

Lake Union HERALD

JANUARY 2017



HAPPY NEW YEAR
from our family to yours



Cover by Lake Union Herald staff



In every issue...

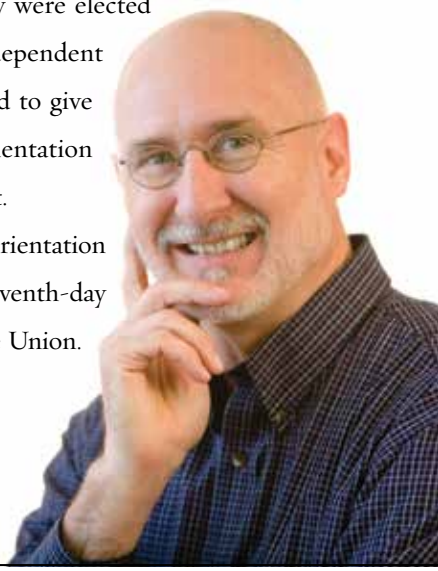
- 3** President's Perspective
- 4** From My Perspective
- 6** Family Focus
- 7** Alive & Well
- 8** Present Truth
- 9** Conversations with God
- 10** Sharing our Hope
- 11** Conexiones
- 12** Telling God's Stories
- 22** AHSNews
- 23** Andrews University News
- 24** News
- 32** Announcements
- 33** Mileposts
- 34** Classifieds
- 37** Commission Culture
- 38** One Voice
- 39** On the Edge

In this issue...

New members of the Lake Union Conference executive committee completed new member orientation prior to our November 16 meeting, the first since the May 15 Constituency Session in which they were elected to serve for a five-year term. The Union is dependent on representatives from every sector of our field to give guidance and direction to facilitate the implementation of mission initiatives that require Union support.

This issue of the *Herald* provides a member orientation of the organization and governance of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with special focus on the Lake Union. See where you fit into the picture.


Gary Burns, Editor



Features...

- 14** Rethinking Church Organization by *George R. Knight*
- 18** State of the Union — Organized for Mission

The *Lake Union Herald* (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly (except for June, July and November/December) by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, Mich., and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$12.50. Vol. 109, No. 1. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: *Lake Union Herald*, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY DON LIVESAY, LAKE UNION PRESIDENT



Terms

Barbara and I recently visited an 1800's settlement in the Smoky Mountains. One stop was an old still-operating, water-driven grist mill. Local farmers used to bring their harvest to be milled and visit with one another, "milling around" while they waited their "turn" on the stone wheel. The miller would often "put his nose to the grindstone" to detect if the grain was burning, and if so, bring it to a "grinding halt." We use lots of terms of unknown origin.

There were many dividing terms launched during our nation's recent elections revealing our divided culture. At the risk of being misunderstood, I'll share some observations of segments within our church.

I've observed five general faces of Adventism. Each is not distinct as there is often bleed-over (a printing term) and have some similarities within our society. See if my observations are close to yours.

- 1. Radical conservatives** — These are fundamentalists who tend to interpret Scripture more by words than by the core principle or the intended meaning of the author, and are often quite strident with their interpretations. An open criticism is common and some tend toward conspiracy thinking. Often whole groups, institutions or parts of the country are labeled as bad because of real or perceived problems within parts of those segments. Some of this group think remnant is more about separating than call to mission and often see themselves as the only ones who live correctly while being known for their dissident words, actions and attitudes.
- 2. Faithful and traditional** — They deeply love the church, and its message and the mission. While not oblivious to concerning trends, the main focus is to be true to the word and the principles of scripture. Most focus on truth more than error. A loving attitude leads them to talk to/with people rather than about people, are some of the most active in outreach and soul-winning, and tend to be a part of the backbone of the church. They are careful about honoring truth, such as Sabbath observance.
- 3. Loyal, active, gracious** — Also an important backbone of the church and tend to be a bit less traditional in styles of worship while still wanting all that happens to be Christ-centered and track with both the beliefs and mission of the church. They have something good to share and are often able to reach varied segments of society.
- 4. Relaxed Adventists** — These folks tend to love the church, see themselves as progressive and are often less concerned with how carefully standards and practices are followed. Some may seem a bit soft on some church doctrine and open to debate and challenging. Principles may become so open that Biblical imperatives are pushed aside. Life choices are easily influenced by secular culture while they still like their church and haystacks.
- 5. Radical liberals** — Often seem to want to move the needle of core Adventist beliefs by openly promoting non-biblical variations of creation and denying several core doctrines. I've noticed some are, in an opposite way, also very legalistic. Personal journey of discovery supersedes the authority of Scripture. I never see these folks engaged in evangelism. One has to ask, "Why are they still here?"

So, in these very incomplete descriptions, where do you fit? Mostly in one, or in multiple categories? The message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is what holds us together. We hold our biblical understanding of God's character and will for us to be precious. This is what and why we reach out with our message. With a wonderful list of 28 doctrines on which we can agree, let's make that agreement our main focus and invite the Holy Spirit to continue to lead us into more truth. As Jesus prayed, *Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name . . . that they may be one as we are one (John 17:11 NIV).*



Race and Grace

BY RICHARD MOORE

While I was walking in the science complex at Oakwood University, a student who had known me for a couple of years stopped me. She must have been talking with someone else regarding me because, with wide-eyed astonishment, she said, “Richy, you’re white!” I smiled and responded, “Yes, I’ve been white all along.” How could anyone not know? I am a fair-skinned, red-head, blue-eyed individual.

This was one of the few times the question of my race burst to the forefront during my time at Oakwood. The first instance was when I showed up to enroll. The dean looked at me and asked, “Are you sure you’re at the right school?” Referring to Southern Adventist University, he continued, “Shouldn’t you be 100 miles down the road?”

Without flinching, I asked him, “Is this Oakwood?”

He replied, “Yes.”

“Then, I’m at the right school,” I said.

We are a nation divided along racial lines, and it’s hard to ignore the problem, pretending that, as Christians, we don’t have an obligation to do something. As a Caucasian, whose world was shaped by the African-American experience, I believe it’s important to understand the situations of those who don’t look like us and show compassion to everyone because we are all God’s children.

My immersion into multi-ethnic cultures began at an early age. I was born and raised by a white, single mother in a predominantly African-American and Hispanic community in San Diego, California. My mother met an African-American man at a bar, who eventually became my stepfather. He was a drunk and when he had too much to drink he was not a pleasant person to be around.



Richard and Betty Moore

During this time, I began to pray to God, a God I did not yet know, *Get this man out of my life*. I remember praying this prayer for over three years. But I came to realize that God’s plan was not to remove him, but to recreate him.

One day, my stepdad shared with us that an angel had visited with him, a visit I’d like to think was as a result of my prayers. He said the angel told

him to get his life together and go back to church. So, one Saturday morning, my stepdad got dressed and told us we were going with him to church. We ended up worshipping with the African-American congregation at the San Diego 31st Street Church.

When church members saw him walk in, with his white family in tow, they embraced him as the long-lost prodigal son. The young people in the church shook our hands and the old ladies gave us kisses. I immediately warmed to the people there.

My love for my church family soon became matched with my love for the Bible. As I read the Bible stories, I became fascinated, learning about this God that I didn’t know. It opened up my heart to understanding that there is a God that’s caring and loving, especially since I felt he answered my prayer regarding my stepfather. I could see

IT IS MY PRAYER THAT WE LEARN TO SEE ALL PEOPLE AS CHILDREN OF GOD.

that my stepfather was a new person, kind and loving; he no longer drank or smoked. Thank you, God!

When it came time for me to attend college, Oakwood was the only school that came recruiting at my church. The church members encouraged me to go there and study theology to become a pastor. I was more interested in business and computers, but appreciated the members' willingness to provide funding for me to study there. They even connected me with the NAACP which gave me a scholarship. As I look back, I'm amazed at the irony of a black organization sponsoring a white person like me to go to college. God was on the move!

After I earned business and theology degrees at Oakwood, I later ended up at the Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan. It was there I met a beautiful African-American woman, Betty, who became my wife.

My wife dealt with backlash from some of her friends who criticized her choice in dating a white man. They told her she had lost her identity. If only she had gone to Oakwood she would have known better, they admonished. Prejudice is not just a one-way street.

Even though my wife grew up in a predominately African-American community in Chicago, her mother always taught her to be accepting of all people, regardless of race or even disability. She attended Broadview Academy which, at the time she attended, was predominately white but included other ethnicities, as well. It was there that she developed friendships with people from varied backgrounds and really didn't see the person's color — she saw the actual person.

If we are to make any headway with this racial divide in which we are currently mired, it is important for us to spend time with people who are different from us. We can't do it from a distance. We simply have to rub shoulders with others who don't look like us, otherwise we are not going to learn.

I'm reminded of a time when I was serving as a pastor in Wisconsin. I was visiting a family, and brought my stepfather along. During the Sabbath meal, one of the children, a pretty, blond girl, came and sat on my dad's lap. She looked at his hands and asked him, "Why are your hands so dirty?" He gently told her that they're not dirty; this is simply how God colored him. The little girl had never seen a person of

color before. Education and, in turn, compassion starts by mingling with those who are different from us.

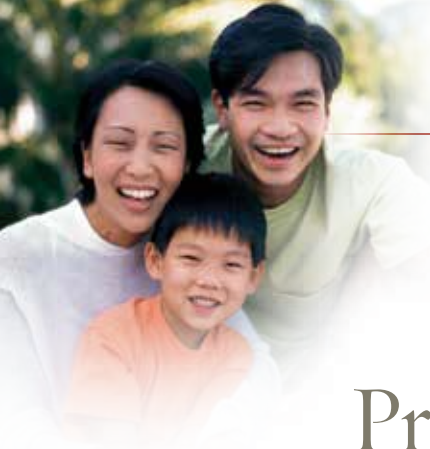
Current events have shown us that we clearly live in a country that still has a long way to go when it comes to racial acceptance. People are truly scared about the future with this recent election. Unfortunately, our church has struggled, and still struggles, with race issues. Some want to face the issues and discuss them to find solutions while others stick their heads in the sand and say there is no problem. We, as a church, need to learn to be more accepting of our fellow brothers and sisters of different races. We love to talk about missions and think it's great to help the needy of other countries. We take pictures with them to show how we have made a difference, but when we get home, we can't even worship in the same building with our brothers and sisters of a different race because we can't get along. We don't understand each other. But, is the real truth that we haven't really tried?

If we plan to live in Heaven, we have to learn to get along with each other here. Peter was a bigot, but God gave him the vision of a sheet coming down with wild creatures. It was symbolic for saying that all people are welcome in God's sight. Peter did not like Gentiles and had to overcome that prejudice. God had to tell him, go and spend time with a Gentile family and learn that they can be God-fearing people, too.

It is my prayer that we learn to see all people as children of God. If you are having some struggles identifying with certain people groups, then I encourage you to go and do as Peter did — spend time with them, get to know them, eat with them, play games with them and, most importantly, respect them as children of God. The Psalmist declares, *Behold how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity* (Psalms 133:1 NIV). God's children should be prime examples of this good and pleasant experience.

Richard Moore is associate treasurer of the Lake Union Conference.

This article is part of our series on race, as our Lake Union Conference continues its dialogue toward understanding race relations within our church and community. If you have an idea or story suggestion, please contact: herald@lakeunion.org.



Protecting Our Children

BY MELISSA PONCE-RODAS

We are in a battle for the safety and security of our children and families. Recent studies report that one in five girls and one in 20 boys are victims of sexual abuse. God is calling us to action. I recently received this message from an old friend: “I’ve been battling depression and PTSD for over six years. I am constantly struggling. My brother sexually abused me when I was 10 years old.” I cried; I could not think.

He had made himself vulnerable, and needed me to respond, so I thanked him for trusting me enough to share, said I was so sorry this had happened to him, and asked if he was getting professional help. When he replied, he sent 38 short messages. He was in therapy, he was on medication, but he was still struggling. It had “hit him” when he was 30 and helping a little girl who confessed her own abuse to him, telling him he was the only one she had told. Why did he share? I had believed him and created a safe space, so now he was telling me everything. He quit his job shortly after this experience, and then explained why to his mother. “She only half believed me, so I’ve never mentioned it to her again.” His own mother re-victimized him; he was alone. Again, I cried.



Sexual abuse is an underreported, taboo subject that is often ignored, which contributes to its continued occurrence in our homes, schools, churches and communities. Parents need to talk to kids, teaching them about their bodies, privacy and security. Assure them that, if anything happens, we will listen to them, believe them, protect them and defend them. Abusers often tell victims that the abuse is a secret, and that bad things will happen if they tell anyone. Encourage children not to keep secrets, and remind them you will help them if they are threatened.

