.

There is no way that the Father will withhold the very thing he wants us to have. But we do have to ask. He does not give without our asking. James reminded some prayer-less Christians: *You do not have, because you do not ask God* (James 4:2). Andrew Murray challenges us to make asking for the Spirit a priority: "The one thing which, above all others, men and women ought everywhere to ask ... is to be filled with the Spirit of God" (*The Full Blessing of Pentecost*, p. 7).

To ask the Father for the Holy Spirit is to ask that the Spirit will fill us, that he will come and take control of every part of our lives. But we need to ask sincerely. Sincere asking means that we really want what the Spirit gives — purity, godliness, holiness, faith-sharing ability, and so on.

If you do not have the Spirit in your life in the fullness that God intends, it is not because God is reluctant. He is more than willing. The question is, are you as willing to receive the Spirit as the Father is eager to give?

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.



The Apology

BY DEBBIE MICHEL

It was a hot summer day and Ronald Semil trudged up the long driveway toward the lakeside home in a wealthy, predominantly white neighborhood of Cadillac, Michigan. He was carrying an armful of books as he knocked on the door. A casually dressed, elderly gentleman with thinning white hair quickly opened the door.

“Hi, my name is Ronald, and I’m selling books to pay for college,” Ronald said. “This is one of the books, *Habits That Heal*, which shares the secrets of America’s longest living people. . .”

Before he could finish, the man interrupted him. “Who are you again?”

Ronald repeated his opening line while showing him the identification badge dangling from his neck.

Looking off in the distance, the gentleman said, “I don’t do this door-to-door thing.” Then, staring back at the smiling 24-year-old, he said softly, “However, there’s something about you. You have a face so full of honesty.”

The man continued, “I’m saddened at the racial injustice taking place around the nation. Over the years, I’ve seen so much and it’s mostly done by white people like me. I feel so guilty that we’ve caused you so much harm. When a random black man comes to my door, I feel so guilty not to help him. If you’re walking around here selling books, you must be doing something positive.”

Then he asked Ronald, “Have you been selling many books today?”

The Haitian-American paused, trying to figure out where his potential customer was going with this question, and answered, “Yes, I’ve gotten a few books sold today.”



Ronald Semil

“You see!” said the man. “You’re so honest.”

Looking through the health book, he asked Ronald, “I get this book for \$25 to \$30?”

The man disappeared into his house and, in the meantime, Ronald prayed, *Please use me to reveal you*. He was reminded of the devotional thought he shared in group worship that morning: *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory* (Colossians 1:27 KJV). He thought of how when

God is revealed in us, it is without regard to race. When we see the full humanity of everyone, we see everyone as a brother or sister.

When the man returned, he said, “Here,” as he handed Ronald a \$100 bill.

“Wow, thank you!” Ronald responded. “Here, take all the books!” as he handed him nine other titles he had.

The man took them and, as Ronald turned to depart, he said, “Ronald, please tell me you’re going to do well in school.” The second-year seminarian assured him with a smile, “I will.”

Debbie Michel is associate communication director for the Lake Union Conference.



La importancia de tomar tiempo para estar con Dios

POR CARMELO MERCADO

En el mes de julio los pastores hispanos de Grand Rapids, Michigan, los líderes de la obra hispana de las asociaciones de Michigan, y la Regional de Lago y su servidor nos reunimos por un día en un lugar de retiro llamado *Ronora Lodge and Retreat Center* ubicado en la ciudad de Watervliet, Michigan.

Nos reunimos allí con el propósito de dedicar tiempo para buscar a Dios en el estudio de su Palabra y en oración. El lugar resultó ser ideal por lo apartado y tranquilo, y la oportunidad de estar en contacto con la naturaleza favoreció el hecho de que nos acercáramos a Dios como también los unos con los otros como hermanos y colegas en el ministerio.



Los pastores hispanos de Grand Rapids con los líderes hispanos de las asociaciones de Michigan y Regional del Lago en un retiro espiritual.

Comenzamos el retiro temprano con oración y luego estudiamos varios temas, entre ellos un artículo titulado “A solas con Dios”. En este artículo el autor presenta su preocupación debido a que muchas iglesias hacen lo que él llama “el evangelio del trabajo”. Usa esta frase para describir el hecho de que hay iglesias que ponen más énfasis en las distintas actividades que se llevan a cabo, en lugar de animar a los hermanos a que dediquen tiempo para cultivar una relación personal con Dios. Nos dice que existen miembros de iglesia y pastores que son lo que él llama “cristianos nerviosos”. Estas personas pasan mucho tiempo “obteniendo y gastando, yendo y viniendo, comprando y vendiendo, organizando y promocionando, trabajando y jugando” y descuidan su vida devocional.

Al estudiar este tema pensé que posiblemente una de las razones principales de la existencia de conflictos en

la iglesia se deba a que ocupamos la mayor parte de nuestro tiempo en realizar diferentes actividades y dedicamos relativamente poco tiempo para estar en comunión con Dios. En contraste con nuestra realidad, Lucas 6:12 nos dice que a pesar del tiempo limitado que tenía para cumplir su misión, nuestro Señor Jesús tenía como prioridad ir “al monte a orar, y pasaba la noche orando a Dios.”

En los próximos meses habrá campañas de evangelismo en la mayoría de nuestras iglesias hispanas, entre ellas una campaña metropolitana de La Voz de Esperanza en Grand Rapids. En preparación para estas campañas deseo animar a los hermanos a que dediquen mucho más tiempo para estar en comunión con Dios, tanto a solas como en grupos de dos o tres. Inclusive, no estaría de más que cada persona tomara un día entero antes del comienzo de la campaña de su iglesia, para estar a solas con Dios. No tengo duda alguna que al renovar nuestra experiencia individual con Dios recibiremos la bendición de una mayor porción de su Espíritu Santo

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

An English translation of this article is available at www.lakeunion.org.



The Widow's Might

BY BRENDA KIŠ

When my husband passed away early this year, I did not know what life would be like without him. Even though his death is still fresh and my days are filled with new and unknown tasks and the lonely business of carrying on, I have experienced the power of God in wonderful ways.

He has instructed me every day. Each morning I pray Proverbs 16:3 in my own words: *I commit my works to You, O Lord. Establish my thoughts.* And He brings to mind things I need to do, whom I should contact, how I should accomplish certain tasks.

He has spoken comfort and affirmation to me. Hundreds of emails and cards, phone calls and visits have brought life-giving messages I needed to read and hear. One woman sent me a card each week for two months. Another texted me words of comfort week by week. Yet another extended a frequent and open invitation to eat and spend time with her family any Sabbath I didn't have plans.

He has fed me body and soul. Whether home-cooked meals on Sabbath or excursions to new and familiar restaurants during the week, invitations from friends and family have given me nourishment through food when it is imperative that I, like all grieving persons, must continue to eat, and soul nourishment through a listening ear and comforting voice.

He has provided much-needed help. Immediate offers included taking walks when I needed to get away



Brenda Kiš

and talk; cleaning my house that first Friday; answering my door or phone; receiving and freezing food; listing everyone who called, came, or brought something. Gentlemen stepped in to help me explore buying a new car, gave me practical advice, and alerted me to legal or financial decisions to be made. My next-door neighbor organized a group of nearly 30 people to do all the outside chores my ill husband wasn't able to accomplish, resulting in a wonderful transformation of my gardens and property!

He has pampered me at a time when it's been easy to neglect myself. The night my husband died, a close friend offered to stay with me until my sister arrived. My prayer meeting group made a comforting blanket to wrap me in love on sad days. Friends from church brought a tiny rose bush, a soft blanket and a basket of at least 25 small surprise packages, each wrapped creatively and beautifully, for me to open when I felt lonely. Other friends blessed me with a spa kit containing a beautiful tea cup and saucer, fine chocolate, creams and lotions, and more. A perceptive neighbor gifted me with a one-hour massage certificate. Another couple offered their moun-

Through all these beautiful words and acts, God has reminded me of his great love and continuing care.

tain get-away to our family for some healing time together. Flowers, food, books and hugs have surrounded me over the last few months.

