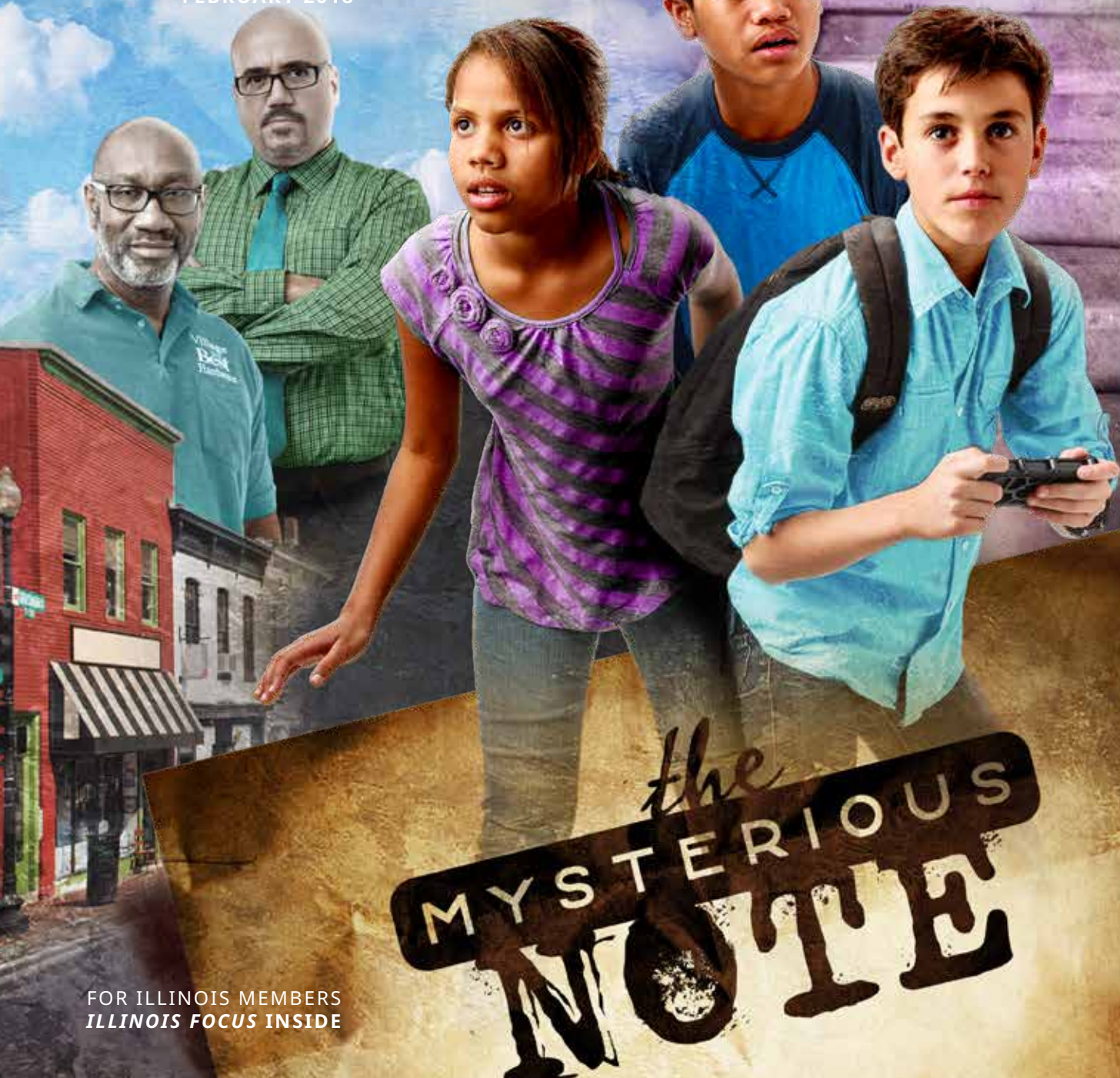


Lake Union HERALD

FEBRUARY 2018



FOR ILLINOIS MEMBERS
ILLINOIS FOCUS INSIDE

LIVING BY SACRIFICE
A YOUNG COUPLE CONFRONTS
STAGGERING DEBT

THE MYSTERIOUS NOTE
UPCOMING ADVENTIST FILM TEACHES
LESSONS IN GOOD STEWARDSHIP





As we were putting together this issue of the *Herald*, my mind went to Jesus' trilogy of the Kingdom in Matthew 25. The first story is about the ten maidens responsible for lighting the way for the wedding procession with their lamps of oil (see vs. 1-13); the second is about the three servants who received resources to manage, based on their several abilities (see vs. 14-30); the third story illustrates two classes of people represented by the sheep and the goats (see vs. 31-46), who were judged by their actions of generosity or lack thereof — three stories about how we manage our resources and opportunities, i.e., stewardship. You'll discover some inspiring and encouraging stories that, if taken to heart, will bring joy and fulfillment, and ensure that we will hear Jesus say, "Well done," when we meet at the gates of the New Jerusalem. ■

Gary Burns
Editor



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By Rich Aguilera



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Jacob's Vow

The Bible records the story of Jacob leaving his father and mother, fleeing for his life. Jacob had stolen the blessing of his father, Isaac, from his brother, Esau.

Isaac charged him not to take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. *Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother* (Genesis 28:1-2 NKJV).

On the eve of the second day of Jacob's journey, he was alone, anxious and fearing God had left him when he came to a certain place in the vicinity of the Luz. It was in this place that Jacob rested for the night, using a stone for his pillow (see verses 10, 11).

During his sleep, Jacob had a dream in which he heard God's voice. *I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants . . . Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you* (v. 13, 15).

Jacob was awakened from his sleep and declared, . . . *Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it* (v. 16).

In a grateful response to God's promise of blessings to Jacob, he vowed: *If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You* (v. 20-22).

This vow of Jacob is the first recorded vow in history (see *SDA Bible Commentary*, p. 383). Jacob made this vow solely based on the reality that he was in the presence of God. He was not alone. God promised to be with Jacob in all places wherever he would go.

As you reflect on God's goodness throughout the days of 2017, recount the times that you had a real sense of the presence of God in fulfillment of His

promise to be with you always (see Matthew 28:20). In response to God's goodness to you, what vows will you make for 2018 regarding your time, talents, treasures and temperance? What vows are you willing to make regarding your stewardship of all the resources God has placed in your trust?

During the first quarter of 2018 (January–March), our members around the world will be studying the principles of stewardship each day. Take advantage of this wonderful and practical Sabbath School resource to encourage you to follow the example of Jacob. Join me in setting aside some quality time to reflect on God's goodness. Based on the reality of our reflection, let's make some bold stewardship vows that will advance God's Kingdom for eternity. ■

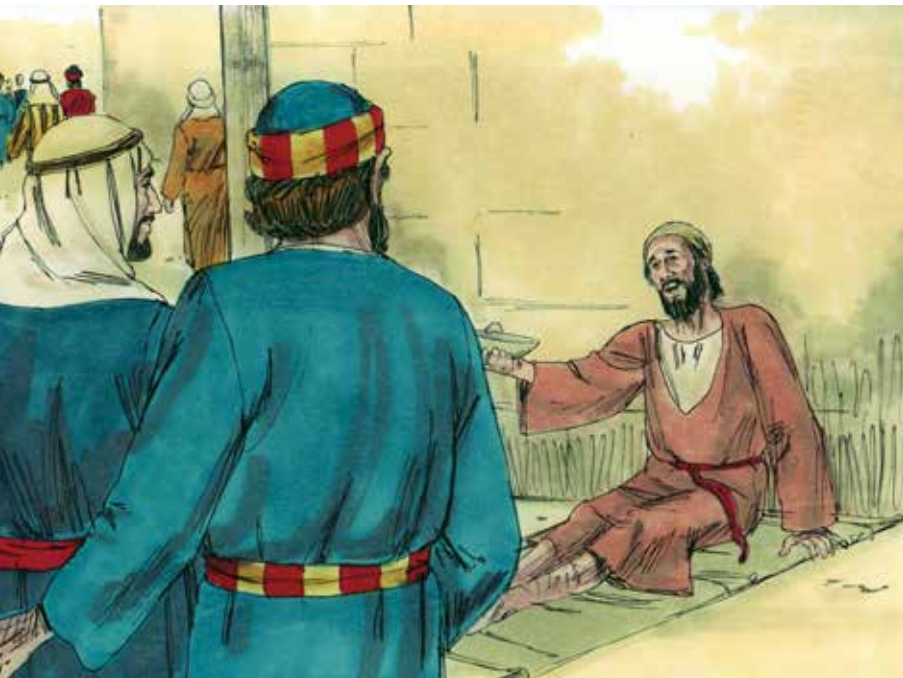
Glynn C. W. Scott is treasurer of the Lake Union Conference.



▲ Glynn Scott



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What Matters to God

By Jon Corder



▲ Jon Corder

WHEN I THINK OF STEWARDSHIP, my thoughts automatically transition to how good God is. That He has chosen and individually equipped us to be His stewards is simply amazing! Each has a personality that is unique. Each has been given their own package of talents, resources and abilities. When these gifts, that we have individually, are interfaced with what others have, a powerful stewardship team is created that will make a wonderful difference in the world God created and placed within our care. Imagine the influence a team like that would have!

I haven't always understood what a privilege it is to be one of God's stewards. That has changed though, because now, as a church, I believe we are communicating more clearly that stewardship encompasses other things beside financial resources. So, I hope my following thoughts about stewardship will be helpful to you as you map your own stewardship journey

and identify how you can use the gifts God has given you in fulfilling your duty and privilege as one of His stewards.

A steward acts and manages on behalf of an owner or person in charge. We know from Scripture that God made us His stewards at creation. Therefore, as God's stewards, our thinking should be, "What matters to God should matter to us." What naturally follows is to discover what matters to God.

For example, there should be no question regarding the value our Creator/Redeemer has placed on each person because He has given and sacrificed so much for each one of us. And, because He wants the best for each of us, should we not want the best for each other? Also, if His church is His bride, then shouldn't we be careful how we treat His church? Additionally, if our bodies are the temple of God, then surely our health matters to Him and consequently, should matter to us, too.