The Seventh-day Adventist church in North America has acknowledged this risk and taken a great first step towards prevention. We now screen and train everyone who works with our children. Unfortunately, prevention cannot stop abuse from ever occurring, so we need to know how to intervene. If

a child or adult tells us they’ve been abused, we need to assume they are telling the truth. Abuse is rarely fabricated. It takes much courage and strength to share and deal with the shame and stigma abuse creates. Then, we need to act. Only trained professionals should intervene, so we must contact the police, a doctor, a therapist, a social worker or another specialist who is trained to talk to kids or adults about what has happened.

Our God never sanctions abuse, but rather seeks healing for the afflicted and desires all of us to help. *The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”* (Matthew 25:40). Survivors can overcome and heal, but the road to recovery is a long one and better traversed with a friend. Resources can be found at the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, <http://www.nsvrc.org/>, which can link you to local resources.

Melissa Ponce-Rodas is an assistant professor of Psychology at Andrews University. She and her husband, Segundo, have twin boys, Samuel and Jonathan. Her research and advocacy revolves around the intersections of religion and domestic violence.



Creating an Effective Fitness Plan

BY DOMINIQUE WAKEFIELD

Physical fitness is one of the most popular New Year's resolutions, inspiring many people to enthusiastically join a gym. But simply saying you're going to start exercising, however, will not do the trick, as evidenced by the fact that so many abandon their efforts before January is even over. Fortunately, there are some specific strategies you can follow for creating an effective fitness plan that you can stick with over the long haul.

1. ENJOYMENT

Write down five physical activities that you enjoy or could maybe envision enjoying, starting with the one you like the most.

2. PRACTICALITY

Make a short list of the fitness- or sports-related equipment available to you at home, work, gym or health club (if you belong to one) or in your neighborhood. Compare your list of resources with your list of enjoyable activities and connect potential matches. For example, if you own a bike, you enjoy biking and there is a biking trail in your neighborhood, that's a great match.

3. VISION

Identify three things that you would like to accomplish in terms of your physical fitness and write them down. This could include establishing a regular fitness routine, finishing a one-mile walk or doing five push-ups. Perhaps you have health-related goals, such as lowering your blood pressure, cholesterol or blood sugar levels. Either way, be very specific as to the details of your goals, such as how much and by when you want to accomplish these things.

4. PLAN

All effective fitness plans must include activities to address the complete picture of physical fitness: cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength/endurance, and flexibility. To achieve the greatest health benefits, you have to address all three aspects of fitness.



5. SCHEDULE

To adopt a long-term effective fitness plan, it is vital to make physical fitness a priority in your daily scheduling. If you leave it up to chance, it won't happen. Be realistic; for example, don't schedule a workout at 11 p.m. at night, when you

know you will be tired. If you are currently not active at all, start with fewer days and shorter times, such as three days a week of 30 minutes of cardiorespiratory fitness and slowly build up your plan from there.

6. TOOLS

Research confirms that people are more successful with their personal fitness plans if they enlist the support of a workout partner or group, have access to music and record what they do (such as a free app or a traditional journal).

7. PREPARATION

An important tip to remember: Setbacks are part of the process, but an effective fitness plan can help avoid many of them.

Every successful exerciser has to plan, prioritize and take action each and every day. It is a fluid process that is extremely empowering, inspiring and enjoyable. Remember, start slowly and don't get discouraged when you fail — simply move on and re-focus on your detailed plan. And always keep in mind the many positive benefits of physical fitness, because it can truly change and save your life.

Dominique Wakefield, director for University Health and Wellness at Andrews University, is a certified personal trainer and certified wellness practitioner.



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

Principles of Justice and Righteousness

BY ELLEN WHITE

It is easy for us to be drawn into the fray surrounding current events and lose our focus and our mission. We encourage all to take a personal assessment of our individual focus and mission. Let's make the main thing our main thing. —The Editors

Remember that in preparing yourselves for the heavenly kingdom, you are preparing others. The Scriptures say, *Make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way.* Many are weak in moral power; many have not had the privileges and the training that we have had; many have never had opportunity to receive instruction, *precept upon precept; line upon line; . . . here a little, and there a little.* God lays heavy responsibilities upon those who have had such instruction. They ought to spend much time in prayer . . . Instead of gathering to themselves all the burdens that they can possibly grasp, which give them no time to pray, no time to meditate on their spiritual condition, they should spend much time in communion with their Maker.

God's cause is of so much consequence to Him, that of every one who claims to be His steward He requires a correct representation of His character. None but those who walk circumspectly before Him are qualified for stewardship. He works with those who properly represent His character. Through them His will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

Let us offer daily the prayer that Christ taught His disciples to pray and then live our prayer during the day. To practice this prayer is the whole duty of man. Its principles lie at the foundation of the spring of all right action. Those who carry out every phase of these principles will become sensible [people] — [people] whose minds God Himself can control and guide.

When [we come] into right relation with God, the principles of justice and righteousness will permeate the whole being. My brother, my sister, have you received the Holy Ghost? Well might this question be asked of those who have in their

hands the lines that guide the movements of God's workers.

Every one of God's professed followers needs a humble and contrite spirit; and those who are in high positions of responsibility need a double portion of the spirit of humility. Instead of being careless and indifferent, instead of thinking that they are the ones who receive the most wisdom from God and know best how to direct others, those to whom much responsibility has been entrusted should humble themselves in the dust, pleading with God as they have never pleaded before. God desires to see every [person] of influence in our ranks cherishing the principles of justice and equity.

We cannot afford to be careless and indifferent in regard to our spiritual welfare. It has been presented to me that the work of grace first begins in the home, in individual hearts. (*Manuscript 96-1902*).

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

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

- *What responsibilities has God placed on you personally?*
- *What circumstances make it possible for God to control and guide your mind?*
- *How familiar are you with Christ's character?*
- *What specific counsel is given to those of us in positions of responsibility?*
- *What does leadership in justice and equity look like?*

—The Editors

Abraham: A Mighty Prevailing Prayer

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

The Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me.”

Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing — to kill the righteous with the wicked. . . . Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

The Lord said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city because of five people? . . . What if only forty are found there? . . . What if only thirty? . . . What if only twenty? . . . What if only ten can be found there?”

He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.” (Genesis 18:20–32)

There are some important principles to be learned from Abraham’s prevailing prayer. First, though he was bold in prayer, he also humbly acknowledged, *I am nothing but dust and ashes*. When we stand in God’s presence and are conscious of him, we are emptied of any sense of self-importance. That’s a good place to begin in prayer.

Second, Abraham’s appeal was based on the character of God: *Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?* He wanted God’s justice and honor to triumph. God is never put off when we ask for a course of action that we believe to be consistent with his nature.

Third, Abraham prayed the heart of God. He was not praying simply for Lot and his family. He was asking God to spare the whole city for the sake of the righteous. God’s readiness to agree to Abraham’s appeal tells us that God himself desired to show mercy to the people of Sodom. Abraham’s prayer reflects the very heart of God. And God no doubt was pleased with Abraham’s pleadings.

Fourth, Abraham prayed with persistence. Six times he appealed to God, talking him down from 50 to 10 righteous persons, as the number needed to spare the city. In each instance, God agreed and led him on. God was pleased, not bothered, by his persistence in prayer.

Though Sodom was not spared, Abraham’s prayer was actually answered. God did not sweep away the righteous with the wicked. He brought Lot and his family out to a place of safety. At the same time, God’s judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah had an upside — it warned the world of the terrible price of sin. That, too, reflects God’s loving concern for his world.

Alvin J. VanderGriend is co-founder of the Denominational Prayer Leader’s 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.

Service Wins Hearts

BY LAURA MCKINLEY

“M’am, is it time to come in yet?” “Will you be opening the doors soon?” The questions were eagerly repeated. It was early Sunday morning, and over 40 people were waiting for our free dental clinic and health expo to open.

John was one of those people invited by his mom who saw one of our flyers. He came curious and searching. He needed some dental care, but there was something more he was searching for and our event drew him in. While waiting on the dentist, John went through the rest of the expo. He got a chair massage, had his blood drawn, enjoyed a great meal and received some nutritional advice. When he left later that day, he expressed how grateful he was

for all we had offered him and signed up for an upcoming cooking class and Bible studies.

The next day, as our event was wrapping up, John walked in the door with a radiant smile on his face and asked, “How did it go today? I was so blessed yesterday that I had to come by and see how it went today!”

I excitedly shared with him how we served over 160 people and his smile brightened. Then he asked me: “Do you go to the church up there on the hill?”

“Yes, I do” I happily replied.

“Do you like it?” He inquired.

“Yes!” I exclaimed and shared with him how we started attending, how much we loved it and how lovely our pastor and his wife are.

“Well, after hearing that and what I experienced, I think I’m going to give it a try,” he responded, and he has!



Mobile dental health clinics, initiated by the Lake Union Conference, have provided opportunities for churches to provide free dental and other health services throughout the Union. Pictured here is an expo organized by the Cadillac Church, held Nov. 6 at the Northview Adventist School, which allowed dental hygienists to see up to 15 patients at a time.

For the past few weeks he has attended church every Sabbath, prayer meeting, a cooking class and a presentation on lowering your cholesterol naturally. He has signed up for personal health coaching and Bible studies.

The other day, he shared how he feels led to our church and is so grateful for all the help he is receiving. He feels such a part of our family that, when we were signing thank you cards at church for the

expo volunteers, he wanted to sign them all to express his personal gratitude to each one. We rejoice and look forward to how the Lord will continue working in John’s life and with the many others that we have been in touch with since our health expo.

The Lord fulfilled His promise and blessed more abundantly than we could ask or think with our free dental clinic and health expo. It’s the talk of our community. Now we have medical professionals calling and asking how they can get involved in our free clinic next September. It’s been a light to our community and, even more, it has lit a fire in our church members. Young and old are seeing the power of practical godliness expressed through loving service.

Laura McKinley is a health and temperance leader at Cadillac Church in Michigan.



El poder de la unidad

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Escuchen los creyentes la voz del ángel que ha dicho a la iglesia: 'Avanzad juntos'. En la unidad está nuestra fortaleza (Review and Herald, 19 de septiembre de 1893).

Joel Cervantes Macías pasaba por un vecindario de Chicago cuando vio a un hombre de edad avanzada que empujaba un carrito vendiendo paletas. Se detuvo para hablar con él. Su nombre es Fidencio Sánchez quien le explicó que recientemente había perdido, por enfermedad, a su hija quien los apoyaba financieramente. Al escuchar su historia Joel le compró veinte paletas, le dio \$50.00 y se fue de allí pensando acerca de qué más podría hacer para ayudarlo. Un amigo le recomendó que se hiciera una recaudación de fondos por medio de <http://www.gofundme.com>, una compañía que trabaja a través de los medios sociales. Así que abrió una cuenta en *Gofundme* y puso como blanco \$3.000. En menos de una hora se había alcanzado el blanco. Pero el dinero siguió llegando, y en menos de veinticuatro horas había llegado a \$100,000. Al final de una semana se había reunido un total de \$384,000. Esta recaudación llegó a ser tan histórica que varios medios de comunicación como Univisión, Telemundo y CNN entrevistaron a Fidencio Sánchez.

Dos hechos de esta historia me impactaron. En primer lugar, saber que los esposos Sánchez son fieles miembros de la Iglesia Adventista y que a pesar de la tragedia que sufrieron no dejaron de confiar en Dios. Y en segundo lugar, el hecho de que *Gofundme* haya informado que esta recaudación está entre las veinticinco más altas que se han hecho hasta el momento.

Esta experiencia nos demuestra el poder de la unidad. Cuando un pueblo se une para trabajar a favor de una causa, no hay duda alguna que puede vencer los desafíos que se presenten. Por ejemplo, cuando nosotros nos unimos como hispanos tenemos el potencial de establecer y fortalecer escuelas adventistas. Cuando nos comprometemos a predicar el evangelio tenemos el potencial no solamente de plantar nuevas iglesias hispanas sino también de apoyar los esfuerzos para levantar otras iglesias en las que se hablen



Fidencio Sánchez empujando su carrito de paletas.

Joel Cervantes Macías

otros idiomas. He comprendido que cuando necesitamos recaudar fondos para proyectos de evangelismo un pueblo unido puede responder de manera sorprendente.

En estos últimos días Satanás está trabajando con más urgencia para causar división en la iglesia. Dios nos

promete la victoria contra esta estrategia. Es ahora que necesitamos prestar atención a las palabras de la sierva del Señor: “Los miembros de la iglesia deben llegar a la unidad y para poder hacer esto, deben tener menos del yo y más de Jesús... Entonces sus montañas de dificultades serán reducidas a un grano de arena” (*Ministerio pastoral*, p. 305).

Mi oración es que así como el mundo secular se unió para ayudar a esta familia adventista, que también nosotros nos unamos como pueblo hispano adventista para cumplir la misión del Señor y así apresurar su venida.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



Pushing Forward

BY DEBBIE MICHEL

When the Sanchez family lost their daughter last July, the Chicago Little Village Hispanic Church members prayed for a miracle. The elderly couple, Fidencio, 90, and Eladia, 77, would need their help, but many of the members were struggling to make ends meet. “There are no professionals in our church,” explained the pastor, Gilberto Bahena, who has known the family for four years. “Many of our members are in great financial need.”