He has touched me through art and music. One family invited me to their home to take up oil painting again and find rest in creativity. Another friend taught me how to make unique cards. Others took me to a concert. And one friend came to my home to play sacred hymns for me on my piano. Gift CDs of comforting music have softened my grief.

He has given me opportunities to serve others. Dear friends invited me to a local ASI meeting followed by a trip to distribute bottled water to the victims of the polluted Flint River. My first contact there was a woman who had lost her husband just five days after my own loss! I was able to pray with her and point her to the One who never dies or leaves us. “I usually don’t answer the door these days, but I’m so glad I did today,” she said as we parted, and my own heart was blessed.

Through all these beautiful words and acts, God has reminded me of his great love and continuing care. I have seen his face in your face, my friends. His voice sounds a lot like yours. The part you played, the little “mite” you offered to assuage my grief has become a mighty force for good, and I feel strengthened on my journey. You, by God’s grace, are the widow’s might.

Brenda Kiš is a member of the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Christa McConnell

Brenda and her husband Miroslav, a former professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, at a retirement reception in his honor last April.



WHY I MARCH

REFLECTIONS ON RACE, PROTEST AND CHRISTIAN DUTY

The following was written as a reflection on events of December 2014 that led to a social justice march at Andrews University and through the town of Berrien Springs. While written before more recent events, it documents the experience of one white Adventist scholar who decided he needed to get more involved in matters of race and justice.

BY NICHOLAS MILLER

Why would a middle-aged, white professor of church history and law choose to join nearly 250 mostly black students half his age on a march for justice through the streets of his sleepy, country, hometown? Well, most obviously, a number of the marchers are or have been students of mine, and I care about and love them. What concerns them, concerns me. If they feel marginalized, threatened and mistreated, I want to show my care and support. Showing up and “being there” communicates this love and concern, I hope.



Emmanuel St. Cloud

From the pleased looks and words of welcome and appreciation when I join them, that hope seems at least partially vindicated. I enjoy the spirituals that are sung, and join in when I can. I am, perhaps, somewhat more ambivalent about the chants. One makes me a bit nervous — “No Justice, No Peace.” I first heard this nearly 25 years ago as a law student in New York City and, to my ears, it sounds a little bit like a veiled threat. “If we don’t get what we want legally, we are going to disrupt the peace of your life and community.”

But in this march, I see a revision on some signs with which I’m happier, “Know Justice, Know Peace.” This version seems like a more positive message, that if you embrace justice, you can have peace at heart and in society, knowing you have done the right thing. Still, as long as the “No Peace” some signs display is verbal and symbolic, then I can go along with it. And this crowd is definitely marching in the tradition of Christian, non-violent,

peaceful protest, and one can fairly interpret the message in this context.

We also chant the phrase, “I can’t breathe,” which was Eric Garner’s last words as he was choked by the police. Here we are stepping across the line from general calls for justice, to taking sides in particular cases and how the facts of those cases should be understood. But given that many of these incidents of violence have been videotaped, it does not seem like we are speculating.

I have seen the Garner video and, whatever the larger story, the police response appears significantly overdone. Skeptics say that being able to say “I can’t breathe” means that you actually can breathe. Yet this is really an absurd commentary given the outcome. Certainly, Garner had a sense of having the life crushed out of him; that he had enough breath to communicate this doesn’t lessen or mitigate the inhumanity of the police conduct which we have seen in too many videos on too many occasions.



Photos by Emmanuel St. Cloud

And that is the heart of it, as expressed in the final chant — “Black lives matter.” I cannot say this without a catch in my throat, because it saddens me greatly that an important portion of my students feel sufficiently marginalized, trivialized and threatened that they have to say something that should so obviously go without saying. They certainly don’t mean that only black lives matter. No, the implicit subtext is that “Black lives matter as much as the rest.” I was inspired and proud to hear them praying both for black victims and police officers, the vast majority of whom, the university chaplain Michael Polite reminded us, seek to serve and protect their communities.

But the statistics of black/white shooting deaths, conviction and incarceration rates show that we still deal with a significant amount of implicit and institutional racial bias and, at times, explicit bias, in our society. But even more important for me than these facts and figures is that my students, our students, feel strongly enough that they, their friends and their children are devalued by society, to the point that nearly 250 of them will walk about five miles on a Sabbath afternoon to share their concerns and hurt with our community.

My presence at this march will not change these facts and figures; it may have very little impact on any system, even in my community. But it just may convey to my students that there are indeed those in their Adventist community who share their concerns and who also believe their lives, like all lives, matter. I hope this is what my presence conveys.

But skeptics could, and do, ask, Aren’t you just allowing your sentimental feeling for your students push you into political action that is inappropriate for a Christian? Is the

softness of your heart causing a corresponding softness in your head? A favorite quote of some such skeptics comes from Ellen White:

“The government under which Jesus lived was corrupt and oppressive; on every hand were crying abuses — extortion, intolerance, and grinding cruelty. Yet the Savior attempted no civil reforms. He attacked no national abuses, nor condemned the national enemies. He did not interfere with the authority or administration of those in power. He who was our example kept aloof from earthly governments” (Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 509).

Yes, we cannot allow our social or justice causes to detract from or undermine the gospel. Twentieth-century liberal Christianity has been weakened by its focus on institutional evil and its relative ignoring of evil in the human heart. Christ’s remedy for society must reach the individual heart, and the church cannot abandon evangelism of souls for purely political programs.

And yet, Ellen White also recognized the role of the Christian citizen in making society a better place, especially in a democracy. “In our favored land, every voter has some voice in determining what laws shall control the nation. Should not that influence and that vote be cast on the side of temperance and virtue? . . . The advocates of temperance fail to do their whole duty unless they exert their influence by precept and example — by voice and pen and vote — in favor of prohibition and total abstinence” (Ellen White, *Review & Herald*, Nov. 8, 1881).

She was writing in regard to alcohol use, yet her reasoning applies to other social ills. She was a strong, even radical, supporter of abolition of slavery and of the uplifting of the Black race in America after slavery was

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SOCIETY LARGELY IGNORES US BECAUSE OUR GOSPEL HAS BECOME SO SPIRITUALIZED THAT IT DOES NOT THREATEN THE COMFORTABLE, DISCRIMINATORY ARRANGEMENTS OF OUR COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL ELITES?

ended, calling for “restitution” for their mistreatment (*The Southern Work*, p. 155). She spoke about social and economic justice and fairness, holding up the Old Testament legal and political system of gleanings, debt forgiveness, land reform and jubilees of freedom as a guide for societies today (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 534–536).

She understood that Christians working for the coming Kingdom of God would be working for the implementation of its principles here and now to protect the rights of all. As she put it, “A religion that leads men to place a low estimate upon human beings, whom Christ has esteemed of such value as to give Himself for them; a religion that would lead us to be careless of human needs, sufferings, or rights, is a spurious religion” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, p.137).

For much of the twentieth century, Adventism often has been the victim of an either/or fallacy — either we embrace the gospel of personal conversion, OR we accept the gospel of social justice. We have overlooked the fact that the personal gospel leads to changed citizens who want to change their society for the betterment of others.

Here are the choices in reality:

A. Be biblically liberal and embrace social justice as the ultimate end of Christianity;

B. Be biblically conservative and embrace social justice as one of the important consequences of the gospel; or

C. Be biblically conservative and deny or ignore that the gospel has direct social consequences.

We know that, in the early twentieth century, mainstream liberal Christianity embraced A, and lives with the sad, spiritual consequences. At the same time, American fundamentalism embraced C, and repeatedly turned a

blind eye to discriminatory and racist policies and laws.

Unfortunately, even our church was influenced by this quietist philosophy. Why is it so hard for many of us to see option B? That we can have a vital and vibrant biblical Christianity that is made all the more so because we appropriately and peacefully engage the social ills of our time?

Surely this is what Christ was teaching in Matthew 25, where the difference between the sheep and the goats was not what they *preached* or *professed*, but what they *practiced* on behalf of the sick, hungry, poor and alien. Jesus also participated in his own symbolic, protest march — we call it the triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It included both speech and action, ending with the rather forceful event of the cleansing of the temple.