But this is where the disconnect takes place for me. I believe all of what I just said, but I do a poor job following through with the, "then it should matter to me." For example, I know that I am valued by God and that He loves me very much. Many texts in the Bible confirm that. However, it's easy with my negative self-talk to think more like this: "How could God really love me? Look at what I've just done!"

This is where I need to have more of the mind of God than relying so much on what I think because my thoughts and opinions are inaccurate. I believe this aspect of being a good steward is a personal journey on which the Holy Spirit guides us. Perhaps, that is where the change is taking place for me. Because of the conviction of the Holy Spirit, my behavior is matching up better with what matters to God because it has begun to matter to me.

Another thought that is starting to shape my thinking about stewardship comes from the story about the lame man that Peter and John saw when they went to the temple. As they went by him, he asked for money and Peter told him to look at them. *Then Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up (Acts 3:6 KJV).*

What caught my attention is that Peter willingly gave what he had. As a result, the man was blessed with

much more than he asked for or expected. *What could be a simpler stewardship concept than to willingly give of what we have!*

Ellen White says it well, “God calls not only for our gifts for the needy, but for our cheerful countenance, our hopeful words, our kindly hand-clasp. When Christ healed the sick, He laid His hands upon them. So should we come in close touch with those whom we seek to benefit. There are many from whom hope has departed. Bring back the sunshine to them. Many have lost their courage. Speak to them words of cheer. Pray for them. There are those who need the bread of life. Read to them from the Word of God. Upon many is a soul-sickness which no earthly balm can reach nor physician heal. Pray for these souls, bring them to Jesus. Tell them that there is a balm in Gilead and a Physician there” (Ellen White, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 418).

I like this concept because it puts stewardship within the reach of everyone as they go through each day. It highlights the difference a smile, a firm hand shake and cheerful words can make. It places value in praying for others even if they may not know they’re being prayed for. It says there is power in the Bible as it is imparted to those in need of hope. These are simple and easy things we can do and, when willingly given, can be a tremendous blessing to others as we function as God’s stewards.

Another aspect of stewardship is an attitude of thankfulness for God’s many blessings we enjoy. It is easy to think that if we had more resources, more time, more talent or more influence, we could make a greater contribution and be a better steward. I once thought along these lines. But God convinced me otherwise through a reading program that spanned a number of years. A place where I once worked encouraged employees to read books on the life of Christ authored by Ellen White. I added a few others to the list. I was amazed at the number of promises and words of hope I found within the pages of these books! One promise in particular literally changed my life. I have claimed it over and over again, and it has done more to increase my trust in God than almost anything else. I hope it will do the same for you.

“**Let none waste time in deploring the scantiness of their visible resources.** The outward appearance may be unpromising, but **energy and trust in God will develop resources.** The supply in their hands may seem to fall short of the need to be filled; but **in the hands of the Lord it will prove more than sufficient.** By the touch of His hand **He can increase the scanty provision and make it sufficient for all.** The gift brought to Him **with thanksgiving and with prayer** for His blessing, **He will multiply**” (Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 242, 243; emphasis supplied).

The lesson I learned was *to replace the time I spent asking for more with a spirit of thankfulness for what God had already given.* What a difference that has made for me in being a good steward!

As you contemplate the privilege that is yours to be a steward for God, I encourage you to think about what matters to God and let it become important to you. Let Peter’s example be yours — willingly give what you have. Equally important, have a spirit of thankfulness for the resources, talents, influence and abilities God already has given you. If you do this, He will improve and multiply them. I believe these three things will make all of us better stewards. I dare you to try them! ■

Jon Corder is the Stewardship director for the Lake Union Conference.

What matters to God?

- Do I matter to God?
- Does the relationship I have with Him matter?
- Does my health matter to God?
- Do other people matter to God? Are they valuable to Him?
- Does the earth that God created matter to Him?
- Does His Word, the Bible, matter to Him?
- Does His law matter to Him?
- Does His church matter to Him?

Kids These Days!

How many times have you heard that phrase, or said it yourself? As we approach middle age and beyond, we are often disturbed about the apparent failings of the younger generation. This can feel overwhelming to parents, grandparents, teachers and pastors.



▲ Alina M. Baltazar

Those who are “older and wiser” worry about the behavior of youth. Starting in the teenage years, or earlier, adults may become concerned about what music, movies, games and styles of dress interest our youth. There is a concern those interests may lead them astray and away from God’s plans for their lives. In addition, youth are known to take more risks and not always think about how those risks will affect their future. This leads those who care for them to become fearful because we know how a one-time mistake could have life-altering consequences.

These fears have not changed over the centuries. Even Ellen White was worried about the youth in her time. Human development is still the same. As we age, we tend to forget the risks we took and how foolish our parents and grandparents thought we were. The mistakes we made when we were young led to lessons we remember more than what we learned in school or from our parents.

There are some actual generational differences that have been noticed by researchers. Usually these changes are influenced by the environment in which each generation grew up. The youngest generational cohort, those born between 1995–2012, have been called iGen.¹ Although Millennials, those born between 1980 and 1994, grew up in the age of computers, the Internet didn’t become commercially available until they

were in their teens. The iGen generation, named after the iPhone, grew up with smartphones in their hands as children. As a result, they are: 1) in no hurry to grow up, 2) using the Internet excessively, 3) communicating less in-person, 4) less religious, and 5) more accepting of diversity.¹

Each generation has its strengths and weaknesses that are reactions to changes in society. In turn, each generation has influenced societal changes: think about the Baby Boomers, those born between 1946 and 1964. What we need to do is to appreciate the challenges young people are facing today and try to bridge the gap by remembering what it was like when we were young. It helps to listen in order to learn about teens’ challenges so we can help guide them to the path the Lord desires for them. The Lord knows the changes our society is dealing with today; remember, He is in charge. He wants us to train our young people to hasten His kingdom.

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!” (E.G. White, *Education*, p. 271). ■

Alina M. Baltazar, PhD, MSW, CFLE, is associate professor of Social Work at Andrews University and is a certified family life educator.

1. Twenge, J. (2017). *iGen: Why Today's Super-connected Kids are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy — and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Is Soy Good for You?

Soy just got real personal for me. For years, I've been telling people the fact that more than one cup of soy milk each day can reduce men's chances of prostate cancer by 70 percent.¹

Just last week my dad, who's taken most of my health advice but has never been a fan of soy, was diagnosed with prostate cancer — an aggressive kind. Fears of soy lead many men, 88 percent in the same study, to reject it outright.

Soy also is personal for me because I work on behalf of the malnourished in Uganda where soy is the only affordable source of high-quality protein for the poor. No other plant-based food contains all nine essential amino acids required for human nutrition. Lack of knowledge about soy's value causes many families who grow it, not to give it to their own children, 35 percent of whom are chronically malnourished.

You can hardly say the word “soy” these days without starting a debate. Many Americans, including many Adventists, are wondering if soybeans are even a positive factor in the diet. We should know better. National Geographic research identified the Seventh-day Adventists of Loma Linda as a Blue Zone, a hotspot of health and longevity. Researcher Dan Buettner found soybeans to be one of our super foods.² These same beans were attributed for the longevity of the Blue Zone residents in Okinawa, Japan, as well. He says the simple act of eating beans can add four years of life. So something about the bean is incredible.

Soy is proven to help prevent many forms of cancers³ and even bone loss leading to osteoporosis⁴, yet many of us are passing the soy milk and choosing other non-dairy alternatives. Has anyone noticed that there are zero grams of protein in all the other “milks,” including almond, flax, coconut and cashew?

For vegetarians, and especially vegans, the high quality protein in soy milk (eight grams per cup) should not be passed by.

While all grains and legumes benefit from a soak, soy needs 10–12 hours to activate the enzymes that make its nutrients available. A twenty-minute boil and you have a super food! From those beans, you can make your own milk, tofu or just keep boiling to eat them like any other bean. Their yellow color gives it the image of being a pot of gold. And, packed with fiber, minerals and amino acids, this treasure is unique. ■

Joy Kauffman, MPH, is president of FARM STEW International.

1. Jacobsen, B., S. Knutsen, and G. Fraser. “Does high soy milk intake reduce prostate cancer incidence? The Adventist Health Study (United States).” *Cancer Causes and Control*, 1998, 9, 553-557. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1023/A%3A1008819500080>
2. Dan Buettner. *Blue Zones: The Science of Living Longer*. National Geographic, Washington DC, 2016, pp. 23, 35.
3. Messina, M., V. Messina, and K. Detchell. *The Simple Soybean and Your Health*, Avery Publishing Group, New York, 1994.
4. Matthews, Vichuda Lousuebsakul, Synnove F. Knutsen, W. Lawrence Beeson, and Gary E. Frasier. “Soy milk and dairy consumption is independently associated with ultrasound attenuation of the heel bone among postmenopausal women: the Adventist Health Study-2.” *Nutrition Research Volume 31*, Issue 10, October 2011, pp 766-775. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nutres.2011.09.016>



▲ Joy Kauffman



Two Kinds of Righteousness, Part IV

No human being will be justified in his sight by works of the law, since through the law comes knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20, RSV).



▲ George R. Knight

That Bible teaching seems to be clear enough. The law's function is to hold up God's ideal and to point out our sin when we fail to meet that ideal. The law, Romans 3:20 plainly states, has absolutely no power to save.

That is all true. But! But if I really believe that justification is by grace through faith without works of law, then what happens to the law?

Good question!

It was the fear that a downplaying of the law would end up doing away with the Sabbath that motivated the Smith and Butler forces in the 1888 era.

Let's listen to Butler on the topic. In an article titled, "The Righteousness of the Law Fulfilled by Us," he noted that "there is a sentiment prevailing almost everywhere" that is pleasant but dangerous: "Only believe in Christ, and you will be all right.' . . . Jesus does it all." That teaching, he

proclaimed, "is one of the most dangerous heresies in the world." The whole point of the third angel's message, he emphasized, is "the necessity of obedience to the law of God. 'Here are they that *keep the commandments of God*, and the faith of Jesus.'" The Christian world, Butler added, was rapidly losing that truth, and Adventist needed to uplift it.

There we have it. Too much of Christ and His righteousness, some feared, would do away with the law, obedience and the need for human righteousness.

That fear was at the heart of the reaction to Jones and Waggoner's teachings at Minneapolis.

The two sides had two vastly different perspectives. For the reformers, the key words and phrases were "Christ," "faith," "justification by faith," and terms related to Christ's righteousness. The Smith/Butler group, on the other hand, emphasized "human effort," "works," "obedience," "law," "commandments," "our righteousness," and "justification by works."