Six weeks later, their prayers would be answered in a way no one could’ve dreamed possible. The incredible results of a random act of kindness would reverberate around the world via social media and reinforce not just the faith of the couple, but of the church and community, giving new meaning to God’s promise, *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

Journey Through Darkness

Fidencio was just 6 months old when his mother died, and he was raised by various relatives in the Mexican village of Morelos. The households were not particularly religious and it wasn’t until he was 20 that he came in contact with the gospel.

Fidencio happened to overhear a couple giving Bible studies to the neighbors. The Adventist evangelists noticed him standing outside the house and invited him in. What the young man heard intrigued him and he told them he wanted to know more. They offered him a Bible, but there was one problem. “I never went to school so I didn’t know how to read,” he shared.

But that didn’t stop him from learning to read the Bible. Each day he tried to read and learned little by little.

By the time he was 30, he had drifted from the church but, after he met and married Eladia, that all changed. She was sickly and her parents wanted him to pray for her healing. Before he knew it, he was giving Bible studies to her family and



Fidencio Sanchez, with his wife, Eladia, and granddaughter, Dulce.

everyone — Eladia and her parents, as well as Fidencio — was baptized.

Joy and Sorrow

Fidencio and Eladia eventually emigrated to the United States in 1990 and settled in Chicago. One day, Fidencio noticed a street vendor outside his home and asked the vendor how he could get such a job. The man referred him to the owner and he soon found himself selling icy treats in the warmer months, and Mexican sweets during cooler months, earning about \$50 a day.

Then, their only child, Catalina, who joined her parents in Chicago 15 years ago, became sick with an autoimmune disease and succumbed to her illness last July. She was the main breadwinner, supporting the

family on a teacher’s assistant salary, including helping to pay for her children’s college tuition. Her untimely death created an enormous strain on the family, leaving Fidencio with no choice but to work even harder.

A Community Rallies

Right after Labor Day, as Fidencio struggled to push his cart through Little Village, he had a chance encounter with a stranger. Joel Cervantes Macia says, “It broke my heart seeing this man that should be enjoying retirement still working at his age.”

Joel pulled over his car and took the now-famous photo of Fidencio, hunched over the cart, his head bowed low, as if

in perpetual prayer. He bought 20 of the popsicles for \$1.50 each, overpaying Fidencio with a \$50 bill. He told him, “God bless you,” and drove away.

Joel would later post the photo to his Facebook page. Joe Loera noticed it and suggested starting an online fundraising campaign through the site, GoFundMe.com.

The page went up on Friday, September 9, with the plea from Joel that both Fidencio and his ailing wife were in need of help. “Let’s all pitch in and help make life a little easier and brighten both of their day,” he wrote.

The goal was to raise \$3,000 but donations began pouring in from around the world — 67 countries, and 17,000 individuals — and quickly surpassed that mark.

During this time, Fidencio’s granddaughter, Dulce, unaware of the GoFundMe page, began getting “strange” calls. “I received phone calls asking, ‘How’s your grandparents?’” It wasn’t so much the question that was weird, but the fact that the calls were coming from several people, almost at once. One of the callers revealed that there were people trying to raise money online for her grandparents and they wanted to make sure it was a legitimate campaign. In the hopes of surprising her grandparents, Dulce didn’t mention anything to them, but that didn’t last long.

At church the next day, as the sermon was about to start, a policeman entered the church and asked to see the pushcart vendor. “What did he do wrong?” Fidencio asked the officer.

They told the couple that there were reporters searching for them because of the fundraising campaign, which in just one day had raised \$65,000. As Fidencio listened in disbelief, the strong patriarch who had held it together during his daughter’s funeral just six weeks earlier began to weep.

He was thrust into the media spotlight, facing the glare of cameras from local, national and international media, and graciously thanked the community for their generous support. “I really appreciate that they gave with all their heart and desire to help me and for that I am very grateful,” he told the group of reporters. “I wish to send a cordial greeting to everyone in Chicago.”

When the page closed a week-and-a-half later, the campaign made history, becoming the largest GoFundMe fundraiser in Illinois and one of the top 25 campaigns in the United States.

On September 21, surrounded by their supporters, officials from GoFundMe presented the Sanchez family with a giant mock check in the amount of \$384,290. “It’s a blessing from God,” Fidencio said in his soft-spoken voice. “Nobody did this but God!”

A New Beginning

Fidencio says that while the money will never ease the pain of losing his daughter, he can now rest a little easier, knowing that their bills will be paid.

Everyone keeps asking: What are you going to do with the money? Two months after they received the check, not much has been spent as they pray for God to reveal his purpose for the funds.

One setback is sorting through healthcare options. With this windfall, it means they may no longer qualify for low-income insurance. But despite the new challenges, they’re grateful for a new lease on life.

After 77 years of work, 23 of them pushing a cart through the streets of Chicago, Fidencio can finally retire. Already he feels better physically. His legs and arms no longer hurt, and his feet don’t swell after each grueling 12-hour workday. He attributes his relatively good health to his years of eating simple vegetarian foods.

He still wakes up early for his daily devotions, grateful for more time to spend with God. “I’ve learned that if you honor God,” the former church elder said, “he will bless you.”

This blessing has impacted the church, according to the pastor. “The church members see things differently,” said Bahena. “Even more so, they believe in the promises of God.”

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

If you have a story that gives evidence of God working in your or someone else’s life, we’d like to hear from you. Please email: herald@lakeunion.org



Joel Cervantes Maciel and Joe Loera launched an online fundraising campaign for the 90-year-old pushcart vendor, raising \$384,290.



RETHINKING CHURCH ORGANIZATION

BY GEORGE R. KNIGHT

Growth is generally a good thing. But in churches it has traditionally called for rethinking the structures that allow a religious body to perform its function. So it was in Acts 6, when change led to the appointment of deacons.

Seventh-day Adventism has experienced dynamic growth ever since its inception. The period from 1863 up through 1900 saw unprecedented expansion of the denomination, partly because of its organization. Adventism entered that time period with six conferences and 30 evangelistic staff, all located in the northeastern quarter of the United States. The denomination exited that time span with 45 local conferences and 42 missions with 1,500 evangelistic staff spread around the world.

Beyond growth in the conference area, the denomination's institutional sector also rapidly developed. Between 1888 and 1901 alone, the number of major medical institutions jumped from two to 24, ending with some 2,000 employees. By 1903 the denomination could report 464 Adventist schools from elementary to collegiate, employing 687 teachers and having an enrollment of 11,145. In addition to health and educational institutions, an ever-increasing number of publishing houses had begun operating around the world.

That unprecedented expansion in all sectors of the church brought about an administrative situation that the 1863 organizational format was ill-prepared to handle. Most people seemed to be pleased with the two levels above the local congregation structure. But they soon discovered certain inherent problems.

One was the centralization of decision-making in the few individuals that formed the small executive committee of the General Conference (never more than 8 members before 1897 when it changed to 13) that seldom met. Thus, most major decisions fell on the denomination's president. It didn't help matters that James White and George I. Butler had tendencies to dominate anyway. Thus a perpetual

problem with the 1863 structure was that it lent itself to what Ellen White repeatedly referred to as "kingly power."

By 1900, nearly everybody recognized the need for a change.

The Call to Congregationalism

The post-1888 years would see the development of two main approaches to reorganizing the church. The denomination's leading and most influential theologians during the 1890's — A.T. Jones, E.J. Waggoner and W.W. Prescott — promoted the first avenue to reform. They conceived a theological ecclesiology that basically held that the church did not need a president since Christ was its head and would direct every born-again individual.

As Waggoner put it, "Perfect unity means absolute independence. . . This question of organization is a very simple thing. All there is to it is for each individual to give himself over to the Lord, and then the Lord will do with him just as he wants to. . . 'Receive ye the Holy Ghost.' The Holy Ghost is the organizer." "If we get it right," Prescott claimed, "there will be no officials here." "All ye are brethren" is the biblical ideal.

To Prescott, Jones, Waggoner and their colleagues, such a scheme was not anarchy but true biblical organization. They would push their ideas with great vigor at the 1897, 1899, 1901 and 1903 General Conference Sessions.

Their greatest success came in 1897. Fueled by an 1896 quotation from Ellen White (taken out of the context of her general statements on the topic) that "it is not wise to choose one man as president of the General Conference" (Ltr 24a, 1896), the reform element urged either no

president (their preference) or multiple presidents. During 1897 they pushed through a resolution for three General Conference presidents — one each in North America, Europe and Australia.

The South African Experiment

The second avenue to organizational reform in the 1890s would emerge in the denomination's mission fields and would focus on pragmatic necessity rather than theology. It is not that theology was absent. Rather it was not central. The theological foundation of this approach was eschatology. Since Adventists needed to preach the three angel's messages to *all the world* before the Second Advent, this second approach focused on the mission of the denomination as it related to its eschatological goal.

The first element of the reform began in the newly-established South African Conference in 1892 under the leadership of A.T. Robinson. His major problem involved a shortage of personnel. In no way could he staff all of the legally independent auxiliary organization that had developed in Battle Creek. Where, for example, was he to find leadership for the Publishing Association, the General Tract and Missionary Society, the Educational Society, the General Sabbath School Association, the Health and Temperance Association, the General Conference Association, and the Foreign Mission Board?

Robinson's solution was born of necessity. He would not create independent organization, but would develop departments under the conference system.

Both O.A. Olsen, General Conference president, and W.C. White felt concerns over the suggestion and the General Conference wrote to Robinson not to create the departments.

But it was too late. Because of the large amount of time it took to communicate by ship's mail in those days, by the time the instruction from the General Conference arrived Robinson had already instituted the program and found that it worked.

Later in the 1890s, Robinson transferred to Australia where he was able to sell the departmental idea to A.G. Daniells and W.C. White. They, in turn, would take the idea to the 1901 General Conference session as part of the reorganization plan.

Meet Arthur G. Daniells

"If I have accomplished anything worthwhile in the cause of God, it is because in my youth I set my eyes upon the goal, and ... by the grace of God I have never allowed anything to divert my mind or take my eyes from that goal," Arthur G. Daniells wrote near the close of a long and fruitful life. He was a leader par excellence because he not only knew his goal but permitted in achieving it.

Born in 1858 to a father who died in the American Civil War, Daniells accepted Adventism at age 10. Like all young people, he faced the daunting question of what to do with his life. After attending Battle Creek College for one year, he was teaching public school when he received a call to ministry.

Daniells began his ministry in Texas in 1878, where he served as secretary to James and Ellen White for one year. In 1886, while doing evangelism, he received a request to go to New Zealand and Australia, where he served as a church administrator for 14 years. While "down under," he worked closely with W.C. White and his mother. He and Willie developed the structures that Daniells would put forth in 1901 for the reorganization of the church.

Elected General Conference president in 1901, Daniells remained in that position for 21 years, longer than any other individual.

Partly because of the more efficient organization adopted in 1901/1903, Adventism grew rapidly during his administration.

Later he developed the General Conference Ministerial Association, through which he influenced a generation of young preachers to emphasize Christ and salvation through him in their lives and ministry. His book, *Christ Our Righteousness*, revived the 1888 issues related to salvation and is an Adventist classic.

The Australian Experiment

Part of the difficulty the rapidly spreading denomination faced in the 1890s was one of communication. In the name of unity, operating policy decreed that church headquarters in Battle Creek had to approve all decisions above the conference level.

A.G. Daniells spoke to the problem of time lag in communication and decision-making from the perspective of 1913. The difficulty was that, at its best, the mail took four weeks

**ALL TOO OFTEN
IN CHURCH
HISTORY
THE MISSION
BECOMES
ME AND MY
PROGRAM**

each direction and often arrived to find the members of the General Conference Executive Committee away from their offices. “I remember,” Daniells noted, “that we have waited three or four months before we could get any reply to our questions.” And even then it might be a five- or six-line inquiry saying that the General Conference officers really didn’t understand the issue and needed further information. And so it went until “after six or nine months, perhaps, we would get the matter settled.”

Ellen White also had problems with the 1861/1863 structure and its centralized decision-making. Having spent years in the church’s mission fields, she recognized that “the men at Battle Creek are no more inspired to give unerring advice than are the men in other places, to whom the Lord has entrusted the work in their locality” (Lt 88, 1896).

But how to decentralize and at the same time maintain unity was the challenge. The answer was the union conference, “invented” in Australia during the mid-1890s. The Australasian Union Conference consisted of the various local conferences and missions in its territory and served as an intermediary unit between the General Conference and the local conferences. With executive power to act within its territory, it regionalized decision-making while at the same time maintaining unity.

By the time the Australian church leaders had devised the union conference, A.T. Robinson had arrived from South Africa with the departmental system. Australia also adopted the latter.