This was not a partisan political event or strategy. But it did show that spiritual messages may deeply impact and challenge comfortable social arrangements. The Gospel of Mark records that it was this event that caused the Scribes and Priests to seek to “destroy” Jesus (Mark 11:15–18).

Is it possible that society largely ignores us because our gospel has become so spiritualized that it does not threaten the comfortable, discriminatory arrangements of our commercial, political and spiritual elites? Have we as Adventist Christians become tame and safe to ignore? I’m glad that 250 of my students were willing to challenge me to rethink the boundaries of my comfort zone. They reminded me of the importance of taking the implications of the gospel into the streets on behalf of the mistreated, misused and maligned. It was a Sabbath truly well spent.

Nick Miller serves as the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Lake Union Conference.

The Heart of the Matter

BY WILLIAM J. LEE

As an African-American male, I am sadly, yet keenly aware of prejudice, racism, and discrimination. When I was a teenager, my father taught me how to drive a car in the parking lot of Lake Michigan College. He taught me all the basics of how to turn left, right, and even parallel park. After I thought I learned all the basics about how to drive a car, my father taught me, perhaps, an even more valuable lesson. He said, “Ok, stop the car. Let me explain to you what to do *when* you get stopped by the police.” You see, in the African-American community it is not “if” you get stopped, but it’s “when” you get stopped by the police. My father, with sternness and conviction in his voice, began to explain to me what to do when I get stopped by the police. My father said, “Immediately let down your window, always address the officer by saying ‘sir’ or ‘ma’am,’ never make a sudden movement, explain to the officer your every move.” This particular driving lesson did not make a lot of sense to me at that time, but now, as I look in the rearview mirror, it may have saved my life.

Wayne Burrell



I was first pulled over by the police 20 years ago, while driving through the predominantly white town of Saint Joseph, Michigan. I was not speeding. I had not disobeyed any traffic laws, but I found myself quickly putting into action the drivers education tools my father taught me in the parking lot of Lake Michigan College. I immediately lowered my drivers' window. The officer asked for my license and registration. I moved slowly and produced the information. Knowing that I had not broken any traffic laws, I could not resist asking the officer why I was being pulled over? With a slight pause and a blank stare by the officer, he looked at my interior rearview mirror and said, "The air fresher that is hanging from the mirror is an obstruction to other drivers." I was confused and upset, but I quickly realized I was being pulled over by the police because I was driving while being black.

Fast forward 20 years. I was preaching for a revival at the Highland Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. It was Sabbath afternoon. God had moved in a powerful way during the divine worship hour. After lunch at the church, I was headed to Andrews University where I was staying during the revival meetings. I was still suited up, bow-tie and all, in my shiny black car. Before I could exit onto US 31 South, once again I was being pulled over by the police. I thought quickly to myself, "Was I speeding?" No. "Was I on my cell phone?" No. I could not think of a reason why I was being pulled over. Yet, immediately the action plan my father taught me in the parking lot of Lake Michigan College went into action. I rolled down my window. The officer immediately said to me, "What are you doing in these parts?" I guessed because my license plate said, "Indiana," the assumption was that I must be a foreigner to these parts in Michigan.

I explained to the officer that I am an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor and am preaching in Benton Harbor. I could not resist immediately asking the officer why I was being pulled over? Again, with a pause and a blank stare, I was informed that my third brake light was out. Third brake light? The officer ran my license and registration and, in less than two minutes, returned to my car to simply say, "Enjoy your stay in Benton Harbor." The officer drove off. Meanwhile, I was left feeling agitated, disrespected and degraded, but at least I was able to drive away.

According to a recent survey conducted by Radio One, 91 percent of all Americans believe there is discrimination against blacks in America.¹ A noteworthy point of divergence rests in how significant the issue of discrimination is amongst Black and White Americans. Seven in 10 Black Americans perceive *a lot of* bias against Blacks, compared to a fewer than three in 10 Whites.² There is a considerable misalignment in acknowledging the *magnitude* of the problem, yet overwhelming agreement on the *existence* of the problem.

In a New York Times article, "The Disproportionate Risk of Driving While Black,"³ documented racial profiling by police in largely African-American communities. "In North Carolina's third-largest city, officers pulled over African-American drivers for traffic violations at a vastly disproportionate rate far out of proportion with their share of the local driving population. They used their discretion to search black drivers or their cars more than twice as often as white motorists — even though they found drugs and weapons significantly more often when the driver was white.⁴ The data also suggest, "Officers were more likely to stop black drivers for no discernible reason. And they were more likely to use force if the driver was black, even when they did not encounter physical resistance.⁵

As an African-American male, I know what it's like to be constantly followed in a large department store being asked by several sales associates, "Can I help you?" over and over again. I know what it's like to ride on an elevator with a white woman while she clutches her purse tightly, breathing heavily, only to rush out of the elevator into freedom. Am I bitter? No. Conscious? Yes! Being a Black man in American comes with its penalties.

On the heels of outrage, protests and emotional responses after the shooting death of numerous African-Americans by police actions or while in police custody, including Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Jonathan Ferrell, John Crawford, Ezell Ford, Laquan McDonald, Akai Gurley, Tamir Rice, Eric Harris, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray, Sandra Bland, Samuel DuBose, and most recent, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and, the subsequent shooting of five police officers in Dallas, America — nor the church — can turn a blind eye nor hide behind the cloak of eschatology. God has called his people to be *in* the world but not *of* the world. God's people must

rise higher than worldly standards and practices. Our theology must lead to heart transformation.

In my opinion, the issues are not simply “black and white,” but it goes deeper than one’s outward skin color. The heart of the matter, according to Jeremiah 17:9, is that *the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* The issue is not skin, but sin. We must admit we are flawed. We are sinful. We are biased. We are unconverted. Yet, our only solution is Jesus Christ. God must change our hearts as described in Ezekiel 36:25-28. Not only must Nicodemus be born again, we, too, must be born again.

I love my church. I love being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. I believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the church of Bible prophecy. Yet, as a member and pastor, I mourn for my church. I mourn over the fact that we continue to mirror the world in our practice of racial segregation. How can God’s remnant people willfully remain divided along radical lines? I once heard Wintley Phipps say, “Areas where Christianity is most prevalent around the world are the same exact areas where prejudice and racism are the highest.”

As Jesus was headed to the cross to heal, restore and redeem mankind He passionately interceded on behalf of his present and future disciples, that we might become one. Jesus prayed, *I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one; that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.* (John 17:11, 21) We can theologize and debate over the meaning of “oneness” but what is clear to me in 2016 is that we still have a way to go to fulfill the intercessory prayer of Jesus.

William J Lee, Sr., PhD is pastor of the Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church and Men’s Ministry director, Lake Region Conference.

1. <http://blackwhiteblue.newsone.com>
2. <http://blackwhiteblue.newsone.com/docs/bwb-press-release.pdf>
3. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/25/us/racial-disparity-traffic-stops-driving-black.html>
4. Ibid
5. Ibid



The issue is not skin, but sin. We must admit we are flawed. We are sinful. We are biased. We are unconverted. Yet, our only solution is Jesus Christ. God must change our hearts...



Campers enjoy games and activities at the annual AMITA Health Adventist St. Thomas Hospice Tommy's Kids Summer Camp.

Bereavement camps help children face life after loss

Paige Cremerius, a psychology student at Lewis University in Romeoville, attended a Tommy's Kids bereavement camp in 2006 when she was 11, after her baby cousin died. The summer day camp is designed to help children deal with the loss of a family member.

"Each day had different activities, and I liked them a lot," Cremerius said. "I still have my original folder. At first, I wasn't sure I wanted to go, I felt confused after my cousin died. But then I found out I wasn't alone. I felt reassured when I learned that other children had a lot of the same feelings."

The camp made an impression. Cremerius, 21, is looking forward to her third summer as a volunteer — one of several counselors who have returned. She will be a senior next year and plans to go to graduate school in psychology.

"It was really sweet working with the children," she said. "I can see how precious they are. I want to help them get through what I went through."

The first Tommy's Kids camp in 2006 was organized because of a community need, according to Pam Mezyk, executive director of AMITA Health Adventist St. Thomas Hospice, which facilitates the camps.

"We were getting calls from school counselors about young children who had experienced the loss of a family member," Mezyk said. "There was nothing in the community for them."