Those two emphases are still quite distinct in Adventism 120 years after Minneapolis.

Do they have to be mutually exclusive? Why or why not?

How do you line up on these issues? Think it through. Discuss it with your family and friends. ■

George R. Knight is a retired professor of Church History at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. This article is from his book, *Lest We Forget*, a daily devotional, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, page 267, printed by permission.

Step Into the Light

I was driving home when an interview on a very secular National Public Radio program arrested my attention.



It was an interview with an autobiographical author who wrote about her life crisis as an alcoholic. What caught my attention was the recovering alcoholic's response to the question, "How do you make it through your day." She gave a two-word response: "I pray."

The interviewer then asked what she meant by prayer. Her response gave me a whole new paradigm on prayer. She described her prayer experience as stepping into the light, where she was completely exposed before God. She described her commitment to absolute honesty and vulnerability with God as the key to her recovery.

Her bold and brave approach to recovery has made a big impression on me. I was reminded of David's prayer as he made the brave and bold decision to step into the light: *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting* (Psalm 139:23, 24 NKJV).

I am learning to step into the light. Why don't you join me, encouraged by the following:

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1John 1:5 NKJV).

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6 NKJV).

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12, NKJV).

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined (Isaiah 9:2 NKJV).

Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light" (John 12:25 NKJV).

I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness (John 12:46 NKJV).

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light (Romans 13:12 NKJV).

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light" (Ephesians 5:8-14 NKJV). ■



▲ Gary Burns

Gary Burns is prayer coordinator for the Lake Union Conference.

Tapestry of God's Love

NINETY-YEAR-OLD WEAVES TOGETHER FAITH AND SERVICE

By Debbie Michel



▲ Harvey Brock displays a quilt he made from neckties. Since his retirement, he knits lap blankets for the homeless and plays piano for several churches.

EVER SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE BOY, 90-year old Harvey Brock enjoyed serving his community. When the Indiana native retired 25 years ago, he took it upon himself to volunteer to play the piano for church services and knit items for homeless veterans.

His desire to give back is also a natural progression of a life spent serving his country. After enlisting in the military in 1946 and completing his tour of duty, he returned home and found employment in various hospitals throughout the U.S. As he moved around, working in states such as Ohio and Georgia, he always made time to serve.

Today, there's never a day he has nothing to do. On Sunday mornings, he can be found playing the piano for his retirement

community, and an hour later gets in his car for the 15-mile trip to play at a Baptist church in Louisville. On Mondays, he regroups; Tuesdays crochets; Wednesday nights returns to Louisville to play for prayer meeting; Thursdays plays for the retirement community; Fridays crochets; and on Sabbaths plays for his church in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

"My niece asks me, 'When are you going to retire?'" he said from his home in Clarksville, Indiana, situated just across the Kentucky state line. "But I can't just sit and do nothing."

He has always enjoyed needlework and embroidery since grade school, but it wasn't until he was helping some friends haul a trailer to Alaska that he plunged back into the craft, completing an afghan during the long journey.

To date, he has made over 200 lap blankets for veterans and countless more items, including bedspreads for friends expecting babies or getting married.

Each mat he crochets measures 36" x 72" and is meticulously made using 1,000 recycled plastic bags from grocery stores.

Harvey's 72-year-old niece, Beverly Crump, who lives nearby and keeps an eye on him, says he taught her that "you get back more than what you give."

In all the years he assisted the community, the only time his pace slowed was when in 2003 he faced a severe health crisis. Given a diagnosis of colon cancer, doctors told him he would need chemotherapy and radiation, but the chance of survival was 45 percent. Not liking the odds, he made the wrenching decision to forego treatment, opting for a protocol of drinking special juices. Miraculously his tumor shrunk and he has received a clean bill of health every year since.

"The Lord has blessed me, and as long as I can play for church and am doing His will, I'll keep going," he said.

Harvey's story is a fitting reminder of the Parable of the Talents (Matt 25:14-29). God has given everyone different abilities, and He wants us to multiply and expand and utilize those abilities for His Kingdom. Everything belongs to the Lord, so the talents that God gives us are His and should be used for His glory. We will all answer to God one day for what we do with our talents, gifts, and time. ■

Debbie Michel, associate director of Communication, Lake Union Conference.

El valor de un buen liderazgo

Recuerdo el momento cuando me nombraron coordinador de la obra hispana de la Asociación de Indiana.

En ese entonces se estaba iniciando obra hispana en la ciudad de Indianápolis y un buen grupo de hispanos asistía a la iglesia los sábados. Rubén Rivera, un pastor dominicano, estaba a cargo del grupo, y la Asociación notó la cantidad de bautismos que estaba teniendo el pastor Rivera. Al reconocer que existía un gran potencial de crecimiento en otras partes del estado, se pensó que sería sabio nombrar a un coordinador para que la Asociación pudiera seguir apoyando la obra hispana. Estuve cinco años al frente de esta responsabilidad y aprendí mucho acerca de crecimiento de iglesia y cómo el Señor bendice cuando hay buena coordinación entre los hermanos, el pastor y la administración.

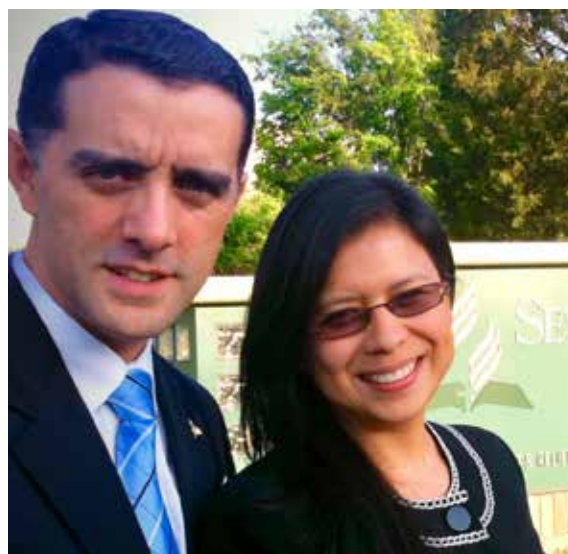
Doy gracias a Dios por los coordinadores de la obra hispana en esta Unión. En particular aprecio mucho el liderazgo que ha desempeñado el pastor David García-Marenko en la Asociación de Michigan. La obra hispana ha crecido bajo su liderazgo y los pastores han sido edificados. Como es de conocimiento de muchos el pastor García ha decidido jubilarse este año. Lo vamos a echar mucho de menos y le deseamos todo lo mejor en la nueva etapa de su vida.

A la vez estoy agradecido por el nuevo coordinador que se ha nombrado en su lugar: se trata del pastor Nilton García. El Señor ha bendecido su ministerio; comenzó su labor pastoral en el estado de Mississippi donde en siete años llegó a plantar seis iglesias y la membresía aumentó a más de 800 personas. En el año 2009 la Asociación de Gulf States lo nombró coordinador de la obra hispana donde la membresía creció de 1.463 a 3.200, la asistencia al campamento hispano creció de 350 a 1.600 personas y el diezmo

aumentó de \$677,000 a \$1.2 millones de dólares. Al entrevistar al pastor me di cuenta que la clave de su éxito radica en su dependencia de Dios por medio de la oración, y el hacer evangelismo por medio de los grupos pequeños. Sin duda otro factor en su éxito es el apoyo de su esposa Sara Castro y de sus hijos Gabriel, Gustavo, Raabe y Rebeca. La familia García llegó al estado de Michigan el año pasado para pastorear la Iglesia Hispana de Berrien Springs y desde este mes el pastor García servirá también como coordinador hispano de la Asociación de Michigan.

Pido sus oraciones a favor del pastor García a fin de que el Señor lo siga usando para cumplir el mandato de predicar el evangelio y así apresurar la venida de nuestro Señor. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



▲ El pastor Nilton García y su esposa Sara Castro García.



▲ Carmelo Mercado

Los que se desempeñan en cargos de influencia y responsabilidad en la iglesia, debieran ir al frente en la causa Dios. Si avanzan de mala gana, otros ni siquiera se moverán. Pero su celo y su ejemplo "ha estimulado a muchos". Cuando su luz brille esplendorosamente, mil antorchas se encenderán en su llama (Ministerio pastoral, p. 292).

A God of Incredible Miracles

By Shannon Kelly



▲ Selma Satonica (right), with her daughter, Rosie Wesolowski, describes how she miraculously escaped Poland and Germany during World War II

Levi Shuler

Shannon Kelly

LAST NOVEMBER, 87-YEAR-OLD SELMA SATONICA entered the Grand Rapids, Michigan, courthouse and proudly took her oath of allegiance to the United States of America, finally fulfilling her goal of becoming a legal U.S. citizen. This moment was a dream come true for the native German, since decades ago she almost did not make it to America.

As World War II ravaged her homeland, the odds of survival and escape seemed stacked against her. But Selma and her family knew that all things are possible with God. Through a series of remarkable miracles and answered prayers, Selma and her family were delivered from the perils of the war, spared from death time and again. “God helped us,” Selma declared emphatically.

Selma Satonica and her twin brother, Helmut, were born to Ferdinand and Elida Wutzke in 1930 in Slobodarka, Poland, then part of the Soviet Union and now the Ukraine. Their family would grow by three more children in the coming years. Although the family were ethnic Germans and spoke the German language, they also spoke Polish. After World War II broke out, this ability — along with many prayers — would help save their lives.

The Bolsheviks, a Russia majority radical group, began hunting down and exterminating anyone caught

speaking German. The officers stood at the windows of peoples’ homes to eavesdrop. “We had to close the window, because the Russian Bolsheviks would come listen if you talk German or Polish,” Selma recalled. “If you talk Polish, they let you go, but if you talk German, they take you.” Every time the family heard the Bolsheviks coming, they would pray to God, and Ferdinand instructed everyone to speak Polish. After hearing this language being spoken, the Bolsheviks left satisfied.

Although knowing Polish helped save them from the Bolsheviks, Selma and her family were in danger of being hauled to concentration camps for another major reason — their faith. Selma’s father owned a shoe shop and, as a Seventh-day Adventist, he closed it every Sabbath. Then came a dire warning that Selma remembers clearly: “If we don’t open it [on Sabbath], they take you away in the concentration camp.” To avoid this fate, a worker was hired to open the store for Ferdinand on Saturdays.