The 1901 General Conference Session

Some things seem almost impossible to do. One of them was the restructuring of the Adventist Church in 1901. The leading ministers had sparred on the topic for more than 10 years but had accomplished nothing.

That would all change beginning with a meeting of denominational leaders chaired by A.G. Daniells in the Battle Creek College library on April 1, 1901. Daniells told those assembled that some of them had met the evening before, but that they wanted to open up the discussion to additional people and also to allow “Sister White . . . to be present and place before us any light that she might have for us.”

Ellen White, however, did not want to take charge of the meeting. “I thought,” she told Daniells, “I would let you lead out, and then if I had anything to say, I would say it.” He replied that he and his colleagues didn’t want to discuss the issue of reorganization further until they had heard from her.

Mrs. White countered by saying, “I would prefer not to speak today . . . not because I have not anything to say, because I have.” Then she presented for about one-and-one-

half hours, one of the most influential talks of her ministry.

In no uncertain terms she called for “new blood” and an “entire new organization” that broadened the governing base of the denomination. Opposing the centralization of power in a few individuals, she left no doubt that “kingly, ruling power” and any administrator who had a “little throne” would have to go. She urged “a renovation without any delay. To have this conference pass on and close up as the conferences have done, with the same manipulating, with the same tone and the same order — God forbid, brethren” (MS 43a, 1901).

The next day, the opening meeting of the General Conference session, saw her take the floor and request reorganization in no uncertain terms, even though “just how it is to be accomplished [she could] not say” (1901 GCB 25). From her perspective, it was her duty to urge reform, but the responsibility of the delegates to develop the structures.

Here we find some interesting insights on Ellen White’s prophetic role. In this case she functioned as the spark plug to get things moving. Without her initiating function in 1901, the church probably would not have taken any firm action on reorganization.

This earth is not our home. That underlying motif and the necessity of mission drove the winning faction at the 1901 General Conference session.

G.A. Irwin, the president, opened the meetings by recognizing the strength of Ellen White’s plea for reform, but he stopped at generalities.

At that point, A.G. Daniells took charge and moved that “the usual rules and procedures for arranging and transacting the business of the conference be suspended” and that they appoint a general committee to develop recommendations related to reorganization of the denomination and other topics of concern. His motion carried.

The officers appointed Daniells chair of the reorganization committee. And he and W.C. White were the leading voices in the reorganization, even though the Jones and Wagoner coalition sought to shift the process in their direction.

When Daniells spoke of reorganizing the church, he meant restructuring its administration for more successful mission outreach. He made his point clear on the second morning of the 1901 session when he told the delegates that unless something definite was done, “it will take a millennium to give this message to the world.”

The 1901 General Conference session resulted in some of the greatest changes in the history of the denomination. The most important organizationally were five in number: (1) the creation of union conferences and union missions that had supervision of local conferences and missions and

thereby dispersed the administrative authority of the General Conference officers; (2) the discontinuance of most of the auxiliary organizations and the adoption of the departmental system; (3) the General Conference Committee increased to 25 members; (4) ownership and management of most institutions shifted from the General Conference to the union conferences; (5) and the General Conference would have no president, only a chairperson whom the executive committee could remove at any time it desired.

The church had made major changes based on the mission experience of Daniells and W.C. White. And leadership had made a difference. God still works through people, both collectively and individually, to guide his church.

The 1903 General Conference Session

Two structural problems continued after the 1901 meetings. The first was that the powerful medical branch under the control of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg still remained outside the departmental system. The second was the issue of presidency.

By 1902, a major power struggle had developed between A.G. Daniells, the “chair” of the General Conference executive committee, and Kellogg. It resulted from the fact that Daniells called for fiscal responsibility while the doctor had plans for unlimited spending as he increased his medical empire.

The solution to the difficulty seemed clear to Kellogg, who controlled a third of the votes in the executive committee and had influence over others. Dump Daniells and replace him with A.T. Jones, who was favorable to Kellogg’s point of view.

The thunderous sounds of struggle shook the denomination in November of 1902. The issue: who would control the church and for what reasons. We can be thankful that Daniells won a battle that would determine the purpose of Adventism in the twentieth century.

Meanwhile, finding that for legal purposes it was almost a necessity, Daniells had resumed using the title of “president.”

Such were the struggles that set the stage for the 1903 General Conference session. Those meetings made the medical program a department of the church, restored the presidency, and set the stage for schism.

All too often in church history the mission becomes me and my program. Such is the death of peace and spirituality. The devil is always on hand to encourage us to push for our

individual agendas. Each of us finds ourselves tempted to be central, to sit on our little throne.

1901/1903 Restructuring

The restructuring of the church set it up for productivity and efficiency as its worldwide mission program sped forward in a way that would have been impossible with the problems of the old structure.

We should note, however, that the 1901/1903 organization was not a new structure. It retained the general outline of the 1861/1863 plan, but modified it to meet the needs of an evolving church.

Modification, however, was not the ideal that some of the delegates brought with them in 1901/1903.

The Jones/Waggoner faction had sought total revolution. In the end, their bid for a drastic reshaping of the church lost out for several reasons. Not the least was that their model was theologically inadequate in the sense that it effused on the individual church member and left no room for a practical approach to unified action. Theoretically, it sounded fine to say that every person would work in harmony with every other person if they were covered, but the biblical picture reflects both less perfectionism and a more complex view of sin

than did Adventism’s would-be revolutionaries.

The revolutionary party also regularly took Ellen White’s quotations out of their literary and historical contexts and thereby made her say things that she did not believe. She, for example, had no problem with the title of “president” and regularly used it.

The approach of Daniells was more down to earth and was quite in harmony with that of James White who had engineered the 1861/1863 organization. Both men looked for an efficient structure that would complete the task of carrying the Adventist message to the ends of the earth in as short a time as possible so that Christ might come.

Efficiency for mission is the keyword in Seventh-day Adventist organizational history. While most delegates at the 1903 session agreed with its final conclusions, M.C. Wilcox made an important point when he noted that the church should not be organizationally inflexible. It should leave itself open to adapt as the need of mission demanded.

EFFICIENCY FOR MISSION IS THE KEYWORD IN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY.

George R. Knight is a retired professor of church history at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. This article is from his book, *Least We Forget*, a daily devotional, published by the Review and Herald.

STATE OF THE UNION

ORGANIZING FOR MISSION

General Conference

North American Division (13 worldwide)

Union (9 in North America)

Local Conferences (5 in Lake Union Conference)





LAKE UNION CONFERENCE BY THE #'S

Lake Union Conference

Organized in 1901
As of September 30, 2016, total
Lake Union membership – **87,331**

Illinois Conference

Organized in 1871
Congregations – **98**
Membership – **13,726**

Indiana Conference

Organized in 1872
Congregations – **82**
Membership – **8,418**

Lake Region Conference

Organized in 1945
Congregations – **106**
Membership – **31,074**

Michigan Conference

Organized in 1861
Congregations – **191**
Membership – **26,420**

Wisconsin Conference

Organized in 1871
Congregations – **75**
Membership – **7,693**

LAKE UNION LEADERSHIP

Twenty-one leaders from conference officers and lay delegates form the Lake Union Conference Executive Committee. Their primary responsibility is to hold the Union accountable for mission and finances, approve ordinations, and facilitate the flow of information between the union and the local field. The group which serves a five-year term meets three times a year – spring, fall and winter.

MISSION — The union exists to support the mission of the church by:

- Maintaining and fostering our connection to the global mission in preparing our world for Christ's soon return.
- Helping to support local conference vision and collaborative approaches to mission within our union territory.
- Providing oversight through the union president who facilitates the local conference election process by chairing the conference nominating committee at conference sessions and for any mid-term presidential election.
- Ensuring representation and voice at General Conference and North American Division Executive Committees. The three union officers collectively attend over 70 committees/boards, thus reducing the need of local conference officers travel and time away from their on-the-ground conference responsibilities. Boards and committees include those at the General Conference and North American Division, local conference executive committees, institutions of higher education, Adventist Health System and various ministry organizations.
- Providing administrative oversight through union officers and departmental directors who advise and give oversight to conference issues as requested and/or deemed necessary.
- Encouraging the best governance practices in organization and/or flow of resources to and from other levels of church governance.

Some of the Lake Union's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Providing funding for churches, schools and organization through the Revolving Fund Trust to purchase and/or update facilities. As of September 30, 2016, over \$18 million in loans were approved to help conferences and local congregations.
- Maintaining high standards in our K-12 educational system
- Provide an official publication, the *Lake Union Herald*, established in 1908 "to tell stories of God at work in his people

in order to encourage, inspire, educate, advance and unify the church in the Lake Union Conference."

- Partnering with local churches through the Adventist Health Initiative which began operation in 2016 to offer free dental, medical and eye care services. To date, the services value \$577,000.
- Coordinating and facilitating mission for multicultural ministries
- Supporting conference educational opportunities to help our children to know and grow in Christ, leading them to embrace Christ's Great Commission and preparing them for a lifetime of service by providing high quality, Christ-centered education in every classroom by:
 - Developing Adventist curriculum
 - Providing registrar functions
 - Guiding the flow and distribution of educational resources
 - Ensuring a proper process of accreditation
 - Giving professional support to educational administrators
- Providing human resource support by:
 - Managing information flow of regulatory issues
 - Distributing resources for more effective function
 - Helping all entities in our union reduce harm to any member and/or guest through proper risk management
 - Assisting members with Sabbath employment and Church/State issues
 - Assist with capital project funding through management of Revolving Fund
 - Providing communication resources, support and development for churches, schools and conferences in marketing and message media, and hosting free websites for Lake Union conferences, churches and schools
 - Developing and maintaining information systems technology, including LUCIS software, for church and school accounting
 - Implementing new and updated accounting resources to meet present and future needs of the local conference
 - Coordinating various cross-conference initiatives
 - Ensuring faithful stewardship to provide optimum financial resources for mission through the local conference
 - Providing part-time support to conference directors

THE LAKE UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2016-2020)

AMITA Health



Thor G. Thordardson

Andrews University



Andrea Luxton

Illinois Conference



Ron Aguilera



Arlene Brown-Dominguez



Michael Daum



Jason Goliath



Raymond R. Pichette

Indiana Conference



Mark M. Eaton



Kathy A. Griffin



Steven Poenitz



Brent E. Schalk



Eddie Allen Sr.



Brandon Dent Sr.



Julius Everett Sr.

Lake Region Conference



Mirely Guerrero



Pamela Hatchett-McElroy



R. Clifford Jones



J. Robin Langley



William Lee



Clayton A. Loney



Floyd T. Mathis

Michigan Conference



Timothy Nixon



Ray Cook



Kameron DeVasher



Liesbeth Fernandez



Jay Gallimore



Mark Howard



Paulina Janevski

Wisconsin Conference



Nereida Martinez



James E. Micheff Jr.



Wesley Peppers



Michael G. Edge



Gerardo Medina



Titus Naftanaila

Lake Union Conference



Don Livesay



Carmelo Mercado Jr.



Glynn C.W. Scott



Maurice R. Valentine II





Patti's story of courage and strength serves as an inspiration to patients on their journey to wellness.

Gracing the AMITA Health Cancer Institute with Models of Hope

The AMITA Health Cancer Institute Hinsdale goes beyond medical treatment to offer emotional, nutritional and spiritual support that moves patients to true wellness. A big part of that support is the center's healing environment, filled with images of nature and spiritual inspiration at every turn. Nowhere is that inspiration more evident than in the Models of Hope gallery.

Sitting just outside of the entrance to the radiation oncology treatment area, Models of Hope shares the beauty, encouragement and wisdom of five cancer survivors in a series of portraits taken of the survivors in their "happy place." Here, Jacquie, Jane, Linda, Michael and Patti graciously offer their heartfelt messages of life and hope in the wake of challenging individual

journeys that began with the same words, "You have cancer."

The gallery photographs that accompany these messages are arresting, stopping you in your tracks as you notice the joyous, life-affirming spirit that the camera has managed to capture within each of them. They have survived their ordeals with grace and dignity, and revel in the life to come.

The concept for Models of Hope originated as a gift from the hearts from the Cancer Institute's nurse navigators, physicians and staff who wanted a way to honor their patients, those people who come through their doors at one of their lowest points, become like family to all who work with them, then move courageously forward to live their lives to the fullest.

Sue Kett, healing arts consultant, worked with Janet Kennedy, oncology outreach specialist, to bring Models of Hope into being. They met with physicians and staff members to identify those patients whose exemplary

courage and grace were an inspiration to others. They helped these patients share their deepest thoughts and feelings about their struggles. They were delighted to discover that each survivor had made a commitment to give back by helping others.

In an intimate dedication ceremony held Sept. 14, the survivors unveiled Models of Hope to their closest friends and family members. Chaplain Liz Hulford from Spiritual Care Services organized and delivered a moving dedication service, inviting the physicians and staff members who walked the survivors' healing journey with them to share their personal messages of love and encouragement.