This gave birth to Tommy's Kids. "They are in a club that no one else wants to belong to," Mezyk said. "By the end of camp, they realize they aren't the only ones suffering. They realize there is life after grief, and they have a happy life ahead of them."

"The most important benefit that I see for the children is being allowed to have fun," said Rosemarie Cohen, a bereavement coordinator. She has served as a camp counselor

or facilitator at all 10 Tommy's Kids camps. "It gives them a place to talk about the person who died. Kids won't bring up the loss because, 'I don't want to see Mom or Dad cry.' Camp gives them permission to tell the story. Once questions are asked, they have all kinds of information that they have been waiting to talk about."

The camps combine traditional, fun activities such as outdoor recreation and arts and crafts with grief education and emotional support. They are staffed by grief professionals and trained volunteers.

The 11th annual Tommy's Kids Bereavement Summer Day Camp was held June 20-24 in Hinsdale. Also, the third annual Camp Erin, a free weekend sleepover camp for ages 6-17, will be held Aug. 26-28 in Frankfort, Ill. Camp Erin is facilitated by the hospice in partnership with the Moyer Foundation, a non-profit organization serving children affected by loss.

Since the first camp was held, about 385 children have attended Tommy's Kids camps and about 93 have attended Camp Erin.

"We get tons of letters from families," Mezyk said. "Families report that camp changed their child's life. They tell how their child was sullen and quiet before camp, but came back talking about their loss, pain and struggles. Kids report that their burden is lighter and bearable. Some make friends for life."

Julie Busch, associate vice president of communications, AMITA Health

Seminarian to serve God and country

“I’ve always wanted to serve in the military. My father was in Vietnam, my brother was a marine, but every time I tried to join, right after high school and again following 9/11, my dad talked me out of it. So I started looking in other directions.”

Baptized into the Adventist church as a young adult, Jameel Daniels thought maybe he could become a pastor, but quickly realized he didn’t want to be a traditional one — he wanted to minister to others in a different way.

Regardless of his life’s direction, Daniels knew he needed to learn more, so he enrolled in the Seminary. When he received an email from the dean’s office with a list of scholarship opportunities, one in particular jumped out at him.

Screaming Rock Media offered \$3,000 to two students who demonstrated thoughtful research and spiritual study on a topic relevant to Adventist history. Applicants were to write a research paper and present a 20-minute sermon. Daniels’ topic was justification by faith.

“My research confirmed something I’d suspected but had never heard proven: justification by faith has always been the standard in God’s plan,” he says. “Even before sin.”

Daniels’ sermon and six-page paper were selected for one of the scholarship awards.

“The result of my research affirmed my trust in God,” says Daniels. “It undergirded the love I have for him, and further illuminated how he feels about me.”

With only a few months left in school, Daniels began to feel the



Jameel Daniels, a seminary student, was awarded \$3,000 for his research paper and sermon about justification by faith.

pressure of nailing down a direction for his life. Though he felt strongly that he was being called to ministry, he still didn’t feel cut out for traditional pastoral roles. One Sabbath, on their way to church, Daniels turned to his wife and made a request.

“I asked her to pray with me, because I was sure that God wouldn’t give me the passion to serve and not give me the ability to do it,” he says. “Then it hit us: What about military chaplaincy? I knew then what God was calling me to do.”

The only missing piece was the blessing of Daniels’ non-Adventist father who had twice talked him out of joining the military. So Daniels prayed for courage and called his dad.

“It was an easy conversation, actually,” Daniels says. “He said that if

I feel God is leading, I should do it.”

Daniels reports for Navy officer’s school at the end of this year, then he and his wife will spend two years in Huntsville, Ala., where Daniels intends to pastor for two years to meet the requirements to apply for active duty as a Navy chaplain.

“I’ve learned so much during my time at Andrews,” he says. “I know more of who God is, more of who I am, and how to hear his voice. With the support of both my earthly father and my Heavenly Father, I know I’m walking the path I’m meant to walk.”

To learn more about the Seminary, visit <http://andrews.edu/sem>, email seminary@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3537.

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Andrews University

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Capitol City Church held Anti-Violence Rally

Indiana—Members of the Capitol City Church rallied through Saturday’s 90-degree heat to advocate for a safer summer. Participants echoed Indiana Metropolitan Police Department’s call for increased community action against violence, particularly in the wake of Indianapolis’ deadliest year and as higher temperatures start to usher in higher crime rates.

“We wanted to let our community know that we don’t want violence this summer,” said William Lee, senior pastor for the church. “We want to see peace, not violence; love, not hate.”

The church is no stranger to violent crime, Lee said. One of its members, Clifford Brown, was shot and killed in March. The corner at 34th Street and Keystone Avenue where church members gathered Saturday saw a quadruple shooting just last month.

Lee said the church expected about 200 people to march the half-mile from the Joyce Kilmer School 69 to nearby Washington Park. Sharon Justice, a member of the church, said the sweat-drenched walk would be worth it if even one person driving by heard their message of peace.

Justice, 66, has lived in Indianapolis for more than 30 years and said its problems with violence, though not unique to the Circle City, demand attention from local communities.

“We have to work together as a team to conquer this evil that is besieging our community,” Justice said. “We can’t just sit back and let the police do it.”

IMPD has seen unusual progress in recent weeks toward resolving



Capitol City Church pastor William Lee told the crowd, “We want to see peace, not violence; love, not hate.”

unsolved cases of violence. One reason, the department said, is a shift away from a “no snitching” culture.

Lee said his church works to combat the culture of silence with its younger generations. He claimed there were witnesses to Brown’s death in March that refuse to come forward.

“I don’t know where that sort of culture came from, because it makes no sense,” said Joelle Burrell, a 39-year-old mother of four who marched Saturday.

Burrell has lived in Indianapolis for nine years and said three of her four children were born here.

“You don’t want your children to grow up scared of their hometown,” she said.

Jasmine Robinson has lived the entirety of her 19 years in Indianapolis and described the culture of violence as tragic.

“When you see people in your generation, it’s just really heartbreaking,” Robinson said. “You want everybody to be successful.”

But Robinson and her friend, Gian Gballou, 19, both said they’re hopeful for the type of culture shift IMPD described.

“If we come together, we’ll stop the violence on both ends,” Gballou said. “If we can look past police brutality and actually work with them, we can make better communities.”

Sara Salinas is a reporter for the *IndyStar*. Article is reprinted with permission.



Pat Milligan, pastor of the Cadillac church, along with his wife Tami shared about the humor, joy, and challenges of marriage.

Retreat challenges men to build stronger families

Michigan—Forty attendees from the Michigan and Illinois conferences participated in a men's retreat held April 29-May 1, which challenged them to seek depth, courage and discernment in their lives.

The event, held at Michigan's Center Lake Bible Camp and Retreat Center, was geared toward combating the forces of secularism that has brought an unrelenting press on the home, school and church.

"Superficiality, weakness of character and poor decision-making have left families fragile and churches vulnerable, but it doesn't have to be this way," said Jeremy Carlson, one of the event organizers from the ministry, Men and His Message. "Marriages can be strong, children healthy, and churches vital. But it takes a certain kind of manhood for this relation to be experienced."

The event's keynote speaker was Ron Kelly who presented "Walk Worthy: A Trilogy of Adventist Manhood." Breakout sessions, designed to prepare the men of God's remnant movement

to build transformational lives, included a two-part series from Joshua White highlighting Satan's plan to prevent the most important generation from seeking Christ. Immanuel Roth taught a class on witnessing in the workplace along with an evening devotional around the campfire. Ken Micheff encouraged listeners to serve the community; Pat Milligan and his wife Tami shared laughter and encouragement on marriage.

Brock Arms, one of the attendees from the Bristol church, was grateful for the opportunity to meet other men who were "seeking to better themselves. They all set aside time for this retreat, instead of hiding in front of a TV or whatever worldly distraction is out there," he stated.

Meanwhile, Lynn Sherwood, of the Traverse City church, said the weekend was "food that our souls desperately needed."

Men of His Message is seeking volunteers to help plan next year's retreat. If you missed it and would like to download some of the audio files or get more information, visit the website <http://www.menofhismessage.org>.