In 1939, Selma’s parents were forced from their home in Poland and moved to Freiburg, Germany. While awaiting placement, they stayed in a camp where they slept on straw mattresses and were served food containing pork. Selma’s parents explained to

the SS commandant that, “We don’t eat pork. We’re Adventists.” The commandant threatened that those who did not eat the food provided and did not do as they were told should be shot, but the family did not back down. As usual, when faced with grave situations, the family prayed. God honored their integrity with a miracle. Instead of executing them, the SS commandant began serving them soup broth without pork, and cheese sandwiches. Seven months later, Selma and her family were settled in Southwestern Poland. The government evicted a family from their home so they could move in. Feeling terrible, Selma’s parents arranged a secret meeting with the evicted family to return the belongings they had been forced to abandon.

Selma’s new residence was close to a barbed-wire enclosed Jewish ghetto. The unwilling inhabitants had to be inside by five o’clock sharp every evening; if they were late, the consequences were deadly. Once, to her horror, Selma witnessed a Nazi shoot a Jewish man for arriving seconds late. “It was 5:01 — 1 minute after,” she recalls, “and the Nazi shot that guy.”

Selma and her family helped their Jewish neighbors every chance they got, often sneaking food to them under the fence. Each exchange was a risk to life should they be caught. Once, they almost were. “One Jew was so hungry,” Selma remembers. “My father sent me to the bakery to get some buns . . .” Selma delivered the buns to her father, who gave them to the Jew. A Nazi wearing civilian clothing saw the encounter. “The Nazi come up, he says, ‘For this, you could end up in concentration camp — that you feed the Jews!’” Her father breathed a prayer. Miraculously, the Nazi chose not to report the exchange. “I’ll close my eyes this time, but let it happen again and you’ll be in the concentration camp,” he warned.

Eventually, Selma and her siblings were forced to join the Hitler Youth program. Selma and her younger sister, Gunda, joined the Bund Deutscher Mädel (BDM), the female division of Hitler Youth. Part of their uniforms included wearing a Swastika arm band, something Selma hated. There was fear that the boys, Helmut and Willie, would be drafted. At the time, boys as young as 10 were taken to war. God answered the family’s prayers and protected her and her siblings from this fate. Her father, Ferdinand, did not escape

the draft, however, and was deported to Hamburg.

Then, on January 18, 1945, during a blizzard, two German soldiers came to the family and instructed them to pack quickly. The German front was collapsing. Russians would invade within the hour, and their town would become a war zone. They had come to help the family escape, remembering the times the family had fed them. Together with two other families, Selma, her mother and her siblings piled into the military truck and headed for a train depot 50 miles away. After prayerfully passing a perilous checkpoint, they arrived to find the station bombed out. The determined soldiers drove another 100 miles to the next train station. There, they found a train overflowing with passengers. Selma thought it looked like a Christmas tree, with people sitting on top and hanging from the sides. It was so packed that the conductor told Selma’s mother to wait for another train. Uncertain of what to do, the family prayed for guidance. After praying, a man dressed in black approached them. “He looked like Johnny Cash,” Selma says, grinning, and told them, “Take this train. This is the last one.” With that, the mysterious man vanished. Recognizing this as an angelic encounter, Selma’s family boarded the train, which was indeed the last.

Two hundred miles later, the train arrived in Cottbus, Germany. Selma and Helmut were sent in search of food, having eaten nothing on their exodus. To their dismay, stamps were needed to purchase food, and they had none. As they stood wondering what to do, a gust of wind blew something against Selma’s shoe: a string of red stamps! These were bread stamps, and provided Selma with two-and-a-half loaves of bread to share. “We come back by my mom in the depot, said, ‘Look, we got bread!’ My mother said, ‘Where did you steal that?’” Selma laughs. “We didn’t steal it! God provided.”

The miracles never stopped, and with help from a Seventh-day Adventist Church, the family immigrated to America. Shoemakers were needed, which just happened to be Ferdinand’s occupation. The family leapt at the chance and sailed across the tempestuous ocean to begin a new life. ■

Shannon Kelly is a journalism student at Andrews University.

**THE MIRACLES
NEVER STOPPED,
AND WITH
HELP FROM A
SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH,
THE FAMILY
IMMIGRATED
TO AMERICA.**

Living by Sacrifice

AFTER PAYING OFF THEIR \$100,000 DEBT, LEILANI AND ADRIAN LANGDON ARE ENRICHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.





David Quilátan

Leilani: It was a humid day, the smell of salt water in the air, and I was getting ready to load the pick-up truck that would allow me to drive the 15 miles to the Majuro airport in the Marshall Islands. It was a day I first longed for and now almost dreaded. My year-long missionary trip was coming to an end. I would be returning to Andrews University to finish up my senior year. Something inside me was stirring, and it wasn't sadness or excitement; it was doubt. Doubt as to whether my time was done here. I never received the okay from God to stay, so I boarded the plane back to the U.S. and started my senior year with my mind still in Majuro. I thought about my time there and realized that God had given me a desire and passion to serve Him and, one day, return to the mission field. However, after completing my senior year and graduate school, I got married to someone who had his own desires and dreams.

Adrian: I remember the first conversation I had with Leilani regarding her deep desire and sense that God would call her again at some point to the mission field. While she spoke, it was like a beam of light came down from heaven and landed on her as she expressed a desire that has always been my life calling. Just kidding, I initially saw my dreams of high-speed Internet and air conditioning vanishing before my eyes. However, as it's become habit for us, I promised we'd pray on it. I've always believed that if God desired for us to be together, then He would allow our desires to align.

Leilani: But alignment has its challenges. A few months before getting married, we were having all of the difficult conversations. Family, kids, sex and, when it came to finances, we realized there were some major differences in the way we viewed money. You see, I grew up believing that there were certain debts that you would just have your entire life (school, car, home). For this reason, when my father lost his job during my sophomore year of college, I did not hesitate to use loans to pay my tuition, fund a new car and, well, a new wardrobe. Why not? I'd be paying on them for the rest of my life so why not enjoy the journey along the



way. Throughout college, I held three jobs and had a full credit load, but always found myself struggling financially — behind on my credit cards and not able to pay the bills. I was working for money, instead of making money work for me. Upon graduation, I received a diploma — and owed the government well over \$100,000 in student loan debt.

Adrian: I, on the other hand, came from a family which lived within their means, saved to pay for items, and was debt-free. Debts that were acquired (home, school, car) were to be diligently paid off in a timely manner so that they could become assets. My father, being a principal at an academy, coupled with a college fund, gave me the opportunity to virtually have no need for student loan debt. Leilani and I quickly realized we had two different perspectives on something that was going to be a major part of our marital life. We understood that money fights were one of the leading causes of divorce, so we took some time to reconcile our differences from you and me, to we. Together we talked, together we prayed and together we started dreaming. What legacy did we want to leave? What did we want to continue to practice from our families? What did we want to leave behind? What was God saying about us and our future? Throughout this process, we realized several things, including this: God called us to be good stewards of the things He'd entrusted to us. God called us to be free and not slaves to the lender. God called us both to be follow Him on any mission (even those devoid of high-speed Internet) with abandon. However, remaining in debt and not learning how to handle our money with integrity, good stewardship and discipline, could cause us to miss out on the very plans He had for us.

Leilani: Here's the reality — having debt didn't mean we couldn't follow God, it just meant that we would have another reason as to why God's will "doesn't make sense right now." It can complicate things when you feel God is calling you somewhere, and American Express shows up in its blue and white outfit exclaiming, "Not so fast! I'm not done with them yet!" In the midst of this process, we came across Dave Ramsey on the radio, whose perspective fell in line with where we were headed. This was all the confirmation we needed. We would start our marriage with one financial goal: GET OUT OF DEBT!

We began applying most of Dave Ramsey's core principles immediately. Live on less than you make, pay cash for everything, give every dollar a name on paper every month, and pay off debt as fast as possible. This meant, less new clothes, no new technology, limited cable, no splurging on vacations, rarely eating out, and often having to say "no" to friends. We cut our credit cards, but it didn't matter because we were determined. There were hard days, weeks and months, but there were a lot more moments of peace, clarity and divine intervention to keep us pushing. We saw God moving in ways that we know are only Him — weeks where we would have extra money show up but no idea how it got there. As we began telling our money what to do, I began noticing that money didn't have the power over me it once had. It was beginning to work for me.

Adrian: After five long years, years of sacrificing and making, what some people would say, were extreme financial decisions, we were able to scream, "We're debt-free!" with over \$100,000 paid off. The feeling was like no other. The world felt available to us in a way it had never been before. We felt we could do anything, be anything, and go anywhere. The sense of freedom was simply exhilarating. We could truly move in God's calling without feeling enslaved to money. We felt ready to start the next phase of our life, and were now both clearly open to God's "mission" for us, regardless of where that may lead.

Shortly after, God clearly let us know it was time to leave Berrien Springs and move to Bolingbrook, Illinois,

to immerse ourselves in the ministry at Bolingbrook Church. He was calling us to leave the place where we had bought our first home, had developed community and had given birth to two kids (Well, technically, Leilani gave birth to two kids.). To top it all off, we needed to make the transition in two months.

Leilani: I needed to transition from my job, sell my home, find a new home in Illinois, and figure out what to do with my toddler and infant, in two months. I remember feeling stressed but being assured that God would take care of everything. This was the moment God had been preparing us for. We even had an emergency fund, which would help us transition, if God ever called us to do so. While this was not yet overseas, it was “mission work,” and we were able to follow without feeling as if Sallie Mae was yelling, “Come back here!” God was ready for us to learn a new level of dependence we had yet to experience, and our journey to financial peace removed a weight that may have made following more challenging.

Adrian: Once we decided to move, God was able to line up everything we needed in two months. It wasn't always easy, but He was always clearly in control and continued to provide in a way where only He would get the glory.

Now, a year later God has asked me to leave my job without having another job lined up. Humanly, some anxiety was present, but we are ready to see what God has next for us. We have done our best to take care of what God has given us, and He has taken care of everything else. We can continue to be on mission without any chains holding us back. ■



David Quiñán

Leilani and Adrian Langdon have been married for nine years. They are both licensed therapists who together provide pre-engagement, premarital and foundation counseling for newly married. Since their anniversary in August, they have set out on a mission to help 100 couples find their “Joint Purpose” using their social media video blog. Adrian is the music coordinator at Bolingbrook Church and recently opened a private counseling practice. Leilani is director of ministry and operations at Bolingbrook Church.