"Patti faced her treatments head-on. She was determined to optimize her lifestyle and diet ... so that there was no chance that this cancer was ever going to come back," said Dr. Arti Lakhani, her medical oncologist. "I consider myself lucky to have been involved in her medical care and help her through this journey."

"We're giving these cancer survivors a chance to give back by sharing the wisdom that they have accumulated on their respective journeys," said Kett.

"It's almost an unexpected element at the Cancer Institute — that there's this opportunity to experience a special moment in time as you recognize the life-affirming joy reflected in these survivors' faces," said Kennedy. "What we didn't realize was that the gallery would have such an uplifting effect on our staff, who are honored to have contributed to that joy."

Julie Busch is associate vice president for communication at AMITA Health.



Daren Heslop

The shelving Shoemate built was intended to create a fresher, more farmstand-style atmosphere in the Gazebo as they launched their new healthier focus.

From the kitchen to the woodshop

Last school year, Linda Brinegar, executive chef, was looking for projects her employees could tackle during the slower months of summer break. After prayerfully considering options that would both stay within budget and continue to move Dining Services in the right direction health-wise, she hit upon an idea.

“Her idea was to change the atmosphere of the Gazebo,” explains Joseph Shoemate, lead cook on the morning shift in Dining Services. “When you want to make major changes to your offerings, the easiest way to do that is to change the way everything looks at the same time.”

Joseph was tasked with taking unused pallets and turning them into shelving for the Gazebo. He built endcap and stand-alone shelving to display the

made-to-order restaurant’s wares and condiments.

“We wanted to make the space look more like a farmer’s market where you can get fresh produce straight from the farm,” Shoemate explains. “Changing the environment changes the culture, which is really the end goal.”

Shoemate, who had never built shelves before and was unsure of his abilities, began working on the shelving in June and completed the last piece in September, spending close to full-time work in the woodshop each week.

“I was nervous,” he admits. “It was a ton of work.”

Shoemate is no stranger to making things from scratch; as a professionally trained and educated chef, his passion is creating and experimenting, especially when it comes to hands-on projects.

He attended Johnson and Wales University in Denver, Colo., and

earned his culinary arts degree, which he followed up with an externship in Grand Teton National Park working as a breakfast chef for one of the Grand Teton Lodge Company’s restaurants. Then he accepted a position at Southern Adventist University (Collegedale, Tenn.) to help the dining services team work toward healthier concepts.

He now has been working at Andrews for four years, and enjoys coming to work each morning to prepare breakfast for the campus.

As for the shelves he built, “I’m really happy with the end result,” says Shoemate. “I’m very proud of what I’ve done, and I’ve become 100 percent more confident in my woodworking skills because of this project. The whole process was a giant learning experience.”

What’s next for this creative chef who’s also skilled in the workshop? Bread.

“I’ve been spending a lot of time perfecting my sourdough bread-making skills,” he says. “I want to learn more and get even better at what I already do well.”

To meet more real people at Andrews University, visit Stories of Andrews at <http://www.andrews.edu/stories>.

Becky St. Clair is media communications manager at Andrews University.



[CONFERENCE NEWS]

Indiana Conference officers reelected at Quadrennial Session

Indiana—The 2016 Quadrennial Session met on Oct. 2, 2016, at the Cicero Church. Some 327 delegates were recognized, of which 263 were regular delegates and 64 were delegates-at-large. It was voted to welcome into the sisterhood of churches both the Lawrence Hispanic Church and the Mizo Church.

Treasurer Mark Eaton presented the 2012–2016 financial report, and Kristen Sorensen, GC auditor, presented a report of the audited financial statements of the Indiana Conference, the Association and Indiana Academy. All reports were accepted.

The nominating committee recommended that officers be re-elected by electronic ballot.

It was voted to accept Steve Poenitz to serve as president, Mark Eaton to serve as secretary/treasurer, Nicole Mattson for education superintendent, Vialo Weis Jr. for Trust Services and Stewardship director, and Charlie Thompson for Youth Ministries and Sabbath school director.

The nominating committee also recommended and voted individuals to serve on the Indiana Conference executive committee, the Indiana Conference Association board, and the Indiana Conference board of education. There was a unanimous vote to accept minor adjustments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Indiana Conference Association as recommended by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

It was voted by electronic ballot to approve a one-time exception,



(left to right) Charlie and Trisha Thompson, Mark and Betty Eaton, Steve and Erney Poenitz, Nicole and Terry Mattson, Shannon and Vialo Weis Jr.

allowing the next constituency meeting to be held in the year 2021 (a five-year period), due to the 2020 General Conference Session in Indianapolis. The session after 2021 will be held in 2024 and then, going forward, the session will go back to a four-year term. The constituents' session also voted to have member representation continue to be one delegate per 25 church members plus one additional delegate for every 25 members.

Mark Eaton gave an update on the status of the new septic system for Timber Ridge Camp and the Conference executive committee vote at its last meeting to allocate \$160,000 from Plant Fund monies in order to build two new cabins at TRC. He also reported on various upgrades and improvements to the campus of Indiana Academy. Principal Steve Baughman reported on needs for the campus, which included the following general proposals from the Building Committee: to renovate areas of the boys' dormitories (Phase I), to provide more space for the girls' dormitory (Phase II), and, eventually, to connect the East and West dorms, providing additional housing, a chapel area, and a recreation area. The priority

projects would be Phases I and II. By electronic ballot, it was voted to approve the recommendation to reallocate \$750,000 in Plant Fund monies from "Conference Office Relocation" to improvements for Indiana Academy's dormitories.

Finally, the standing organizing committee recommended new individuals to serve for the 2021 Quinquennial Session of the Indiana Conference and recommended individuals to serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the 2021 Quinquennial Session of the Indiana Conference. The committees were approved by voice vote. It was recommended and approved by voice vote that the Conference finance committee consider offering assistance to all Adventist schools in the conference, in addition to Indiana Academy.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Maurice Valentine, executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference.

Colleen Kelly is communications and marketing specialist at the Indiana Conference.



Daniel Hestford

Volunteers did roofing, electrical work, landscaping and resealing driveways.

Four churches in Southwest Michigan partner to help Benton Harbor residents

Michigan—On Sept. 25, four churches in Southwest Michigan came together to assist members of the Benton Harbor community with repairing their houses. The project was called, Our2Cents.

“I believe this Our2Cents initiative is coming at a very critical time, especially when you have so much racial division within our society today and here we have this diverse group of people who’ve come together in a predominately African-American community such as Benton Harbor to make a tangible difference in the lives of the people here,” said Taurus Montgomery, pastor of Harbor of Hope, Benton Harbor. “I think this is something that we need to exemplify all the time within our local churches across this country.”

The project started back in April when Rodlie Ortiz, Pioneer Memorial Church associate pastor, contacted Montgomery, and asked if there was something PMC could do in Benton Harbor. Montgomery replied that

there were 40 homes that needed renovations. They brainstormed and decided to get all of the area churches together for one weekend out of the year and do this big project together. They connected with some of the area pastors and slowly began putting things together.

“They came in. They’re not making me feel like they don’t want to do it,” said Yolanda Thrash, one of the recipients of a home renovation. “I mean, even from the kids all [the way] up to the adults, everybody is just coming in and pulling in together and just playing the part, and I really appreciate it.”

George Harvell was another beneficiary of the group’s kindness. As he watched the group replace his roof, he was thankful that he would no longer have to place buckets inside his home to catch water when it rained. “I’ll be glad to have a new roof on,” he said.

By the end of the weekend, the 100 volunteers did roofing, electrical work, landscaping and resealed driveways. Ron Kelly of the Village Church in Berrien Springs said, “We had a sense of great satisfaction that one little spot will be a little nicer because of our efforts here.”

One of the most rewarding parts of working with Our2Cents was the unification of the area churches.

“Sometimes we can feel like our own little entities and our own little satellites, but with Our2Cents, everyone’s coming together,” Philip Mills Jr., Fairplain Church pastor, said. “Different churches are coming together, different churches are working together, they’re sweating together, they’re scraping together, they’re painting together, they’re pulling out cabinets together. But what’s incredible to me is we are one family and today it feels like we have one big Seventh-day Adventist Christian family.”

Dwight Nelson, Pioneer Memorial Church pastor, concurred. “This is the first, I believe, of a collective initiative where we band together. We’ve got all kinds of churches here. I think we have 13 congregations here in Southwestern Michigan — all the talent, all the giftedness. But to band together with a shared mission, a common purpose? It doesn’t get any better than this.”

Pieter Damsteeg is a video producer for the North American Division.



Pieter Damsteeg

“I believe that this Our2Cents initiative is coming at a very critical time when you have so much racial division within our society,” said Taurus Montgomery, pastor of the Harbor of Hope Church in Benton Harbor.

“Hope Trending” opens doors for social media evangelism

Michigan—Pioneer Memorial Church took the Great Commission of Jesus to another level by harnessing new media technology tools in reaching the world with a message of hope from Oct. 14–22, 2016.

The campaign under the theme: “Hope Trending: A Crash Course on How to Live Without Fear,” collapsed the geographical boundary of the local site at Howard Performing Arts Center on the campus of Andrews University and beamed via cyberspace to reach a global audience.

Hope Trending was the first of its kind, with Dwight K. Nelson, lead pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church as speaker, who gave 20-minute TEDTalk-style presentations each night. David Franklin, host of Hope Channel’s “Let’s Pray,” welcomed the local and online audience, after which Nelson appeared on stage with Bible-based messages of hope. On the heels of his presentation, Ty Gibson moderated a panel discussion.

Most people watched the program online, including registered watch parties in over 250 locations. A social media team and volunteer ambassadors created a buzz with Hope Trending’s hashtag, #HopeTrending, which enhanced the engagement on social media platforms with viewership in over 130 countries.

Jamie Jean Schneider, digital strategies project manager at the North American Division, provided support to the team and reports. “Hope Trending was an incredible opportunity to show what can be done when the church works together to do something out of the box — taking advantage of new technologies.” Social media analytics revealed that the Hope



Rodlie Ortiz, evangelism pastor at Pioneer (second from bottom), led the social media team which moderated online discussions.



The media team monitored camera angles and sound levels from a booth in the Howard Performing Arts Center.



Dwight Nelson, Pioneer Memorial Church pastor, gave 20-minute presentations each of the nine nights.

Trending hashtag peaked at 1.2 million impressions (potential views) per 1,500 tweets, and the Facebook page reached 835,000 people with over 200,000 engagements, as well as over 185,000 video views.

Tracing the history behind Hope Trending, Rodlie Ortiz, coordinator of Hope Trending, said that over a year ago the leadership of Pioneer Memorial Church decided to hold a unique evangelistic series that included organizing focus groups with young adults from campus and community.

The rationale was to explore new ways to help the youth reach their friends for Jesus. What came out of the groups helped shaped the program. Ortiz said that the focus groups told them, “Please don’t give us a one-hour doctrinal presentation with a 140 slides.” The suggested alternative was to do something similar to TEDTalks: “They are powerful; they are short; they are shareable. Do something highly relational.”

Hope Trending showed the potential of social medial and digital

All photos by Media Team

evangelism. Recounting lessons of Hope Trending on his blog, Nelson wrote: “Social media is a frontier wide open for communicating the truth about God. Night after night we repeated our Big Idea, and it was passed from soul to soul in social media.”

Richard Parke, media ministries director at Pioneer and producer of the event said, “People on social media want to talk about issues they face — real-life stuff! They also aren’t afraid to ask hard questions about faith which, in my opinion, is a good thing.”

According to Ortiz, this was a team effort with God, volunteers and donors. The North American Division donated \$75,000, Pioneer raised \$55,000 locally, and the Michigan Conference chipped in \$5,000.

Schneider encouraged churches to explore this digital evangelistic model. “Take risks, try something different,” she said. “Facebook is the largest country in the world. Social media presents a bold new frontier for mission. The worst mistake we can make is to not take advantage of these new technologies.”

The Hope Trending series is archived at: <https://www.hopetrending.org/watch/archives>.

Francis Tuffour is a communication graduate student and media volunteer at Pioneer Memorial Church.



Ty Gibson moderated the panel discussion with Melissa Ruhupatty, Randy Sanchez, Tacyanna Nixon and Michael Polite.



Ron Norton of the Michigan Conference Adventist Community Services, along with employees at Honor Credit Union, helped to distribute food at the Berrien County “Night Out Against Crime” event.

Michigan ACS partners with Berrien County Police

Michigan—When the Berrien County Police Department needed help distributing food at their “Night Out Against Crime,” they turned to Michigan Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS).

The team of volunteers was willing to help, especially in light of the Berrien County courthouse shootings that summer. There was, however, one problem. Their mobile kitchen unit usually used for camp meeting and feeding volunteers during declared disasters was not available. The mobile kitchen was in the Upper Peninsula for youth camp activities and camp meeting since the destruction of the camp’s kitchen by fire a few years ago.