Jeremy Carlson, co-chair of Men and His Message retreat



top to bottom: Ken Micheff, Michigan conference youth director and Camp au Sable director presented on how to impact the community through serving others. Immanuel Roth, pastor of the Bristol, Big Rapids and Reed City church with attendees. Jeremy Carlson enjoyed a Sunday afternoon trail ride. Brock Arms, far left, joined men in listening to the message from Pastor Ron Kelly.

Strong Tower Radio purchases Grand Rapids station

Michigan—Strong Tower Radio began airing in Grand Rapids after completing the \$1.53 million purchase of WCXG 89.7FM in July.

“With so many signs pointing to the soon coming of Jesus, the timing of this purchase is strategic in reaching over one million people in the Greater Grand Rapids metro region with the Three Angels Messages found in Rev. 14:6–12,” said Robert Benson, pastor and Strong Tower board member. “God is so good!”

Strong Tower Radio, a 3ABN affiliate and supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, currently broadcasts to 2.5 million rural Michigan residents, but the urban residents’ gospel commission was unfulfilled until July 5th when Michigan’s second largest metropolitan area, Grand Rapids, went live.

The feedback was fast and positive. “The first broadcast Sabbath, a new non-Adventist listener left a grateful, long message saying how she appreciates the Christian programming she cannot get from the existing Christian radio stations,” said Strong Tower staff member Tom Mejeur.

According to Mejeur, the Grand Rapids station opportunity came while they were in the midst of trying to raise contributions for another station in Lansing. However, they did not want to miss the opportunity and decided to reach out to Grand Rapids Central pastor Bob Stewart who had been praying for a station in his area for two years.

Strong Tower Radio had never raised so much money but, when they calculated that the \$1.5 million purchase price would cost only \$1.50 to reach



At the thanksgiving vesper service on Aug. 6, Cory Herthel, pastor of the Midland and Bay City churches told of the 12 baptisms which came from Strong Tower Radio listeners, saying that many need little preparation because of the biblical teaching on the broadcasts.

each person in Grand Rapids, they concluded, “Heaven is cheap enough.”

“The seven-month deadline to have the money in hand seemed impossible,” said Mejeur, “but nothing is impossible with prayer and the Holy Spirit’s moving.”

Adventists in the area rallied in December 2015, pledging \$540,000. Across the whole Strong Tower Radio donor base, listeners gave sacrificially. At the Michigan Camp Meeting, with three weeks to go, \$370,000 was still needed. Eventually, a donor came forward with a challenge grant and the money was raised.

The Strong Tower Radio network now stands at eight radio and one TV stations. Three additional radio stations will be on the air shortly. “But the most important statistic is the people preparing for the Kingdom of God,” said Mejeur. It is a frequent occurrence to have listeners present themselves Sabbath mornings at broadcast area Seventh-day Adventist churches eager to worship and learn. Many baptisms have been traced to the seven-year history of Strong Tower Radio.

Pastors in the Strong Tower Radio broadcast areas receive visitors who

are searching for a church that keeps God’s seventh-day Sabbath and align with the Bible truths they have learned from Strong Tower. Cory Herthel said, “Strong Tower Radio is unarguably one of the richest assets God has blessed my ministry with. Having the gospel in the light of the Three Angels Messages, being broadcast over the radio airwaves in both of the communities 24/7 where I serve as pastor (Midland and Mt. Pleasant), offers me the opportunity to connect with folks that I would have likely never met had this not been their first introduction to such teachings.”

A listener shared, “I recently ran across your radio station WBHL 90.7 FM when I was going through what I thought would be a vain search for good Christian radio. Now you are literally the only radio station I ever listen to. Godly music that isn’t full of rock influence and awesome teaching and programs.”

For the most current radio and TV schedules and ways to contribute, visit: <http://www.StrongTowerRadio.org>.

Tom Mejeur is on the staff of Strong Tower Radio.



L-R: LRC executive secretary Timothy Nixon; Dallas City Temple pastor Jamie Kowlessar; LRC PARL director, Edward Woods III; LRC president R. Clifford Jones

PARL Conference tackles social justice and prophecy

On the heels of a nation in turmoil over the police shooting of two African-American men and the death of five police officers in Dallas and three in Baton Rouge, the Lake Region Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department held a social justice and prophecy conference on July 21–24 at the Detroit Metro Marriot Hotel.

The conference, organized by Lake Region PARL director Edward Woods III, witnessed PARL directors, pastors, conference and union administrators, lawyers and a *Detroit Free Press* columnist gathering to address social issues not usually discussed within the church, including LGBT, domestic violence, human trafficking, opioid epidemic.

Many traveled from across the country to share, pray and encourage each other. One area of focus during the general session was to educate local church leaders in how to get involved in civic engagement while maintaining impartiality towards political positions.

Jaime Kowlessar, pastor of the Dallas City Temple Church, was the keynote speaker for the Sabbath service. His message struck a chord among the attendees calling for an active participation within our communities whenever we see injustice. He exhorted the audience to show compassion to the poor, downtrodden and marginalized if they are to represent the gospel in its entirety. You can watch the sermon at <http://www.lrcsda.com/ministries/PARL>.

From a prophecy standpoint, Lake Union President Don Livesay stressed the opportunity in using PARL for

evangelism. Lake Union PARL director Nick Miller gave compelling evidence in how the Spirit of Prophecy supports the church's involvement in social justice issues. The PARL conference also covered the compassion of Christ, persecution in America and abroad, the State Religious Freedom Acts and the intersection of social justice, prophecy and the constitution.

Before departing, Woods encouraged the group to not get lost in the plethora of information presented that weekend but instead S.E.W., an acronym he coined to remind participants of the Spiritual, Evangelistic and Wellness components of all their church's departmental ministries, including PARL.

“The ultimate goal is to be identified as a church that mingles with its community, exhibits sympathy for their struggles and challenges and, by this, winning their confidence, then simply asking them to follow us as we follow Christ, as outlined in the Gospel of Matthew and the *Ministry of Healing*,” said Woods. “This tangible method of the gospel will always bring glory to God, followers to Christ and success to the mission of God's remnant church.”

In addition to Lake Region Conference, the PARL Social Justice and Prophecy Conference was sponsored by Breath of Life Television Ministries, Detroit Metro Airport Marriott, Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, i2Integration, Lake Union Conference, *Message Magazine*, North America Religious Liberty Association and Oakwood University.

Paul Young is communication director for the Lake Region Conference.

Church gives students a head start

Indiana—Various ministry departments of the Haughville Church fanned out across the church’s parking lot to host a successful back-to-school rally on Aug. 7.

Although school had opened the previous week, a steady flow of residents streamed through the gates from the moment the distribution center opened at 2:00 p.m. until they closed at 5:00 p.m. Students chose from a wide selection of backpacks which contained, depending on their grade, items such as a folder, composition notebook, pens, pencils, scissors, glue and a coupon for a McDonald’s meal.

The rally featured more than just a backpack give-a-way. There were stations for free haircuts, hair braiding, health screenings, prayer, water slides and food. The local fire and police department also set up booths and interacted with residents.

Amanda Spangler and Jason Kleinschmidt were out driving in the neighborhood that Sunday when they spotted an advertisement and went directly to the church. “This is pretty awesome! We need this,” she said as she tugged at one of their five children ages 12, 9, 8, 7 and 1. Jason said, “We’ve been behind on some bills so this is a big help for us.”

The Haughville neighborhood is an impoverished area west of downtown Indianapolis. Rijenna Murray is the youth ministry leader and has been involved with this event since its inception eight years ago. She said that although this is a huge undertaking, it’s important because it shows that the church is committed to their community’s youth. “This is not about



Haughville church elder Lauren Johnson encouraged students to start and finish the school year strong, and to come to the church for tutoring if they needed help.

attention for us,” she said. “We want the young people to have all they need to be successful. We want them to know we love them and, though it’s a high risk neighborhood, we are here to take care of them.”

Lauren Johnson, a Haughville church elder and principal at one of the local elementary schools, reaffirmed the church’s role. “We want to be more than a place where people see our cars or where we are just sitting in our seats [Sabbath mornings], receiving a good word,” she said. “Jesus mingled with the community and so are we. We are fulfilling our mission.” In between giving the children hugs and taking selfies with them, Johnson said, “We want it to be a place where our children get inspiration, where we are their biggest coaches now and through the school year.”