“We have done our best to take care of what God has given us, and He has taken care of everything else.”

REIMAGINING STEWARDSHIP STORIES

Rich Aguilera, a/k/a the “Mud Guy from Guide magazine, embarked on the journey of teaching stewardship lessons to children, which culminated with a feature film. “The Mysterious Note,” filmed on location in Berrien Springs, Michigan and Chicago, is set to launch this spring.



In late 2015, I was having a conversation with John Mathews, Stewardship director for the North American Division. He had already commissioned me to help produce several resources to help teach young people stewardship principles in a way they could understand at their level. We would often talk and strategize about other ways we could help young people understand stewardship principles.

When I first started doing stewardship projects, I discovered that, as an adult, I did not have a full understanding of what it meant to be a good steward for God. Like many, when I heard about stewardship, I assumed the words “tithes and offerings” were soon to follow. I soon discovered how much bigger stewardship really was. I discovered that, at its core, stewardship was about acknowledging that God is the owner of everything we have, and that we have been placed as accountable managers of these things. This included being good managers of our time, health, environment, talents, families and, of course, our financial resources. I also learned that it was a way I could live my faith and trust in God.

How we manage the important things can be divided into two basic choices. We can manage God’s way or society’s way. The choice we make will have a profound

impact on how our lives are lived. I suddenly realized that the topic of stewardship was huge, and life-impacting. It was now even more urgent that kids have an opportunity to understand God’s plan for how they should manage the things God has entrusted to them — to understand what it means to be faithful to God, being generous to others, trusting God with the most important things in their lives. We cannot wait until they become adults to teach them. They need to understand these valuable lessons now. My challenge was to figure out how to best communicate these principles to the young.

During my conversation with Mathews, I suggested the idea of teaching kids about stewardship through feature film storytelling, a very effective way of communicating. Mathews liked the idea very much and, ironically, he already had had a similar idea. With a modest budget in place, I accepted the challenge of developing a simple, yet fun, story about stewardship for kids and their families.

A little over two years have passed since that initial conversation. Pablo Fernandez, director of Photography,





WE WANT CHILDREN TO SEE THAT WHEN THEY LET GO AND LET GOD, WONDERFUL THINGS WILL HAPPEN.

and I have invested hundreds of hours to create a unique resource to help people of all ages understand that being a good steward is a life-changing concept.

“The Mysterious Note” is a story about a Chicago family completely caught up in a self-serving lifestyle. When the businessman father brings his family along on a business trip to a small town in Michigan, an unexpected turn of events unfolds when he clashes with a store owner that manages his business using biblical principles of stewardship. In the meantime, his mischievous son befriends a couple of local kids and they discover a mysterious note that catapults them into a four-day adventure of mystery and self-discovery.

In addition to the main characters Natasha Potter-Diaz, Alex Aguilera, and Peter Tumang-day, there are cameo appearances by Brenda Walsh, Dwight Nelson, Jaime Jorge, Ron Whitehead, Nathan Greene and even the dog, Stewardship Jack.



Biblical principles are subtly weaved throughout this fictional story, teaching them that they should trust God with everything that has been entrusted to them to manage. We often think that the things we have are ours, but the film reminds us that God is the owner of all things. When we love and trust God with all the important things we manage, our outlook on life changes. Suddenly we find joy in a simple concept such as generosity. Generosity means we are letting go and trusting God with the things we manage. Generosity is a stewardship principle that calls us to be selfless and put others first. Generosity, in the truest sense of the word, requires one to be a cheerful giver.

If you look at our culture, the enemy is working hard to teach the complete opposite. Instead of generosity, people are encouraged to be selfish with their possessions and accumulate as much wealth and things as they can. Instead of putting others first, society says, “I am number one!” Instead of being a cheerful giver, our culture promotes that it is better to receive than it is to give. That message seems to only get louder during the Christmas shopping frenzy. Other concepts taught in the film are learning to be content with what we have and that God will bless and reward those who are faithful to him in every aspect of life.

When I finished writing the screenplay, I went through and identified over 70 different instances in the 90-minute film where a stewardship principle is taught. Of course, the goal was to teach these points without being preachy. The storytelling platform provided fun visual representations of what it could look like when one trusts God and is faithful to Him — no matter what.

I was recently affirmed while speaking at a church in central Michigan last year. I had been telling the

church about the movie project and encouraged them to eventually utilize the resource as an evangelism tool to connect with their friends and community. I will never forget when a teenage girl stood up and said, “Mr. Aguilera, thank you for making this movie. My friends won’t come to church, but I can definitely get them to watch a film with me.”

I suddenly realized the evangelism potential was bigger than I had thought. Besides teaching young and old about stewardship principles, I realized that this could be a fresh new way for people to engage their friends, families, neighbors and co-workers for Christ.

We decided that we also would produce a free online follow-up resource for people to use in a small group Bible study setting. People could gather and then discuss some of the crucial points of the film. In a casual setting, people would be able to compare the outcome of the decisions and actions from the film along with Bible texts that show the importance of being a good steward. In order to reach both kids and adults with the study guides, we decided to make a separate version for kids and adults that could be used in a variety of settings.

I’d like to challenge you with a couple of questions. Ask yourself: “Can I help others connect with Christ through a story on film?” “Can the Holy Spirit use a story to turn someone’s heart toward God?” “Is it a good idea to experiment with unique, new ways to do evangelism?” I believe the answer is yes, yes, yes.

Please keep this project in prayer. Join us in asking God to help this project be a blessing to kids and families all over. We want children to see that when they let go and let God, wonderful things will happen.

If you feel God is compelling you to consider this film project as a potential tool for teaching and evangelism in your area, please connect with us by visiting our website at www.TheMysteriousNote.com. We plan to release the film during April/May 2018. We will be facilitating multiple methods for screening the film in your community. We also will eventually provide opportunities to organize smaller watch parties you can host in your home.

I pray this tool will give glory to God and be a discussion-starter that may help people see that trusting God with the important details of our lives will be a rewarding decision that we will never regret. ■



▲ A team of 25 physicians, nurses and staff traveled to the Dominican Republic to serve those less fortunate.

Medical staff serve in the Dominican Republic

A team of 25 physicians, nurses and staff from AMITA Health medical centers traveled to the Dominican Republic in November for a seven-day trip to serve those in punishing poverty.

Providers specializing in obstetrics, gynecology, pediatric and emergency primary care, along with a physician assistant, physical therapist, chaplain and support staff attended the trip. The team set up a medical clinic each day in a *batey* (a settlement where sugar cane workers live) and treated more than 1,300 people that week.

Most of the workers were originally from Haiti, and over time, they have found it difficult to leave life in the *batey* as they are no longer recognized as citizens of Haiti, nor the Dominican Republic. They live in extreme poverty in

ram-shackled homes made of scraps of tin with no plumbing or electricity.

“Our sacred calling was for each person we came in contact with to feel valued and cared for eternally,” said John Rapp, senior vice president and chief mission officer. “The most important person was the one who was in front of us at that moment. That’s how we approached each day.”

One day, after the team had seen all the people in the *batey*, they decided to stop at another one down the road. Going to two clinic sites in one day never had been done before and people living there had no idea the team was coming. The two buses pulled up on the side of the road and, within 15 minutes, triage was set up, six providers were seeing patients under palm trees, and the bus was converted into a pharmacy where medicine

was dispensed from the windows. The team treated 117 patients in 90 minutes.

During the week, the team saw many patients with unique pathology, such as congenital deformities, heart disease, severe hypertension and childhood HIV. Physical therapist Mariela Velazquez taught patients how to use exercise bands, and pharmacist Jeiran Ghasemi worked non-stop to fill medications. Even if none were prescribed, every patient went home with vitamins and toiletries.

Samantha Armando, an ER scribe, and Cliff Jean-Baptiste, a Seventh-day Adventist chaplain, spent time educating children on proper teeth brushing and hand-washing.

One patient thought she was pregnant, but scared because she had several miscarriages in the past and wasn’t confident she was still pregnant, or that the baby was alive. Ranae Yockey, D.O., OB-GYN, and Karen Moore, OB director, were able to show the woman her baby on the ultrasound and the woman raised her hands and praised God.

Throughout the trip, compassion, one of the organization’s core values, was on display. “Sympathy is an emotion, but compassion is a verb,” Rapp said. “It’s about actually doing something. It’s not a feeling, it’s an action — a behavior. Every person Jesus interacted with in the Gospels was shown compassion. He wasn’t sitting back feeling sorry for people. He was transforming them.” ■

Julie Busch is associate vice president of Communications for AMITA Health.



▲ Team members treated hundreds of patients each day in local bateyes.

Mural impacts hundreds of students

Leila Celestin, Andrews University graduate student in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology, is passionate about collaborative creativity. "A lot of people don't believe they can be creative," she says, "but in a group and with the right tools, they can do cool things." So, when Carlisle Sutton approached Celestin about the idea of a mural for a local school, Celestin, who also holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a painting emphasis, was ready for a creative project.

Sutton, director of Community Engagement Integration & Service at Andrews, had contacted the Arts and Communications Academy (ACA) in Benton Harbor, Mich., to identify opportunities for service as part of Andrews University's first Change Day. After discussions with the principal and assistant principal, it was decided a mural would be helpful in improving the physical appearance of the facility. "Minority students in urban communities are not often presented with positive images of people who look like them," he says. "When we were informed we would be allowed to paint on the walls of the cafeteria, I thought we needed to use the space to create a truly positive learning environment. This was an opportunity to have the students eat with people who shared their heritage — people with challenges who excelled in spite of the odds."

Sutton, Celestin and Jace McKinney, also an Andrews student, developed the content for the mural, choosing to include the faces of individuals such as Nelson Mandela, the Obamas, Diana Ross, Angela Davis and Martin Luther King Jr. Because a wide variety of people would



▲ Leila Celestin completes a section of the mural at the Arts and Communications Academy (ACA) in Benton Harbor, Mich.

be painting the mural, Celestin converted images to simple black-and-white silhouettes.