Despite the setback, Ron Norton, deputy director for ACS/DR, and Stacy Gusty, chief cook for the mobile kitchen unit, along with other volunteers worked from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on July 29, at the Grove Park, in Berrien

Springs, and used tables placed under a canopy to distribute the food provided for the attendees.

“This gives the community an opportunity to see our organization outside of a disaster,” he says. Norton, a heating and cooling technician at Andrews University, said this is the fourth year of ACS’ participation in this event. The Michigan ACS has responded to two other events so far this year — the Flint, Mich., water crisis, and straight winds which brought down trees in the Traverse City, Mich., area.

The national “Night Out Against Crime” festival was created for the purpose of generating support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts such as Neighborhood Watch and strengthening neighborhood police and community partnerships.

Diana Bruch is director of Lake Union Conference Adventist Community Services.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Traverse City Church members read Bible in a year

Michigan—In 2014, Patricia Hutchins' husband retired and the couple decided to move back to Michigan from Arkansas. They settled on the northern town of Traverse City, affectionately known to locals as TC.

After settling in, Pat began asking herself and, more importantly, the Lord, what could she contribute to the TC church and community. "I have health concerns which limit my energy levels and, hence, the activities I may attempt," said the 71-year-old.

One evening, she was impressed to share her personal passion for reading through the Bible each year. In the fall of 2015, she invited the TC congregation to join her in making their top 2016 New Year's resolution to read through their Bibles.

She explained this was to be an individual and personal project, and would take about 20 minutes each day. She offered to help everyone stay motivated and on track by providing tips and tools. Their responses were overwhelming. The invitation struck a chord and a deep desire to read God's Word.

As the year came to an end, Pat said the comments she has received from



Left to right, top row: Marilyn Blair, Jeff Akenberger, pastor, Paula and Jan Follett, Pat Hutchins; Bottom row: Diego Cruz, Art Covell, retired pastor, and Beatriz Cruz

her church community regarding their experiences in the program has blessed her greatly. Everyone, from the pastor to the children, were faithfully engaged with the Word of God in their homes.

Marilyn Blair went to visit her daughter in Spain for an extended time and took her Bible with her, even though it's large and heavy. "The Book is more meaningful to me than ever before," Blair said.

There were some who read the Bible on their phones and children who followed along with the Arthur Maxwell

The Bible Story series. At bedtime, the Cruz family reads a story, talks about it and prays with their three young boys. "I know the boys are paying attention since I overhear them talking about the story at other times," their mother, Beatriz, said.

The TC church will continue this program in 2017, and invites other churches to join them.

Patricia Hutchins, member of the Traverse City Church, with *Lake Union Herald* staff.

[UNION NEWS]

Three Lake Union churches provide free dental care to community

Chicago—At the Shiloh Church on Oct. 2, the community had the

opportunity to take advantage of a free health expo and dental clinic.

Patients received fillings, extractions or cleanings, the three procedures primarily offered through the Lake Union mobile dental clinic.

Patient Maxie Cox said, "I heard about this through the flyer, and I appreciate the chance to get my teeth cleaned because I can't go regularly."

Although every patient was able to have at least one dental service, the need was still greater than the capacity to provide in just one day. The 45-plus volunteers felt blessed to have served 135 patients in this Chicago community, totaling \$45,000 in free dental services.

Battle Creek—In Battle Creek, on Oct. 8 and 9, dentists, hygienists and other volunteers provided a health expo



Cicero Church member, Brian Hicks, assisting Dr. Alyssa Stickley, volunteer dentist from Carmel, Ind.

and dental clinic. The event, sponsored by the Battle Creek Berean Church, united with Battle Creek Tabernacle, Urbandale Church, Battle Creek Spanish Church and the Battle Creek Burmese Group as well as students from Battle Creek Academy.

Robin Steely, D.D.S., assisted in coordinating the dental clinic and health expo. He said, “The process was very dynamic with a lot of moving pieces. Partnering with our Adventist school, other area churches and local agencies enabled us to serve many in our community.”

Feedback from patients was very good. One dental patient in particular was thrilled after her front teeth were restored. “I never thought anyone would do this for me. You can’t imagine how much I want to smile!”

Rob Bernardo, pastor of Battle Creek Tabernacle, conveyed that a patient attended church on Sabbath following the event. “She is interested in studying the Bible with us because of the help she received from the dental clinic.”

Several outside organizations were an integral part to the Battle Creek event. The local Walgreens provided



IA student, Beh-Beh Win, assisting in dental hygiene

flu shots, the American Red Cross had a blood drive, and a dermatologist was there to give skin cancer screenings. In two days, 195 patients were treated and a total of \$64,500 in dental services and \$6,400 in dermatology services were provided for free.

Cicero—On Sunday, Oct. 30, volunteers presented another health expo and dental clinic at Indiana Academy. One hundred forty patients received dental exams, of which 72 people had cleanings, 24 fillings and 52 teeth were extracted. Clients also had the option to receive flu shots and be seen by a dermatologist.

Vic Van Schaik, pastor of the Cicero Church, spoke with numerous patients who expressed their appreciation. One lady who saw the advertisement on HFLTV said, “I’ve been to a lot of health expos, but this is the first one that is actually meeting the needs of people, and that means a lot to me. Thanks for all that your church is doing for our community.”

The need for dentists, hygienists and other medical professionals is great; additional volunteers with a heart for



Hygienist Vicki Widing of the Anderson Church and her assistant, Indiana Academy student Maci Morgan



IA student, Shelsea Lorenzo, assisting in dental hygiene

service and a willing hand are encouraged to step forward. “It also is a great opportunity to unite with our youth and train them in real life ministry,” said Randy Griffin, D.D.S., Adventist Community Health Initiative director for the Lake Union.

If your church would like to schedule an event, please contact Dr. Griffin at: randygriffin@lakeunion.org.

Kathy Griffin is a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church and provides support for her husband Randy and the Lake Union’s new Adventist Community Health Initiative.



Daniel Mendez

U. of Michigan students were invited to sit down and rest, while the host shared the importance of rest in their lives.

Lake Union launches Public Campus Ministry

Speaking of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Ellen White stated in 1895 that Public Campus Ministry (PCM) is a work that “must be done.” You cannot miss the prophetic significance of the Lake Union launching its Public Campus Ministry 121 years later, on Oct. 15, 2016, in the very district that the University of Michigan is located. Fittingly, the launch corresponded with the first ever General Conference-initiated Global Public Campus Ministry Weekend (#GPCMW16).

Over 200 young people registered for the weekend’s events and nearly 500 people attended the service on Sabbath which was streamed live online (<http://pcm.adventist.org>).

Cassandra McNulty shared a riveting message stemming from her testimony of how she came to a fuller knowledge of God through Public Campus Ministry as a student at the University of Michigan. “God has a plan for the most unlikely among us,” she stated, encouraging the Adventist

students on secular campuses to reflect God’s character in their respective spheres.

Sabbath afternoon, young people spent the afternoon in ministry on the campus of the University of Michigan. They set up five massage chairs and offered free five-minute stress release massages to a background of live Christian music accompanied by guitar and ukulele. In an innovative way of sharing the good news about the Sabbath, a bright orange sofa was set up at a busy intersection and students passing by were invited to sit down and rest a while as one of the young people chatted with them about the importance of rest. “We got the word out that there is an Adventist student group on campus that cares,” said Zac Turner, a student at Wayne State University. He felt encouraged by the weekend’s events as he starts a campus ministry on his own university campus.

Flyers were distributed to UofM students inviting them to attend that evening’s Faith and Culture Dialogue with Clinton Wahlen, Ph.D., associate director of the Biblical Research Institute, hosted by Andy Im,

Communication director for the Michigan Conference. Attendees, numbering 75 with 25 guests, wrestled with theological questions college students face such as how to know that the Bible is trustworthy, how were the New Testament books chosen, and how do you reconcile the Old Testament and New Testament God.

In spite of the rain, students gathered to play a game of water-balloon capture the flag on Sunday to cap off the weekend’s events. “The weekend was simply inspiring,” according to Roxanne Dobson, a junior at Stanford University who is taking a year off to serve as a missionary in training at Michigan State University. After this year, she plans to return to Stanford as an unashamed witness for Christ.

The weekend also featured reports on the work of PCM in Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan and Wisconsin conferences. Since his appointment in November 2015, Lake Union PCM coordinator, Israel Ramos, has been galvanizing workers in each conference to coordinate Union-wide efforts. In support of the launch of PCM, Don Livesay, Lake Union president, was in attendance, as were Jay Gallimore, Michigan Conference president, Ron Pickell, North American Division PCM coordinator, and Jiwan Moon, General Conference PCM director.

The Detroit Metropolitan, Plymouth and Ann Arbor churches and Adventist Students for Christ at the University of Michigan combined efforts to host the weekend.

Sikhululekile Daco is assistant director for Michigan Conference’s Public Campus Ministry Department.

[NAD NEWS]

NAD on track to open 300 new churches

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is on track to establish 300 new congregations across North America in 2016 as part of an initiative to open 1,000 new churches over five years, a senior church officer said Sunday.

A total of 203 congregations were organized from Jan. 1 through Oct. 27, when North American Division president Daniel R. Jackson opened the division's year-end meetings with a first annual update on the Plant1000 program. But the number had swelled to 215 by the time that Jose Cortes Jr., who oversees church planting and evangelism for the North American Division, gave a report about the program to the year-end meetings Sunday.

Cortes announced that 300 new congregations might be established by Dec. 31, and emphasized that the growth was vital to the life of the church.

"If we don't plant churches, we will become a cul de sac in the Seventh-day Adventist highway," Cortes, associate ministerial director for the North American Division, told church leaders from across North America in the auditorium of the headquarters shared by the division and the Adventist world church in Silver Spring, Md.

The division also has set aside \$10,000 per church plant, and Cortes said Sunday that the division funded 161 of the 215 congregations organized in 2016.

The North American Division, which has 1,231,006 members worshipping in 5,493 churches and 853 companies, agreed at its 2015 year-end meetings to implement the Plant1000



Jose Cortes Jr. reported that 203 new churches were organized in the NAD by October 2016, of which 25 were in the Lake Union.

program to form 1,000 new congregations from 2016 to 2021. The division — which has found that new churches grow three to five times faster than established churches — intends to hold 12 special SEEDS conferences (<http://nadei.org>) to promote church plants next year.

Of those 161 new churches, 85 congregations were English-speaking, 47 were Hispanic, and 29 were immigrants, including 12 refugee groups, according to statistics shared by Cortes. The largest number of new churches opened in the Columbia Union Conference (51), followed by the Southern Union Conference (31) and the Lake Union Conference (25). Rounding out the list of nine unions were the Atlantic Union Conference (3) and the Pacific Union Conference (1).

Cortes was joined on stage by several church planters, including Florida Conference president Mike Cauley and his own father, Jose Cortes, president of the New Jersey Conference, who spoke about their experiences.

Pastor Tim Madding told how his Beltsville (Md.) church opened a new church plant in September to a crowd of 300 people in a dance studio less than a mile (2 kilometers) from the division's headquarters in Silver Spring.

Anthony WagenerSmith, a church planter from Tampa Bay, Fla., said he learned that the process of organizing a new congregation was only part of the job. The most important part was nurturing its members to spiritual maturity, WagenerSmith said.

He was echoed by Hyveth Williams, professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary at Andrews University and planter of the Grace Place congregation in a predominantly Roman Catholic neighborhood in South Bend, Ind. Winning Catholics is "easy peasy," she said. "We've got to just love them."

Andrew McChesney is news editor of the *Adventist Review*.

Announcements

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

Andrews University

Howard Performing Arts Center Events:

For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, contact HPAC Box Office by phone at 888-467-6442 tollfree or 269-471-3560, by email: hpac@andrews.edu, or on its website at <https://howard.andrews.edu/events/>. Please verify dates and times of programs as events are subject to change.

Jan. 22, 4:00 p.m.: Sunday Music Series – Thompson, Brooks & Scott. Joseph Brooks, clarinet, an active and diverse woodwind player on the faculty at Central Washington University, and Kraig Scott, piano, professor of music and director of the choral program at Walla Walla University, will join Karin Thompson, cello, in a performance of the “Fantasy Trio” by Robert Muczynski, and the “Trio in B-flat Major, Op. 29, for Clarinet, Cello and Piano” by Vincent d’Indy.

Jan. 28, 4:00 p.m.: Young Artist Concert

Jan. 29, 7:00 p.m.: Howard Center Presents – Finding Favour. There is a time for everything – moments of pure joy, seasons of crushing heartbreak and of renewed hope. These instances help weave together a person’s story and the beauty of making every second count. With soul-shaking anthems and impactful lyrics, Finding Favour delivers a powerful project that reflects the moving stories that inspire their music and showcases the band’s considerable talent and musical mission. (Tickets required.)