Murray says that an event of this magnitude takes a whole year of planning. Sponsors are asked to donate and church members are encouraged to contribute in various ways such as

doing their grocery shopping at a local supermarket since a percentage comes back to their church.

Local reporters from CBS, NBC, Fox news channels and the *Indianapolis Recorder* newspaper covered the event.

Debbie Michel is the associate communication director for the Lake Union Conference.



Students received more than a free back pack; they also got free haircuts and hair braiding.



A combined choir of the three area churches added a special dimension to the worship service presented by guest speaker, Stephen Bohr.

First Detroit Metro Area Revival

Detroit—On the weekend of July 22-24, the City Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church facilitated a cross-conference revival with the Michigan Conference area congregations of Troy and Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist churches.

“It really started when we were without a pastor [and] I had been trying to get some of the preachers from Michigan Conference to come over to our church,” said Hayward Penny, City Temple elder. Penny wondered why there were these differences between conferences and why the differences in the way in which people worshipped matter.

City Temple is the oldest congregation within the Motor City area churches of the Lake Region Conference. Throughout its history, Penny noted that a number of City Temple members attended some of the Michigan Conference churches, yet it was not customary for members of the Michigan Conference churches to attend City Temple.

When Samuel Thomas, Jr. arrived as the new pastor for City Temple, he and Penny decided to invite the area churches to participate in a revival weekend.

Establishing a shared vision meant the involvement of two conference leaderships. Thomas met with Jay

Gallimore, president of the Michigan Conference, and pitched the idea of a shared Detroit Metro Revival weekend.

“I thought it was just what was needed,” said Gallimore. “His sincerity and openness and the desire to work together was heartwarming. Surely I thought this is a heaven-born idea. While I know the Lord put it into his ear, I am very grateful to Pastor Thomas for taking the initiative to invite us to join in this wonderful idea.”

Establishing a shared vision also meant the involvement of local congregations, a mutually agreed upon presenter, and the selection of meeting times and venues. “All were achieved with a vote of confidence and anticipation,” stated Thomas. “A Revival was the appropriate context for developing our first event. It served as a basis for establishing a meaningful, ongoing relationship, spiritually-founded and mission-focused.”

“There is a heavenly force at work when we cooperate humbly and sweetly together in carrying out the Three Angels Messages of Revelation 14,” said Gallimore. “As the churches of Detroit work together as one in the Spirit, it will give birth to a powerful witness for the Savior in that great metropolis.”

“I thought it was an historic moment,” commented Michael Horton, Ministerial Director for the Lake

Region Conference. “It was very encouraging to see Michigan Conference pastors coming together with the City Temple pastor.”

Travis Smith, pastor of the Troy Seventh-day Adventist Church was greatly encouraged. “I walked away from this weekend thinking we need to do this again.”

Darryl Bently, pastor of Detroit Metro Church concurred. “I loved looking out over the congregation and seeing Adventist believers from across the Metro Detroit area sitting side-by-side and worshipping as one body. The members at Metro have already been asking, ‘When are we doing our next event together?’

Altogether eight pastors and members from 14 Michigan Conference churches participated in the weekend.

Thomas and Bentley are in the preliminary stages of planning another event in the first part of next year for the purpose of evangelism training.

“I’m encouraged to see this kind of collaboration, driven by our shared mission to reach all for Christ,” says Don Livesay, president of the Lake Union Conference. “While it is important to have proper leadership to reach specific cultures we must seek ways to work effectively to reach all cultures with our united voice of hope.”

Gary Burns is editor of the Lake Union Herald.



Leadership from the Lake Region and Michigan conferences participated in the weekend event.

Literature Evangelists at iShare tell of God's power

For three days, young people from around Michigan and Indiana gathered and shared powerful testimonies of divine encounters for iShare, an annual conference organized to bring together youth who dedicated their summer to evangelism.

The heart-stirring testimony by canvassing leader Nichole Dyjasek launched the worship on Friday evening. The account of how the Lord preserved her through the loss of one of her mentors in 2013 captivated the young people and set the tone for the night's main presenter Samuel Thomas Jr., pastor of Detroit City Temple Church, who challenged attendees to not be entangled by entertainment that promotes and uplifts sin.

On Sabbath morning, young and older members of the church went heart-to-heart on a panel discussion held during Sabbath school, which preceded an inspiring message from Elder Maurice Valentine, executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference. As a result of a special offering collected that Sabbath, more than 94,000 pieces of GLOW tracts will be distributed to those who need the hope of the gospel in Russia.

Breakout sessions on Sabbath afternoon featured presenters Steve Poenitz, David Paño, Terri Saelee, Israel Ramos and Jim Howard. Attendees were taught on subjects such as Personal Spirituality, Immigrant Ministries, Giving Bible Studies, and Energizing Your Church and School with GLOW Tracts.

One of the climaxing events of the weekend was the public confession of



Nichole Dyjasek, far left, leader for the Grand Rapids literature evangelists group, told a moving testimony on Friday evening. iShare stands for I Seek to Help Advance Revival & Evangelism.

faith through baptism. Xao Vang, a colporteur, took a stand and chose to fully surrender to Christ. As she rose from the water, fellow canvassers gave shouts of praise and joy. As Sabbath faded, president of the Michigan conference Jay Gallimore spoke fervently to the audience on the courage to stand and proclaim the message of Christ with holy boldness. Through his words, he reiterated to the canvassers Jesus' message to his servants, *Fear not*. As a result of the Spirit's leading, that evening three young people accepted the call for baptism.

The weekend event, held at Great Lakes Academy, came to an end with a message by Michael Tuazon, director of SOULS West, that reminded everyone of the immense and eternal value of literature work. As the canvassers and other attendees gathered for final prayers, it was clear that hearts had been transformed and the youth were empowered to serve the Lord on a deeper level.

Ronald Semil, Andrews University seminary student and canvasser with

the Grand Rapids team, recalls that one of the most stirring portions of the weekend was the sharing of testimonies. "I loved seeing how persons who bought books from canvassers were changed by the message and are now canvassing."

As for future iShare conferences, Joe Reeves, youth pastor of Village Church in Berrien Springs, Mich., says, "We hope that pastors, leaders, youth all across Lake Union will find iShare a place where every generation can unite on the mission that Christ has given us to the reach the world."

The next conference will be held in Cicero, Ind.

Felecia Datus is communication director for iShare.



After nine weeks of knocking on doors, literature evangelists enjoyed a weekend of fellowship.



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

Howard Performing Arts Center: To see a list of the upcoming events at HPAC, visit <https://howard.andrews.edu/events>. For more information, call the Box Office at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560.

Sept. 4, 6:00 p.m.: Howard Center Presents ... Kids' Time Live! If you enjoy Kids' Time on 3ABN, you're going to love KIDS' TIME LIVE! Join Miss Brenda for a special live presentation on the long running TV show, "Kids' Time." Joining Miss Brenda will be Rich Aguilera to do a special Nature Time presentation as well as Ben Roy for an exciting Learning Time presentation. There will be music and drama and more! Don't miss out! Come and join the fun as Miss Brenda and the gang discover how wonderful Jesus is through this unique live presentation for families and kids of all ages! (tickets required)

Sept. 11, 7:00 p.m.: Howard Presents: America Singing: Grit & Glory. Walt Whitman exclaimed, "I hear America singing..." On the 15th anniversary of 9/11/01, tenor Charles Reid and pianist Kenneth Logan recognize and celebrate American spirit and heritage. Charles sings with leading orchestras and opera houses around the world; Kenneth plays frequently in "New Perceptions" internationally and WHME TV 46. They will be joined by violist Rachel Goff of Chicago. (tickets required)

Andrews Academy invites you to the 52nd Alumni Weekend to be held **Oct. 14-15**. Come and reunite with your Andrews Academy family. Remember the defining moments of your past and reconnect with old friends. This year's honored classes: 1932, '37, '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92,

'97, 2002, '07, '12. The class of 1967 is celebrating their golden reunion! The class of 1992 is celebrating their silver reunion! We look forward to seeing all of you once again at our 51st Annual Alumni Reunion! For more information, email Eileen Dry ('77), alumni coordinator, at aaalumni@andrews.edu or academy@andrews.edu.