On September 14, Celestin and a small team of artists arrived at ACA by about 7:30 a.m. They projected the images on the wall, traced the outlines with pencil, and then began to paint. An additional group of Change Day volunteers arrived shortly after and helped push through the bulk of the project. Celestin recalls, "People said, 'I'm not an artist!' Then they would get caught up in the little details of the black paint, step back and realize they just painted Muhammad Ali."

ACA students funneled through the cafeteria as the images were being painted. Some recognized the silhouetted faces and exclaimed, "Oh, I know who that is!" For others, it was the first they learned the stories behind each image. Teachers were emotional, understanding

how powerful the images could be for students. Even the school superintendent and the Benton Harbor High School principal stopped by to see the mural in process.

For Celestin, the mural was inspiring. She says, "I hope that other students, artists and the church realize that creative work absolutely can be a service and impactful. If there's any possible way I can connect youth and young people in a creative outlet as it relates to service, I will take that opportunity, hands-down."

Sutton also was blessed by the project. "Hundreds of students will continue to sit and eat in a room that was transformed as a result of the actions of a team from Andrews University. We really can change the world, one face at a time." ■

Gillian Sanner, Media Communications manager, Andrews University

LOCAL CONFERENCE NEWS

Conference president retires

MICHIGAN — Jay Gallimore, president of the Michigan Conference, retired from the office the end of January.

Gallimore has served as president since November 1990 and previously served as the Conference's executive secretary and ministerial director.

"It has been my privilege and joy to serve the Lord in ministry in Michigan," he said in a statement. "This conference is so blessed to have such faithful, loving and devoted members that serve the Lord in His churches. Your devotion to the cause of God inspires all of our hearts, and I am so grateful for you."

He also noted that, "Michigan churches are special, not only for giving birth to the Seventh-day Adventist Church but for the strength they continue to bring to the

"It is my plan to continue to add my efforts to yours in winning souls and building up the Kingdom of our precious Savior."

worldwide mission." He went on to say how blessed he has been to work, "with such fine pastors, teachers and office staff. I know and see their commitment and dedication. And their hard work is legendary and has certainly made my work much lighter."

As he moves into retirement, he said, "It is my plan to continue to add my efforts to yours in winning souls and building up the Kingdom of our precious Savior."

A graduate of Southern Adventist University and Andrews University, Gallimore also served as a pastor for 18 years, including director of the Northwest



▲ Jay Gallimore

Ministries Training Center for the North Pacific Union Conference.

In addition, he also noted how much he has "enjoyed working with the Lake Union Conference." "Actually," he went on to say, "the Lake Union, with its spiritual collegiality, is one of the better kept secrets in the North American Division."

His greatest expectation is for the day when all of the Michigan churches and schools will experience a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit, preparing the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus in glory.

Gallimore's passion for the Scripture and strong leadership will be missed. Alice Rasmussen, Pioneer Memorial Church member, as well as member of the Michigan Conference lay advisory coordinating committee, said, Gallimore "understood and valued E.G. White and God's church in Michigan. He was passionate about youth ministry and camp meetings." Besides his commitment to the Word of God, she said she was grateful for his support of agriculture program at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. ■

Debbie Michel, associate director of Communication for the Lake Union Conference.

RECORD OF SERVICE

- **1970** – Graduated Southern Adventist University
- **1970** – Carolina Conference intern pastor
- **1974** – Ordained
- **1975** – Graduated Andrews University with MA in Religion
- **1980** – Kansas-Nebraska Conference pastor
- **1983** – Washington Conference North West Ministries Training Director
- **1987** – Michigan Conference Ministerial Director
- **1989** – Michigan Conference Executive Secretary
- **1990** – Michigan Conference President



▲ From left to right: Mike Lambert, Dotti Lambert, Pastor Robert Benson, Lori Zemsta, Tim Zemsta. Participants could choose what exercise they wanted to do — chair exercises, led by Lori; walking aerobics, led by Dotti; floor exercises, led by Mike; or outdoor walking (weather permitting), led by Tim.



▲ Choose to Lose participants, some pictured here along with seminars organizers, completed the 12-week health/weight loss series and graduated.

Health seminar attendees gain fresh insights

MICHIGAN — Mesick Church members conducted a successful 12-week health/weight loss seminar titled, “Choose to Lose, Continues.”

The seminar, led by Mike and Dotti Lambert, had 15 participants, all of whom completed the series and graduated on December 9.

When the seminar began in September, participants were weighed, body measurements were taken, and body mass index (BMI) and fat ratio were measured using a special machine. This was repeated again at the end of the series in order to compare their results.

Each session began with weigh-ins, followed by special breathing exercises. Since our muscles need oxygen to burn calories, this is done before regular exercises. Tim and Lori Zemsta led these exercises. Participants were asked to

take in a deep breath and hold it for 10 seconds while Tim kept track with a stop watch and Lori read a short statement about health. This was done 10 times.

Next came 30 minutes of exercise in which the participants could choose what exercise they wanted to do — chair exercises, led by Lori; walking aerobics, led by Dotti; floor exercises, led by Mike; or outdoor walking (weather permitting), led by Tim.

This was followed by a very informative video health lecture by Dr. David DeRose from LifeStart Seminars.

A vegetarian food demonstration was next. All participants really enjoyed learning how easy it is to fix healthier food. They especially enjoyed tasting the finished product.

At the end of each session, Robert Benson, Mesick Church pastor, shared with everyone a special Spiritual Health Nugget with encouraging words and prayer.

This seminar has been very effective in that all participants want to continue with this new lifestyle that they have been experiencing. Mike and Dotti plan on continuing to work with them next year. Two participants have asked for Bible studies.

The first Choose to Lose seminar was held in 2013 with 53 participants registering. The series lasted for an entire year and, at the end, 10 faithful participants graduated.

The health message is the right hand of our gospel message. We all need to do all we can to get these messages out to as many people as we can before the door of opportunity closes.

If anyone is interested in presenting a Choose to Lose seminar in your area, contact Mike and Dotti for more information at 231-889-6119; dottilambert.12@gmail.com ■

Mike and Dotti Lambert, members of the Mesick Church in Michigan, have been presenting the health message to the public for over 20 years.



Ron Schultz

▲ Participants at the Illinois Conference prayer retreat at Camp Akita last fall.

The power of praise and prayer

ILLINOIS — Launched in 2007, the Illinois Conference Prayer Ministry has grown and expanded due to the blessing and guidance of God. It actively supports the conference mission of “growing healthy disciple-making churches” by encouraging a life of prayer in our members.

In 2016, six prayer leaders agreed to serve in a new, vital initiative. Representing five geographical areas and the Hispanic churches of the conference, these six prayer leaders agreed to provide support and guidance for the local church prayer coordinators in their areas. Presently serving in this important leadership role are: Modupe Hughes, Reggie Mary, Hector Ortiz, Linda Tuthill and Debbie Wilcut. These prayer leaders also serve on the conference prayer committee.

Each year, our conference Prayer Ministry hosts a fall prayer retreat at beautiful Camp Akita. Allan Walshe, chair of the Department of Discipleship at Andrews University Theological Seminary,

served as the speaker for the 11th annual prayer retreat held this past October. Dorothy Deer from the Hinsdale Church attended this year’s retreat entitled, “Learning to Enjoy the Presence of God.” She shared the following report:

“Wow! What an awesome experience! We learned how to hear God — all 85 of us from churches all over Illinois. We were at Camp Akita for a prayer retreat weekend, eager to learn how to pray and enjoy the presence of God in our lives.

“Allan Walshe taught us to follow the example of Jesus who often sought solitude by going alone into the mountains to pray and connect with His Father in heaven.

“Walshe also emphasized the need to start our prayers with praises. With so much to praise God about, we were told to make a list of His attributes to use in our praise prayer life.

“Too often, our prayers are filled with requests, or thanks for responses to our requests. While that is important, by praising Him first for who He is and what He does, we are lifted up. Walshe shared that prayer is not merely a means for us to get God to give us what we want.

Prayer is a way for us to learn to allow God to give us what He wants.”

How wonderful it would be if church pastors and congregational leaders planned now to sponsor their newly-baptized disciples to their conference’s prayer retreats or area prayer rallies. To find out more about your conference prayer ministry, contact your conference office.

The 2018 Illinois Conference prayer retreat will take place Oct. 5–7, at Camp Akita. The speaker will be Joseph Kidder, professor of Christian Ministry at Andrews University Theological Seminary. Kidder is the author of *The Big Four* and *Majesty*. Prayer retreat registration will open in August.

Each first Tuesday of the month, our conference Prayer Ministry sponsors a teleconference call. To find out how you can participate, email Ron Schultz at rschultz@ilcsda.org. Additional prayer resources are available by visiting <http://www.ilcsda.org/prayer> and <http://www.nadprayerministries.org>. ■

Ron Schultz is the Illinois Conference Prayer coordinator and Dorothy Deer is on the Communications Ministry



Ron Schultz

▲ Allan Walshe, chair of the Department of Discipleship at Andrews University Theological Seminary was the prayer retreat speaker.

EDUCATION NEWS

Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary revises Master of Divinity Program

MICHIGAN — The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary of Andrews University has revised the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program, providing a sharper focus to the degree with fewer credit hours required. The 78-credit program begins in the fall of 2018 and is designed to be completed in as little as two years by students with an undergraduate degree in theology. Students with degrees in other disciplines will follow a three-year plan to complete their M.Div.

The previous 92-credit program took three years for the average student with a theology undergraduate degree to complete. The revised M.Div. allows the same students to finish the program in less time if they have fulfilled all prerequisite courses and can demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency in biblical languages.

"I'm thrilled about our newly revised M.Div.," said Jiří Moskala, Seminary dean. "It brings together the best in scholarship and praxis to provide a stellar biblical, theological, historical and missiological framework for our students' future ministry. Evangelism combined with a profound knowledge of the Bible and pastoral care is the first priority in our coursework."

The revisions to the M.Div. were shaped by extensive consultation with North American Division (NAD) advisory groups, faculty committees, administrators, students and accreditation standards with the purpose of providing an enhanced degree.

"The revised M.Div. is shorter, deeper and stronger," said Fernando Ortiz, M.Div. program director. "Students can now fulfill their educational goals more quickly without compromising the quality of the program."