Feb. 4, 8:00 p.m.: Wind Symphony Concert (Tickets required.)

Feb. 5, 4:00 p.m.: Sunday Music Series – Peter Cooper, Piano

Feb. 11, 8:00 p.m.: Love is in the Air Choral Concert (Tickets required.)

Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m.: Howard Center Presents – Vienna Boys Choir. (Tickets required.)

Feb. 25, 8:00 p.m.: Symphony Orchestra Concert (Tickets required.)

Lake Region

Lake Region Conference Leadership Summit 2017: All pastors and their church officers and leaders are invited to attend **April 7-8** at the South Bend (Ind.) Century Center. Titled “Constructing Constellations,” the Summit’s focus is to build leadership teams for each church. The Summit is to encourage church pastors to bring their church officers and leadership teams to sit together, and learn how to function cooperatively in concert in fulfilling the mission God has given their churches in the area where they reside. Keynote Speakers: Dan Jackson; Edith Fraser; David Franklin; Abraham Jules; Wesley Knight; Don Livesay; Dwight Nelson; John

Nixon; José St. Phard; Frederick Russell; Dûane Schoonard; Ron Smith; Debleaire Snell and Jesse Wilson. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.adventistsource.org/as30/events.aspx>.

Lake Union

Offerings

Jan. 7 Local Church Budget

Jan. 14 Local Conference Advance

Jan. 21 Local Church Budget

Jan. 28 Religious Liberty

Special Days

Jan. 7 Day of Prayer

Jan. 15-21 Religious Liberty Week

Save the Date! ASI Lake Union Spring Fellowship is coming up **April 21-22** at Blue Gate Garden Inn in Shipshewana, Ind. Come, enjoy and fellowship with us as we share testimonies and express profound gratitude to our Savior. You will have the opportunity to enjoy many of our exhibits or request to bring your own. Save the date and meet our guest speaker for the weekend, Derek Morris, director for Hope Channel. For more information, call 269-473-8200 or email carmen.avila@lakeunion.org.

North American Division

Union College Homecoming is April 6-9. Honor classes: 1947, '57, '62, '67, '77, '87, '92, '97 and 2007. This is the 125th Year Celebration! For more

information, contact the alumni office at 401-486-2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or alumni@ucollege.edu.

The Grants Pass SDA School, 2250 NW Heidi Ln., Grants Pass, Ore., will celebrate 100 years of service **April 28-30**. Plan now to attend this exciting centennial celebration. Featured speaker George Knight will lead Friday vespers and share a message Sabbath morning. Planned weekend activities include lunch at the school, tours and a musical program featuring school alumni. Also anticipated is a 5K run and golf tournament. Want to be on the mailing list? Contact the school office. For more information about the event, call the school office at 541-479-2293 or email office@gpsdaschool.org.

LaSierra Academy Alumni Reunion to be held **April 28-29** at 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside, Calif. This is the 95th Year Celebration! Honor Classes: 2s and 7s. Welcome Reception: Friday, April 28, 7:00 p.m., LSA Library. Honor Class Services registration: Sabbath, April 29, 9:00 a.m. Services at 10:00 a.m. Potluck luncheon. Alumni/varsity basketball: 8:30 p.m., Sat. evening. Please update your contact information at JNelson@lsak12.com; 951-351-1445, ext. 244; or <http://www.lsak12.com>.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jan 6	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27	Feb 3	Feb 10
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:29	5:36	5:44	5:53	6:02	6:11
Chicago, Ill.	4:34	4:42	4:50	4:58	5:07	5:16
Detroit, Mich.	5:15	5:22	5:30	5:39	5:48	5:57
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:35	5:42	5:49	5:58	6:06	6:14
La Crosse, Wis.	4:42	4:50	4:59	5:08	5:18	5:27
Lansing, Mich.	5:19	5:27	5:35	5:44	5:53	6:03
Madison, Wis.	4:37	4:45	4:53	5:03	5:12	5:21
Springfield, Ill.	4:49	4:56	5:03	5:11	5:20	5:28

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

Anniversaries



Harlow and Jane Peterson celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Sept. 23, 2016, by spending a great evening together at home, reminiscing and visiting with friends. To celebrate, the friends also brought them a beautiful bouquet of flowers and some Culver's ice cream. Harlow has been a member of the Almond (Wis.) Church all his life and Jane has been a member since their marriage.

Harlow Peterson and Jane Scribner were married Sept. 23, 1951, in Almond by Paul Maticio. Harlow has been a dairy and crops farmer. Jane has been a file clerk and payroll clerk at Sentry Insurance, then a full-time farmer with Harlow.

Obituaries

BACCHIOCCHI, Anna M. (Gandin), age 77; born Aug. 25, 1938, in Mareno di Piave, Italy; died Aug. 7, 2016, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her sons, Daniel and Gianluca; daughter, Loretta Bacchiocchi; brothers, Antonio and Martino Gandin; and five grandchildren.

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

BEAL, Orville C., age 77; born Aug. 20, 1939, in Petoskey, Mich.; died Sept. 27,

2016, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Stevensville (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Carol (Jones); son, John; daughters, Linda Vallejos and Shawna Vyhmeister; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Larry Colburn and David Gotshall, with private inurnment.

BECK, Robert L., age 71; born Feb. 12, 1945, in Jamestown, N.D.; died Oct. 24, 2016, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Elaine (Thomas); daughters, Laurie Beck and Jody Murmu; and sister, Karen Nazareus.

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

GRANDY, Maynard N., age 87; born April 15, 1929, in Ithaca, Mich.; died Sept. 12, 2016, in Ithaca. He was a member of the Twin Cities Church, Alma, Mich.

Survivors include his daughters, Bonnie Field, Mickey Miller and Sue Engel; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Alex Rybachek, and interment was in Pine Grove Cemetery, Ithaca.

HILL, Betty E. (Gunter), age 76; born Dec. 26, 1939, in Royal Center, Ind.; died Nov. 13, 2016, in Logansport, Ind. She was a member of the Logansport Church.

Survivors include her sons, Gilbert, Leroy and Christopher Truax; daughters, Helen Cogswell and Hope Brown; brother, Gerald Gunter; sisters, Patty Howard and Esther Justice; 15 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Blake Hall, and interment was in Cline/Kisler Cemetery, Royal Center.

JOHNSON, Ronald L., age 74; born Feb. 19, 1942, in Portland, Ore.; died Sept. 21, 2016, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Beryl (Alderson); sons, Drew, Curt and Grant; and nine grandchildren.

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

MOON, Darryl Jay, age 65; born Jan. 10, 1951, in Shelby, Mich.; died March 26, 2016, in Vero Beach, Fla. He was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his daughter, Kerry N. Moon; sisters, Gyl E. Bateman and Jean E. Gustavsen; and two grandchildren.

A marker is placed near his parents' burial site at Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs, with private inurnment, Vero Beach.

RORABECK, Herbert, age 86; born Dec. 1, 1929, in Delton, Mich.; died Nov. 1, 2016, in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was a member of the Delton Church.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn (Shugars); daughters, Linda Hill and Gayle Brown; foster children: Janet Atkins, Nancy Little, Diane Voteberg, Amanda "Tina" Hayes, Patricia Sargent, Judy Saye, Richard Brizendine and many others; brother, Richard; seven grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; many step-great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and many step-great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by David Tenold, Bayani Pastrana and Jerry Brown, and interment was in Hickory Corners Cemetery, Barry Township, Mich.

SMITH, M. Irene (McKiness), age 94; born Jan. 9, 1922, in Waltonville, Ill.; died Sept. 26, 2016, in Rochelle, Ill. She was a member of the DeKalb (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Sonja J. Grosboll, Betty J. Lawrence and Barbara

J. Male; 12 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Leonardo Oliverira, and interment was in New Shiloh Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

SNIDER, William E., age 89; born Aug. 27, 1927, in Parkersburg, W.V.; died Oct. 24, 2016, in Chico, Calif. He was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church. William pastored the Holly and Oxford (Mich.) churches from April 1964 to Dec. 1968.

Survivors include his son, Douglas; daughter, Janet Morikone; sister, Eleanor Kelly; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Art Slagle, and private inurnment was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Hollywood, Calif.

STUCK, Sophia (Rudick), age 92; born Feb. 22, 1924, in Albion, Mich.; died Oct. 21, 2016, in Kalamazoo, Mich. She was the last surviving founding member of the Delton (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Murray M. Jr. and Ivan A.; daughters, Sharon G. Smith, Carol L. Rhodes, Donna J. Hook and Janet L. Costie; sister, Alexandria "Sonya" Bowermaster; 14 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

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

WERY, Celia C. (Denler), age 92; born Jan. 31, 1924, in Grand Marais, Minn.; died Oct. 17, 2016, in Green Bay, Wis. She was a member of the Green Bay Church.

Survivors include her brothers, Julian, Arnold Jr., Leland, Loren and Veryl Denler; and sisters, Angie Froemming, Virginia Denler, Bonnie Brucher and Darlene Brooks.

Funeral services were conducted by Bill Ochs, and interment was in Mill Center Cemetery, Green Bay.

Classifieds

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>.

At Your Service

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

ADVENTIST BOOKS: Whether you're looking for new titles or reprints from our pioneers, visit <http://www.TEACHServices.com> or ask your ABC for our titles. For used Adventist books, visit <http://www.LNFBBooks.com>. **AUTHORS:** Interested in having your book published, call 800-367-1844 for free evaluations.

Travel/Vacation

COLLEGE DALE, TENN., GUESTHOUSE: Fully equipped condo with kitchen and laundry, 1½ 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>.

Miscellaneous

WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER: For 75 years, we have taught people to live healthy, avoid disease and maintain

youthful energy or helped healing diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression, anxiety and many more. Invest in health, call 800-634-9355 or visit <http://www.wildwoodhealth.com>.

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 March 31.

ONE VOICE
Step Up to the Microphone

If you are a creative teen or young adult who has something to say, it's time to get it off your chest. The *Lake Union Herald* is looking for stories of faith and challenge written by readers between the ages of 14 and 30. A \$100 scholarship will be awarded for each published entry. It's time that you are heard!

...and get \$100 for speaking your mind.

Send 450 words of hope, inspiration and challenge to: herald@lakeunion.org. Place "One Voice" in the subject line.

CALLING ALL NEWSLETTERS!

The *Herald* wants to be in the loop!

Does your church or school produce a newsletter? We want to be on your mailing list! Send us your newsletter by mail or by email, and we'll look for article ideas to include in future issues of the *Lake Union Herald*.

EMAIL: herald@lakeunion.org

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

Let's Pray!



Let's Pray!

LETSPRAY.HOPETV.ORG

WATCH FOR ONE HOUR ONCE A WEEK

- Rx FOR**
- WAVERING FAITH
 - STRESSFUL TIMES
 - BROKEN HEARTS
 - FAILING HEALTH
 - _____



CALL INTO THE SHOW WITH YOUR
PRAYERS | STORIES | PRAISE

(877)7-LETSPRAY

WATCH
FRIDAYS
8:00 PM, EST



HopeChannel



Streaming at hopetv.org

Free-to-air television in some areas
(for list, see hopetv.org/local)

Employment

DENTAL ASSOCIATE WANTED! Looking for an individual of character and skill to join my general family practice. I will mentor and assist a potential new owner with the goal of transitioning out of full-time practice. Our office technology is up-to-date, our patient trust level is high and the potential income is great. We are a fee-for-service practice with five operatories and a tremendous team located in South Central Penn., near Gettysburg, Baltimore and Harrisburg. For more information, contact drbillwaring@gmail.com.

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION invites applications for a full-time, tenure track faculty position. Applicants

must hold a Ph.D. degree with Curriculum and Instruction as the preferred specialization, and must have taught for at least five years in a K-12 classroom setting; be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church; and have demonstrated effectiveness as a teacher and scholar. Additional details and application instructions available at <http://lasierra.edu/jobs>.

NOW HIRING EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS to be based in Chengdu, China. Competitive salary package based on competence and experience. Native English speaker; holds a bachelor's degree, preferably with early childhood teaching experiences. Education Center run by Adventist professionals. For more information, visit <http://sgg.com.sg/career/jobs.htm> or email gateway@sgg.com.sg.