Indiana

CONFERENCE Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that a regular Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church at 24445 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana, on Sunday, **Oct. 2, 2016**, at 10:00 a.m. Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to: receive reports; elect a conference president, secretary-treasurer, departmental directors, a Conference Executive Committee, a Board of Education, a standing Nominating Committee, and a Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee; enact, amend or repeal Bylaws and vote recommended changes to the Constitution for the Indiana Conference and Indiana Academy; and issue credentials and licenses for the ensuing term. Delegates will transact such other business as may properly come before the delegation. Each church will be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. The organizing committee will meet the same day, Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. in the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church at 24445 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana.

Steven Poenitz, president
Mark Eaton, secretary-treasurer

ASSOCIATION Legal Notice: Notice is

hereby given that a regular Quadrennial Session of the members of the Indiana Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., a corporation, will be held in connection with the Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church at 24445 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana, on Sunday, **Oct. 2, 2016**. The first meeting of the Association will be called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to restate and amend the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of the Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are likewise delegates to the Association meeting.

Steven Poenitz, president
Vialo Weis, secretary

Lake Union

Offerings

- Sept. 3** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 10** Fall Mission Appeal
- Sept. 17** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 24** Local Conference Advance

Thirteenth Sabbath

- Sept. 24** East-Central African Division

Special Days

- Sept. 3** Men's Day of Prayer
- Sept. 11-17** Nurture Periodicals
(*Adventist Review, Insight, Guide, Primary Treasure, Little Friend*)
- Sept. 11-17** Family Togetherness Week
- Sept. 17** Family Togetherness Sabbath
- Sept. 18** Let's Move Day
- Sept. 18-24** Hispanic Heritage Week
- Sept. 18-24** Let's Move Week/
Health Education Week/
Vibrant Life

Michigan

"Family First" Family Retreat: This weekend, **Oct. 21-23**, is all about putting

our families first. Learn new ways to make the Sabbath more special, put fun into your family worships, improve communication skills, and build strong connections through family meals, fun nights and outreach. We will have multiple presenters this year sharing different ways to draw our families together and help us be ready for Christ's soon return. Open to families (single parents, grandparents, new members, etc.). Housing is based on family size, and guestrooms will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information or to register, call Alyce at 517-316-1543. To download an application, go to <http://www.misda.org> (Family Life).

Crystal Mountain Marriage Retreat will be held at Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, Mich., **Nov. 11-13**. Delicious vegetarian buffet style meals (vegan options). Starts Friday night with dinner followed by the first meeting. Sabbath has three meetings. These are designed to help encourage/strengthen your marriage. The afternoon is open to enjoy time alone together. Sabbath evening is Date Night. Sunday morning has one more session. Our presenters this year are Buddy and Carmen Griffith, Family Ministries leaders from Southwestern Union Conference. They have been working with family/marriage counseling and presenting seminars for over 30 years. To register or for more information, call Alyce at 517-316-1543. To download an application, go to <http://www.misda.org> (Family Life).

North American Division

Shyenne River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 7-8, at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Shyenne Circle, Bismarck, N.D. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: 1942, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '77, '87, '92, '97, 2002, '07, '12. For more information, contact 701-258-9000, ext. 236, or visit our website at <http://www.dakotaadventistacademy.org>.

MILEPOSTS

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

BERG, Hazel A. (Hibben), age 97; born Aug. 8, 1918, in Sheridan, Ill.; died June 16, 2016, in Richland Center, Wis. She was a member of the Richland Center Church.

Survivors include her son, Ray L.; daughter, Marcia Sigler; sister, Harriet McElmurry; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Eric Nelson, and inurnment was in Foothills Cemetery, Longmont, Colo.

BERGMANN, Edeltraud "Eydie" (Maier), age 74; born Feb. 11, 1942, in Kolbermoor, Germany; died May 1, 2016, in Weimar, Calif. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Paul; sons, Paul Jr., Jason and Glenn; and seven grandchildren.

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

BURNS, Russell M., age 91; born March 10, 1925, in Miami, Fla.; died March 25, 2016, in Michigan City, Ind. He was a member of the Michigan City Church.

Survivors include his daughters, Barbara E. Smith and Maureen J. Chism; half-brother, Dale Burns; sister, Helen G. (Burns) Bloomquist; half-sisters, Nancy (Burns) Niemeyer and Linda (Burns) Wood; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and one step-great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Leonardo Oliviera, with private inurnment, Michigan City.

GALBRAITH, James M., age 92; born Jan. 24, 1924, in Saginaw, Mich.; died June 13, 2016, in Wilson, Mich. He was a member of the Wilson Church.

Survivors include his sons, James and Dohn; daughters, Sue Pierce, Janet Rau, Judith Buhler, Sylvia Effner, Lauren Bauer

and Merry Ryan; brother, Tim; sisters, Margaret Kauffman and Agnes Klemens; many grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and many great-great-grandchildren.

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

GREEN, Sharon K., age 51; born April 23, 1964, in Port Huron, Mich.; died Dec. 12, 2015, in Midland, Mich. She was a member of the Edenville (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Jim Marsh; mother, Beatrice (VanWyk) Green; and brother, Richard Green.

Memorial services were conducted, with private inurnment, Edenville.

GROFF, Charlotte V., age 83; born Aug. 9, 1932, in Hinsdale, Ill.; died March 12, 2016, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her cousins, Mary Jane Kimmel Chavez and George T. Kimmel Jr.

Funeral services were conducted by Dwight K. Nelson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

GROSSE SR., Cyril S., age 90; born April 3, 1926, in Halifax Nova Scotia, Canada; died June 24, 2016, in Stevensville, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his daughter-in-law, Olive Grosse; sister-in-law, Ethel Springer; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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

LAWSON, Ruby (Hutchinson), age 92; born July 31, 1923, in Athol, Mass.; died May 29, 2016, in Hudson, Wis. She was a member of the Hudson Church.

Survivors include her sons, Jack, Ken, Bob, Rick, Dennis and Jim; daughter, Bette Nelson; 23 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Dan Herwick and Dan Anderson, with private inurnment.

LIPPERT, Retha M. (Litwiller), age 91; born Nov. 19, 1924, in Perrington, Mich.; died May 18, 2016, in Alma, Mich. She was a member of the Riverdale (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Ken; daughter, Diana James; sister, Delores Richard; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Alexander Rybackek, and interment was in Alma Cemetery.

PARKER SR., Randall E., age 80; born Dec. 10, 1935, in Portales, N. Mexico; died June 16, 2016, in Aurora, Ill. He was a member of the North Aurora Church.

Survivors include his son, Randall E. Jr.; daughters, Doris Nelsen, Connie Rizo and Jean Mullen; sister, Janette Olson; 18 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Dan Vis, with private inurnment.

POTTER, Mary L. (Chavannes), age 87; born Dec. 29, 1928, in New Orleans, La.; died June 26, 2016, in Benton Harbor,

Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her sons, Philip and Timothy; daughters, Laura Weidner and Alice Potter; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

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

SHORTT, Robert, age 83; born Jan. 16, 1933, in Detroit, Mich.; died June 26, 2016, in Midland, Mich. He was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include his son, Robert III; daughter, Susan L. Miller; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Cory Herthel, with private inurnment, Midland.

STAGG, Ruth E. (Anderson), age 94; born July 25, 1921, in Jacksonville, Fla.; died April 11, 2016, in Simi Valley, Calif. She was a member of the Hartford (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Del Jr., Bob, Andy and Kirk; daughter, Sally Stagg; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted, and interment was in Keene (Texas) Cemetery.