One key aspect of the credit reductions has involved working with undergraduate



▲ In addition, a new dual degree, the M.Div./Master of Science in Community and International Development, has been added to the already-established M.Div. dual degrees (M.Div./Public Health, M.Div./Communication and M.Div./Social Work).

schools in a Curriculum Collaboration set up by the NAD. This collaboration reviewed the learning needed by a pastor to determine which should be studied at the M.Div. level and which should be prerequisites or part of students' post-seminary internship training. Students who have degrees in disciplines other than theology and sense a call from God to deepen their preparation for ministry will take prerequisite courses at the beginning of their M.Div. program. These essential courses will establish a solid theological and practical foundation on which their M.Div. studies can be built to prepare them for excellence in ministry.

Revisions to the M.Div. program included dividing selected classes, such as Issues in Daniel and Revelation into two courses, in order to provide students with greater depth of study and strengthen their Adventist identity. Other courses that shared similar subject matter were combined. Theological and preaching courses were diversified to equip students to meet the needs of an increasingly complex world.

"Congregational pastors, chaplains and youth pastors will be equipped to closely collaborate with our church schools, making the schools a center for their

evangelistic and community activities," said Moskala.

Attention to the Adventist health message also was a significant factor that shaped the M.Div. revisions.

"We are particularly excited about our new health and wellness course that will be taken by all M.Div. students," said Teresa Reeve, associate dean. "Students will receive training in personal fitness and learn to bring the health message to their churches and communities."

To allow time for exercise, spiritual life and work, along with the demands of classwork and ministry practice, the maximum number of credits allowed per semester for M.Div. students has been reduced from 16 to 14 credits. This adjustment will not only prevent academic burnout but also sets a pattern for healthy, balanced living to maximize students' effectiveness in their future ministry.

To learn more about the M.Div. or to enroll in the program, email mdiv@andrews.edu or visit andrews.edu/mdiv. ■

Samantha Angeles, Seminary student writer

Confidential care group created for LGBT Andrews University students

The University's response to questions regarding care for students navigating sexual orientation and gender identity differences

Over the past few years, Andrews University has been working to respond to questions about sexual orientation and gender identity that have arisen on our Adventist campuses. Our commitment from the beginning has been to hold and put into practice the biblical teaching of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as expressed in our fundamental beliefs and the official statements on human sexuality issued by the General Conference and its North American Division.

A few years ago, the University created a task force made up of faculty, staff, students, church leaders and board members. This group worked closely with the relevant subcommittee of our Board of Trustees, which includes significant representation from church leaders. From this collaboration, the University established "A Seventh-day Adventist Framework for Relating to Sexual Orientation Differences on the Campus of Andrews University,"¹ which outlines our commitment to the biblical teachings and values of the Adventist church and establishes policies that call our students to uphold them. This document sets the expectation that sexual intimacy belongs only within marriage, defined as "a lifelong union between a man and a woman." Furthermore, the University clarifies that students are to refrain "from romantic behaviors between individuals of the same sex." This policy is strictly enforced through our student conduct processes, and the Adventist biblical position is taught in our classrooms and from our pulpits.



Having affirmed the University's commitment to biblical faithfulness, as detailed in the General Conference's statement on homosexuality,² the Task Force then moved to implement that statement's call for compassion: "Jesus affirmed the dignity of all human beings and reached out compassionately to persons and families suffering the consequences of sin. He offered caring ministry and words of solace to struggling people, while differentiating His love for sinners from His clear teaching about sinful practices. As His disciples, Seventh-day Adventists endeavor to follow the Lord's instruction and example, living a life of Christ-like compassion and faithfulness."

Additionally, the task force also used the Andrews University's Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary statement, "An Understanding of the Biblical View on Homosexual Practice and Pastoral Care,"³ as a guiding resource for how Andrews University should provide ministry and care for these students.

The task force reviewed recent research on over 300 Adventist young adults who identify as LGBT to learn more about their struggles and discovered a great deal of hurt in this population, placing them at a higher risk for depression and self-harm. At nearly all of our North American Division colleges and universities, these students have started unofficial groups — with little to no guidance from their institutions. Our goal has been to create

a University-based group where students can receive spiritual and emotional care for their lives that is in accordance with Adventist biblical teaching on human sexuality and the University's code of conduct (as noted above). In the words of the General Conference statement, Andrews University "recognizes that every human being is valuable in the sight of God, and we seek to minister to all men and women in the spirit of Jesus. We also believe that, by God's grace and through the encouragement of the community of faith, an individual may live in harmony with the principles of God's Word."

This new entity will not function as a student club or organization, nor will it be a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), as found on so many public campuses. It is a confidential, members-only group that will minister spiritually and emotionally to a select number of students with the influence and care of faithful Adventist mentors. While there will be campus communication to make students aware of the group's existence, our Framework policy explicitly forbids students from advocating or instigating views or behaviors that are inconsistent with the biblical teachings of the Adventist church.

Overseeing the group will be Judith Bernard-Fisher, director of the Andrews University Counseling & Testing Center. Reflecting on this responsibility, Fisher says, "As I think of God's immeasurable love for all of His children, I am convinced

that His spirit of love and grace will continue to guide our steps as we reach out to our own students through this new group that is committed to providing meaningful, Christ-centered care for these young men and women.” ■

1. “A Seventh-day Adventist Framework for Relating to Sexual Orientation Differences on the Campus

of Andrews University”; Andrews University Student Handbook
<https://bulletin.andrews.edu/content.php?catoid=14&navoid=2578>

2. General Conference Statement on Homosexuality
<https://www.adventist.org/en/information/official-statements/statements/article/go/-/homosexuality/>
3. “An Understanding of the Biblical View on Homosexual Practice and Pastoral Care”; Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University

<https://www.andrews.edu/sem/about/statements/seminary-statement-on-homosexuality-edited-8-17-jm-final.pdf>

Accessed 12/30/17 <https://www.andrews.edu/agenda/48114/>

Andrews University Public Relations

YOUTH NEWS

Youth build community through board games

MICHIGAN — Young people in the church are finding new ways to build relationships and grow their faith.

A’CampbellCon is an excellent example of innovative ministry founded by Jon and Kathleen Campbell, Jeanmark and Abigail A’Kessler, and Katelyn Campbell. They founded this homegrown tabletop gaming convention when they attended a game convention and discussed how they should create their own.

Jon and Kathleen recently led a “Pray and Play” Grow Group at Pioneer Memorial Church, and over the past several years, hosted increasing numbers of people at their house for soup and games. Playing games over an entire weekend with their friends was the initial idea, but it soon developed ministry applications as well.

During the weekend of Jan. 5-7, 56 attendees had the opportunity to play over 100 board, card and acting games — a perfect opportunity to make connections and build community.

The weekend provided many experiences for beginner and veteran gamers alike and mixed players ages 10-70. One attendee stated afterwards that, “Gaming is a fantastic way of turning complete strangers into friends.”

Vespers speaker Kevin Wilson shared his experience with tabletop games as



▲ Left to right: A’CampbellCon founders, Abigail A’Kessler, Jeanmark A’Kessler, Jon Campbell, Kathleen Campbell and Katelyn Campbell, celebrate a successful end to their convention.

a student at Andrews University and how he has incorporated games into his pastoral ministry. Participants were inspired to think outside their usual use of games and use them as relationship- and character-building tools. After vespers and through the Sabbath hours, traditional Sabbath games were offered, as well as some new and modified Sabbath-appropriate games developed by the staff.

“I remember being bored on Sabbath afternoons,” says one attendee. The A’CampbellCon founders hope that the games they developed will help make Sabbath something to anticipate.

Michael Polite, an A’CampbellCon attendee, said, “I am absolutely mind-blown at how many people are intimately invested in playing board games as a form

of community building. This experience showed me how much we are missing out when we limit game nights to the usual suspects of Uno, Taboo, dominoes and Pictionary.

“There is an entire gaming universe out there, filled with phenomenal games that build your cognitive abilities, build your social skills, and build your well-being,” said Michael. “I underestimated how much I would learn about myself and others during this convention, but I now see board games as a bridge to establishing healthy interactions between differing philosophies, ideologies, cultures, ethnicities and personalities.” ■

Jon Campbell, Kathleen Campbell, Katelyn Campbell, Jeanmark A’Kessler, Abigail Kessler and Nikki Warner.

NAD NEWS



**Philanthropic
Service for Institutions**

Unique service of the NAD provides counsel on funding

Thanks to the foresight of the North American Division leadership, the Division houses a unique service not replicated elsewhere. It supports a consulting and training office on the topics of philanthropy and fundraising, and makes the resources and assistance of Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI) available at no cost or low cost to all Division's institutions. PSI is both a one-stop shop and a gateway to services.

Fundraising is a reality for today's faith-based institutions, including Seventh-day Adventist organizations. Church member giving has changed, there is more demand for financial and managerial accountability, institutions are more complex for various reasons, including the influence of the Internet, and financial resources must be expanded in ways that support productive and successful institutions.

That's where PSI can be of assistance, in aiding organizations raise funds but also in developing an understanding that the best fundraising occurs in the context of healthy organizations. Fundraising is a full profession today, but has its roots in the Bible, and practices of generosity have existed since time immemorial. Fundraising doesn't consist of "ten easy steps" but is a thoughtful process and requires an understanding of principles and how to adapt them appropriately. The following are ways in which PSI can be of assistance to any and all NAD entities.

- The PSI website, www.philanthropicservice.com, has on-line resources, such as

an extensive annotated bibliography, podcasts, articles of current interest, commentaries on what is happening on the philanthropic scene, how-to advice and announcements.

- Fundraising handbooks, *Successful Fundraising*, consist of several editions: for churches and pastors, for general audiences, Spanish version, Canadian version. These can be purchased from AdventSource.org but come with an offer of assistance from PSI, ranging from a phone call to actual site visit.
- PSI has collaborated with the Adventist Learning Community and now has available a course on fundraising. While geared toward pastors, it is accessible and useful for all who wish to learn the comprehensive aspects of fundraising. <https://www.adventistlearningcommunity.com/>
- PSI serves academies through the Model for Academy Philanthropy program and consulting in general for those not enrolled in this program.
- Professionally equipped fundraisers are needed in Adventist organizations. PSI has a program that provides hands-on training, career opportunities, and also a site on our web page that lists resumes and job openings. Most important is our new volume called *Your Future in Fundraising*. Our mantra is that you don't have to be a professional to do fundraising well, but you have to do it professionally.
- PSI has developed a highly significant project called the Fundraising Fitness Test, which aids in understanding what strategies are working by using information points from an organizations database. This endeavor has truly put PSI "on the map" of professional fundraising.
- PSI assists with capital campaign planning, or review of existing plans. Information is included in *Successful Fundraising*.