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (ADU) seeks a full-time physical therapy faculty to teach in one of the following areas: therapeutic exercise, musculoskeletal, cardiopulmonary or pediatric PT. The optimal candidate will be an Adventist with an earned academic doctorate, teaching experience and a scholarly agenda, and is eligible for licensure in Florida. A candidate with a Doctor of Physical Therapy and a clinical specialist certificate would be considered. Position begins August of 2017. Send CV to Donna Meyer at donna.meyer@adu.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks an Adventist, Masters-prepared PA faculty member. The ideal candidate will have clinical experience in Family Practice and Emergency Medicine. Prior

teaching experience is desired but not necessary. Start date June 1, 2017. Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin at jochewak@ucollege.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks full-time professor of Communications and English with strong skills in magazine journalism, editing and writing instruction for position beginning July 2017. Doctorate is preferred. Please submit curriculum vitae to Mark Robison, Humanities Division chair, at marobiso@ucollege.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S ENGLISH DEPARTMENT is seeking applications for a full-time faculty member specializing in British literature of the 18th or 19th century. Preferred candidates will have a Ph.D.; creative writing background is

System Includes Recorder & IPTV

Official Distribution Partner for all Adventist Broadcasters



High Definition and DVR

Connect to any TV • Record your favorite shows • IPTV

Complete Satellite System Includes 36 inch Satellite Dish

Only \$199 Plus shipping

Watch available IPTV Channels via Internet - FREE



Please ask us about INTERNET Channels

No Monthly Fees
No Subscriptions
No Credit Checks
FREE Install Kit

26 Adventist Channels
Plus more than 80 other FREE Christian Channels and News Channels



Two Room System \$349 plus shipping

866-552-6882

The #1 choice for Adventist satellite programming for more than 10 Years!

Adventist Satellite • 8801 Washington Blvd, Suite 101 • Roseville, CA 95678

www.adventistsat.com

a plus. Send CV with cover letter to Judy Myers Laue at lauej@swau.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY has faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology, the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Chemistry. For details and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. We invite you to share this announcement. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit <https://wallawalla.edu/>.

Real Estate/Housing

SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE is an Adventist community in a rural Okla. setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, independent

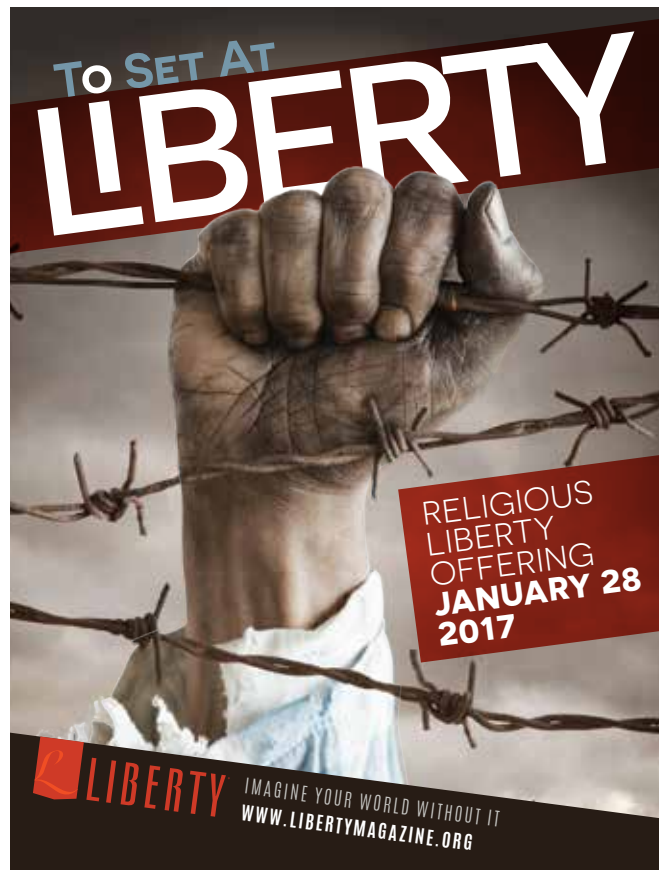
living, nursing home and transportation as needed. For more information, visit <http://www.summitridgevillage.org>, or call Bill Norman at 405-208-1289.

For Sale

CITRUS FUNDRAISING for your church or school. Hand-selected citrus direct from the grove. Indian River Fundraisers. For more information, call tollfree 800-558-1998.

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB NAME

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



COMMISSION
CULTURE

COMMISSIONED TO STOOP

BY GARY BURNS

During the campaign process, our country (and our church) has been influenced by negative sentiments and expressions of disdain, hate and acts of violence. There has been a lot of “us” and “them” discussions that cause blood pressures to rise, even at family holiday gatherings! How does this all fit with our understanding of the gospel which we have been commissioned to share?

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins (Proverbs 10:12). This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you (John 15:12). Our commission is to love as he loved. How are we doing?

Who does God love? He loves the disadvantaged. *He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing (Deuteronomy 10:17-18). By this all will know*

that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:35).

In this post-election social mayhem, let's be like our Redeemer to everyone so what he said will become our reality – *that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me (John 17:23).*

Who do you love? Let's learn to love as Jesus loves. *I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love, and I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them (Hosea 11:4).* I guess, we're also commissioned to “stoop.” Let's give it a try.

Gary Burns is the prayer coordinator for the Lake Union Conference

Scripture texts from New King James Version

Finding My Voice

BY ASHLEY NEU

As I walked through the doors of the Adventist world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, I was greeted by a swarm of men and women dressed in business clothing. I had no idea what to expect as I made my way into a giant room equipped with lots of cameras and a well-set-up stage. This was the annual Year-end Meeting where the official business of the church is conducted and, as I am Andrews University's Student Association president, I was an invited participant.

My nervousness turned to curiosity as soon as Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division (NAD), took the stage. As the meetings commenced, he invited anyone under the age of 30 to come and stand by the stage. There were 14 of us. As I stood looking out into the audience, I was sad — sad that out of 300, only 14 of us were young adults. I stood there wondering if our presence even mattered at these meetings. Would the church even care what we had to say? Jackson said something soon after which made me realize just how much influence the young adults had. He said, "All are wanted; all are needed." It suddenly hit me like a ton of bricks. Young adults *do* have a place in the church. Our voices mean something and we shouldn't wait until we are told to speak up — we need to speak up now.

The following day, all the Student Association presidents were invited to have lunch with Jackson. This was a chance for us to express our concerns and ask questions regarding young adults' place in the church. As we sat there discussing the mission of the church and our involvement, it was clear to see the passion Elder Jackson had for young people. For every

question we asked, he had a biblical response, and he ended by saying that it was up to us as young adults to speak up for our generation. He encouraged us to raise our voice on issues involving the church — issues such as finance, education and women's ordination. Inviting the 14 of us to these meetings is just a small part of young adult ministry in the church. As Jackson expressed, it's up to us to carry on the mission of the church.

As I reflect back on my trip, I'm encouraged to see young adults get involved. This experience gave me new insights into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its mission. As our church and its mission continue to grow, I hope young adults will see their value in the church and stay involved. I hope that our generation will see just how important it is for our voice to be heard, and how important it is for us to continue carrying out the mission of the church.



Ashley Neu is a senior public relations major at Andrews University and she received a \$100 scholarship for this article.

If you are a young adult interested in submitting an article for consideration, please email: herald@lakeunion.org.

THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | (269) 473-8242
Publisher..... Don Livesay president@lakeunion.org
Editor..... Gary Burns editor@lakeunion.org
Managing Editor..... Debbie Michel herald@lakeunion.org
Circulation/Back Pages Editor..... Judi Doty circulation@lakeunion.org
Art Direction/Design..... Robert Mason
Proofreader..... Susan K. Slikkers

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Health System... Anthony Vera Cruz Anthony.VeraCruz@ahss.org
Andrews University..... Rebecca May RMay@andrews.edu
Illinois..... Shona Cross scross@ilcsda.org
Indiana..... Steve Poenitz spoenitz@indysda.org
Lake Region..... Paul Young communication@lakeregionsda.org
Michigan..... Andy Im aim@misda.org
Wisconsin..... Juanita Edge jedge@wi.adventist.org

CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Health System... Anthony Vera Cruz Anthony.VeraCruz@ahss.org
Andrews University..... Becky St. Clair stclair@andrews.edu
Illinois..... Shona Cross scross@ilcsda.org
Indiana..... Colleen Kelly colleenkelly1244@gmail.com
Lake Region..... Paul Young communication@lakeregionsda.org
Michigan..... Julie Clark jclark@misda.org
Wisconsin..... Deidre Roat droat@wi.adventist.org

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | (269) 473-8200
President..... Don Livesay
Secretary..... Maurice Valentine
Treasurer..... Glynn Scott
Vice President..... Carmelo Mercado
Associate Treasurer..... Richard Moore
Associate Treasurer..... Jon Corder
ACSDR..... Diana Bruch
ASI..... Carmelo Mercado
Communication..... Gary Burns
Communication Associate..... Debbie Michel
Education..... Linda Fuchs
Education Associate..... Barbara Livesay
Education Associate..... Ruth Horton
Health..... Randy Griffin
Hispanic Ministries..... Carmelo Mercado
Information Services..... Sean Parker
Ministerial..... Maurice Valentine
Native Ministries..... Gary Burns
Public Affairs and Religious Liberty..... Nicholas Miller
Trust Services..... Jon Corder
Women's Ministries..... Barbara Livesay
Youth Ministries..... Ron Whitehead

LOCAL CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

Adventist Health System: Terry Shaw, president/CEO, 900 Hope Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714; 407-357-1000.

Andrews University: Andrea Luxton, president, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0670; 269-471-7771.

Illinois: Ray Pichette, president; Ron Aguilera, secretary; Michael Daum, treasurer; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527-8438; 630-856-2850.

Indiana: Steve Poenitz, president; Mark Eaton, secretary/treasurer; street address: 15205 Westfield Blvd., Carmel, IN 46032; mailing address: P.O. Box 5000, Westfield, IN 46074; 317-844-6201.

Lake Region: R. Clifford Jones, president; Timothy Nixon, secretary; Yvonne Collins, treasurer; 8517 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60619; 773-846-2661.

Michigan: Jay Gallimore, president; James Micheff Jr., secretary; Leroy Bruch, treasurer; street address: 320 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing, MI 48933; mailing address: P.O. Box 24187, Lansing, MI 48909; 517-316-1500.

Wisconsin: Michael G. Edge, president; Brian Stephan, secretary/treasurer; street address: N2561 Old Highway 16, Fall River, WI 53932; mailing address: P.O. Box 100, Fall River, WI 53932; 920-484-6555.

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

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

He Said, "Go!"

BY BECKY ST. CLAIR

The first sermon Chantal Williams heard after arriving on campus was one by Dwight Nelson in Pioneer Memorial Church. It wasn't the warm fuzzy "welcome students" sermon she had expected. She remembers Nelson saying, "You're here because our motto says to change the world — and that's what you're going to do. We'll give you a foundation and show you how to have an even better relationship with God and how to experience him in different forms of spiritual expression. Then you'll take your unique abilities and go change the world."



Chantal Williams

The sermon stuck in her mind for one particular reason. When Chantal was 10 years old, she wanted to be a medical missionary. So, as a college student, studying physical therapy, she knew she wanted to be a student missionary. "I told God of my desire and admitted to him that I didn't know when or where, but that I expected him to show me."

One day, as she was sitting in her dorm room having her morning worship, she said to God, "Okay, Holy Spirit, I want to be a student missionary. Where should I go?" The response she heard was, "Go to Turkey." "I frowned and said, 'Holy Spirit, do you realize that's a really random place?' And the Holy Spirit replied, 'Maybe to you. But that's where I want you to go.'" Chantal went on the Internet to research what kinds of volunteers were needed in Turkey and discovered they needed a Spanish/English teacher. "In shock, I said, 'Lord! I speak English and I speak Spanish. I can go to Turkey!'"

In the culture class she takes as part of the preparation for serving as a student missionary, an emphasis is placed on embracing culture. "It wasn't anything about stomping over and showing how superior our approach to life is. We were taught to go with an open mind and see what they can teach us. God has already been there, and they're ready. He just needs people to go and work. We need to be the seed-planters and start something for him because we all want to go home."

Becky St. Clair is media communications manager at Andrews University.

Address Correction

Only paid subscribers should contact the *Lake Union Herald* office with their address changes. Members should contact their local conference membership clerks directly for all *Lake Union Herald* address changes. Contact phone numbers are listed below for your convenience, and addresses are listed to the right. Online submissions can be made at <http://herald.lakeunion.org> under "Subscription Change."

Lake Union Herald Office: 269-473-8242 **Lake Region:** 773-846-2661
Illinois: 630-856-2874 **Michigan:** 517-316-1552
Indiana: 317-844-6201 ext. 241 **Wisconsin:** 920-484-6555

Members outside the Lake Union may subscribe by sending a check for \$12.50 (per year) to P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. **Note:** If you are a member of a church in the Lake Union but are not receiving the *Lake Union Herald*, please request it through your church clerk or your local conference secretary.





SEE FOR YOURSELF

Students are extraordinarily friendly, professors are exceptionally caring, the location is abundant with natural beauty, and the whole campus is focused on growing closer to Christ.

But don't just trust our word. Arrange your own free visit to Southern's campus, or join one of our special events.

See Southern for yourself.

FREE* PreviewSouthern event:

March 23-24, 2017



To arrange your visit, call 1.800.SOUTHERN
or go to southern.edu/visit.

Collegedale, TN