STRINGER, Robert E., age 91; born Feb. 17, 1925, in South Bend, Ind.; died April 27, 2016, in Stevensville, Mich. He was a member of the Michigan City (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys (Covert); sons, Robert B., Kurtis and Matthew; daughter, Linda Lockwitz; 10 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Don English, with private inurnment, Stevensville.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Sep 2	Sep 9	Sep 16	Sep 23	Sep 30	Oct 7
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:18	8:06	7:54	7:42	7:29	7:18
Chicago, Ill.	7:23	7:11	6:59	6:47	6:35	6:23
Detroit, Mich.	8:06	7:53	7:41	7:29	7:16	7:04
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:15	8:04	7:52	7:41	7:29	7:18
La Crosse, Wis.	7:40	7:27	7:14	7:01	6:48	6:36
Lansing, Mich.	8:12	8:00	7:47	7:35	7:22	7:10
Madison, Wis.	7:31	7:19	7:07	6:54	6:41	7:02
Springfield, Ill.	7:29	7:18	7:06	6:55	6:43	6:32

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

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RELOCATING FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER?

The move counselors at Stevens Van Lines Clergy Move Center can help! Through our national contract with the General Conference, we extend our moving services to all Adventist families. Quality is inherent. Call us direct for a no-cost/no-obligation estimate at 800-248-8313. Or learn more about us at <http://www.stevensworldwide.com/sda>.

Travel/Vacation

COLLEGEDALE, TENN., GUESTHOUSE:

Fully equipped condo with kitchen and laundry, 1-½ bedrooms, no steps, huge deck, secluded woodland setting. "What a find!" say guests, "Delightful!" \$70/night for two (two-night minimum). For information, call 423-236-4688 or 423-716-1298. See pictures at <http://www.rogerkingrentals.com>.

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Classifieds

ISRAEL TOUR WITH JIM GILLEY AND FRIENDS: Two trips this fall, Sept. 26-Oct. 4, \$3,099; Nov. 28-Dec. 6, \$2,499. Includes all tips, taxes, air, and breakfast and dinner buffets daily. From New York. Other departure cities available. For more information, call Jennifer at 602-788-8865 or Jim at 530-368-3301. Join us!

Miscellaneous

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit <https://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies>.

TESTIMONIES FROM FORMER EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRY: 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 Dec. 31.

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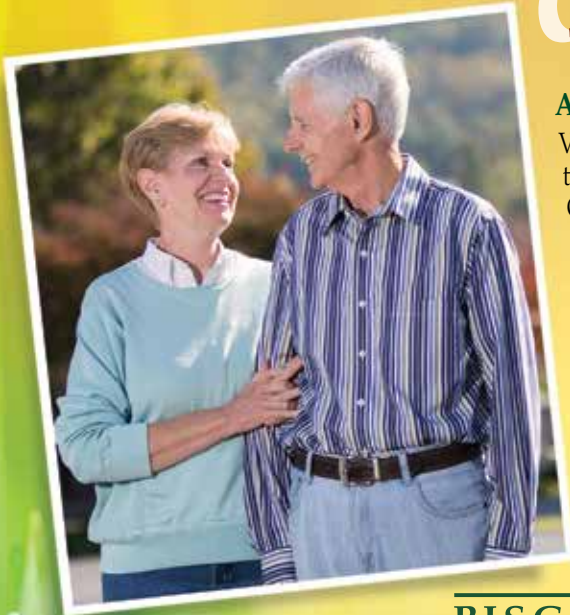
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COMMISSION
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BY GARY BURNS

A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

Jonathan and his two-year old son, Micah, headed out the front door for a walk. As always, they were equipped with some GLOW tracts. As they headed down the walk, Jonathon noticed a pickup and a work crew on the street. Rather than approaching with the GLOW tracts, Jonathan thought it best to let them do their work and share the GLOW tracts on their return. But Micah walked right up to the truck and started waving his hand to the man inside. So Jonathan followed his son's lead and started a conversation with the worker in the truck.

After a few moments, he pulled out a "Global Trial – You're Involved" GLOW tract. The worker took the GLOW tract; when he realized it was about the Bible, he stated that he had gone to church all his life,

but was now working a seven-days-a-week job and couldn't go to church. As the two conversed, Jonathan noticed that little Micah was wandering away from the truck which would give any parent concern. But when Micah got about 10 feet away, he knelt down, folded his hands and began to pray. Jonathan realized Micah was praying for him as he talked with the worker. After concluding the conversation, the father and son continued on their walk. When they returned 15 minutes later, the truck was gone. Jonathan realized that if he had stuck with his original plan, they would have missed that opportunity . . . and a little child shall lead them (Isaiah 11:6 KJV).

Season of Service

BY MAYREL NARVAEZ

Last year, I sat in a Conectate planning meeting, listening to a proposal. All I remember from it was the title: “Season of Service,” and I thought, I am not sure what this is about, but let’s do it. As the time approached for the first Season of Service community outreach, I was excited. It was in Wisconsin and I drove seven hours to get there. When I arrived, I walked into an auditorium full of lights, uncertain of what I was going to encounter. That weekend changed my life! The guest speaker was Roger Hernandez; he asked a question that plays in my head all of the time: “If your church disappeared, would your community notice?” Obviously, that is a very personal question, but I think about it all the time. I have realized that we focus so much more on being inside of a building instead of going out in the community and doing good. There are so many people in need around us and we don’t even notice. In reality, the work that we need to do is outside, not inside!

Since Wisconsin, we’ve been to Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Detroit, Michigan. Our purpose is just to impact the community by going out and giving a free hug and showing the young people to do so. My favorite outreach so far has been a-dollar-for-your-story. This entails just giving people a dollar for a story they want to tell. I met so many amazing people who just wanted to talk; they didn’t even take the dollar, yet they were so grateful someone listened to them.

Going out in the community is about creating relationships and filling their needs first, just like Jesus did every single day. After every outreach, I feel blessed because God is fulfilling his purpose in me. But I know there is so much more to do, so much more to say, and so many more people to reach. God is coming very soon and there are just so many people that do not know about him.



Mayrel Narvaez

Jean-Lisa Michal

So what can we do? When you hear God’s call, all you have to say is: “God, I am here to fulfill any calling. Use me!” God prepares us with whatever he needs us to do. Don’t doubt him because God created you. He doesn’t have a three-strike policy. The only thing we have to do is be willing to follow his call and he will take care of the rest. Paul tells us that even though we were dead, Jesus gave us life (see Ephesians 2:5).

So what should we do with the time we have left? If we don’t go into the community, we are missing the best thing of our lives. I know I was! The worst thing in life is not

losing money or people, but losing the time we have to do good!

Mayrel Narvaez is a first year student at Western Michigan University's Thomas M. Coley Law School and attends the Spanish Calvary Church, Detroit, Michigan.

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

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

Faith Under Fire

BY FELECIA DATUS

In 2007, Vania Aguirre's world turned upside down. After leaving a church gathering, her parents were killed in a car accident. She and her sisters were traveling in the car behind their parents and watched the horror unfold. At 23, she was left with the responsibility of looking after her three younger siblings while coping with the grief and anger she was feeling.



Vania Aguirre

Following the tragedy, Vania's church was there to help support the family. They immediately flew her brother into town and, by the morning after the accident, members had several options for funeral arrangements laid out. Vania remembers her church family helping her and siblings emotionally and financially.

At the time of the accident, Vania was the youth director at her church. Even though she was serving the Lord, she could not escape angry feelings after losing her parents. "I was mad at God," Vania says when recalling the tragedy. "I thought, *I serve and love you but you let this happen.*" Moments of ups and downs littered the months following the accident. Vania completed one phase of tertiary education but took two years off before finishing in an effort to help her younger siblings complete school.

During this time, she recalls feeling as though she had no faith, but the words of a friend gave her courage. "She said to me, 'It's like a puzzle; things will fall into place.'" Even though Vania experienced such grief and moments of doubt, she continued to serve at church.

Reflecting on what kept her going, she says, "I wanted to give back and I want to see my parents again. Everything they taught me prepared me for this. Their teachings helped me to stay." Vania also credits loving ministry as one of the factors that influenced her continued service to God. As a youth leader at EPIC church in Chicago, she wants to set an example for the young people that look up to her. She wishes for them to remember that tragedies should not be a determining factor when it comes to serving the Lord faithfully. Vania advises young people who are tempted to walk away from God or stop serving him because of struggles, to ask God to show them a glimpse of the bigger picture. It was that glimpse which has continued to sustain her faith.

Felecia Datus is a graduate student at Andrews University.

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