PSI helps an organization develop its case for support and identify potential donors.

- Webinars on current or standard fundraising strategies are offered periodically and a library of webinars is available on PSI's website.
- PSI does training on site — board, building committee, other relevant committees, and the churches and NAD organizations of all types in general. PSI also holds a National Conference with special guest speakers, classes and great networking opportunities. Watch for notices on our website, www.philanthropicservice.com.
- PSI helps with materials preparation, such as reviewing fundraising materials, from letters to proposals.
- PSI has many informational and instructive materials that can be shared, including a lending library and many on-line resources.
- PSI can assist in researching funders — foundations, some businesses and government. It can guide in identifying individual donors.
- PSI is available to answer questions and give guidance on an on-going basis.
- On occasion, the capacity building grant available from PSI allows extras an organization may not be able to afford, such as a database or a local trainer to speak to a committee or board.
- PSI CANNOT actually raise funds with or for an organization, but neither does any credible consulting firm. Rarely will a consultant actually raise funds. But we can provide much advice and support as organizations raise funds. Please peruse the dynamic and helpful website, www.philanthropicservice.com, and contact PSI at: 301.680.6133, helpdesk@philanthropicservice.com or info@philanthropicservice.com ■

Lilya Wagner, CFRE, director, Philanthropic Service for Institutions.



GC NEWS

Adventist Church launches new mission website

VividFaith aims to make it easier to connect missionaries with service opportunities

The Seventh-day Adventist Church announced a new website and app for missions during the 2017 Annual Council meetings. Expected to launch August 2018, VividFaith will be a virtual community where those who want to serve the Church can find places around the world to serve and then be matched with the opportunities for which they are best suited.

VividFaith will be unique from other job-search websites as it will allow organizations to do more than create and post service opportunities. Organizations will be able to be notified of and filter through interested applicants. They also will be able to share unique details about their region and offer resources and tools to those applying.

Similarly, those interested in serving will no longer need to contact individual

organizations. VividFaith will be a one-stop place where they can search for all the service opportunities offered by the Adventist Church and other supporting ministries.

"VividFaith will be a unique place to find or post mission opportunities, similar to a global, searchable index," says Italo Osorio, architect of VividFaith. "Based on profile information, VividFaith will send notifications when a mission opportunity matches the interests of a member. Or the moment an organization adds a mission opportunity, VividFaith will immediately tell the number of possible candidates fitting the request."

The practice and culture of missions and service has been a part of the fabric of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1874 when John Nevins Andrews left the United States for Europe. In those early days, managing resources, people and logistics of international service began as a small centralized operation at the Adventist Church world headquarters. Today, service opportunities are not through just one office. They are offered by many departments and entities within the Adventist Church, by Adventist-owned entities outside of the General

Conference, like ADRA, and independent ministries run by Adventist lay ministries, like Maranatha International.

As of June 2017, Seventh-day Adventist Christians make up only 0.27% of the world's population, leaving billions who have never heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church or its life-changing message. Despite the increase in service opportunities and the number of people ready to serve, the two groups are currently not connecting as much as they could. VividFaith will work to streamline the process so that everyone who wants to serve has the opportunity.

"VividFaith will be open to anyone, Adventist or non-Adventist, who has the desire to do ministry with the Adventist Church," says Osorio. "Members will discover a place to find mission opportunities and/or create social interaction with other people engaged in mission.

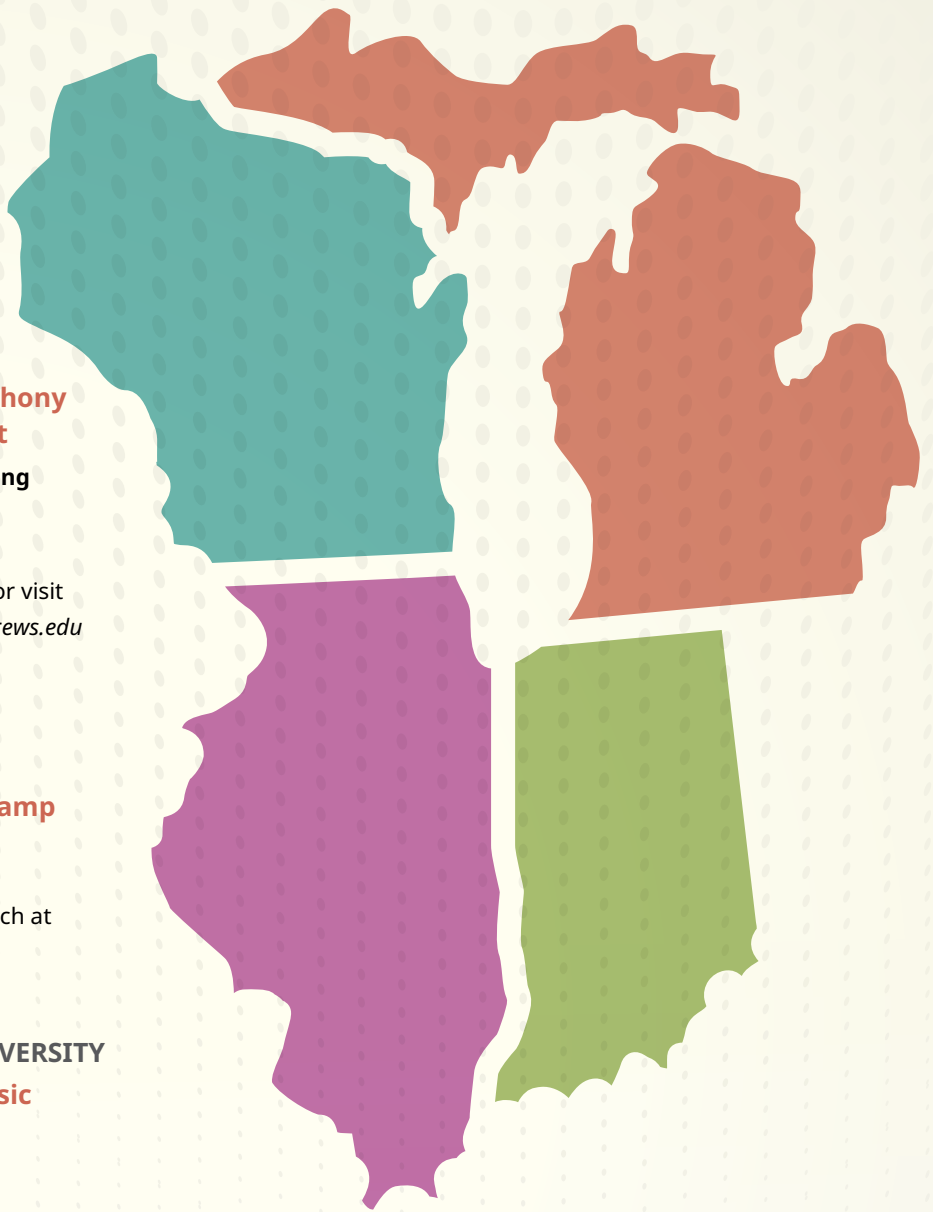
Future versions of VividFaith will include resources for those serving and a social media platform where family and friends can support those abroad. On their temporary website, vividfaith.com, you can sign up to receive updates on the developments of VividFaith. ■

Fylvia Fowler Kline, Adventist News Network staff



▲ Video available at Vividfaith.com

February



Jan. 1–June 30

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

Walk for Life Adventist Fitness Plan

Conference-wide

Contact Juanita Edge at jedg@wi.adventist.org

Feb. 1–3

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Racial Reconciliation conference with Ty Gibson and Michael Nixon.

For more information, visit: <https://againstthewall.org>

Feb. 2–4

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Public Campus Ministries Winter Retreat

Camp Au Sable, Grayling, Mich.

Contact Jermaine Gayle at Jgayle@misda.org

Feb. 3

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Pathfinder Bible Experience

Area churches

<http://www.indysda.org>

Feb. 3

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

AU Wind Symphony Winter Concert

Howard Performing Arts Center

For tickets, call 888-467-6442 or visit <http://howard.andrews.edu>

Feb. 4–9

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Winter Blind Camp Camp Au Sable, Grayling, Mich.

Contact Diana Bruch at dbruch@misda.org

Feb. 8–10

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Newmyer Classic Basketball Tournament

Johnson Gym, Andrews University

<http://aucardinals.com>

Feb. 10

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

“Love Is in the Air” choral concert

Howard Performing Arts Center

Free admission

Feb. 16–18

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE

Lake Union Youth Evangelism Congress

Shipshewana, Ind.

<http://www.lucyouth.org>

Feb. 17

INDIANA CONFERENCE

It Is Written Rally with John Bradshaw

Glendale SDA Church, Indianapolis

<http://www.lucyouth.org>

Feb. 22–25

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Teen Bible Camp

Camp Au Sable, Grayling, Mich.

Contact Judy Ramos at jramos@misda.org

Feb. 24

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Cardinals vs. Alumni Hockey Game

Ice Box, South Bend, Ind.

Contact AU Student Activities at 269-471-3615

Feb. 28

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

AU Music Festival Showcase Concert

Howard Performing Arts Center

Free admission

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

MARCH 3, 4:00 p.m.: AU Music Festival Concert: Choir & Orchestra, directed by Stephen Zork. Free admission.

MARCH 10, 8:00 p.m.: AU Symphony Orchestra, directed by Claudio Gonzalez. Tickets required.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MUSIC & WORSHIP CONFERENCE, APRIL 5-7: Hosted across the University campus, this conference will provide biblically-grounded training opportunities for church musicians, pastors, worship leaders, and anyone involved in worship ministry. Presenters will discuss principles and practices for incarnational worship ministry that glorifies God, transforms worshipers and changes the world. As a participant, you will have access to a variety of seminars, workshops and worship experiences. Come and be inspired to honor God more fully in your worship. Be equipped to minister more effectively through worship and worship music, participating in God's healing and reconciling work. Connect with others who share your passion for God and commitment to service. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to worship and learn together! For more information, visit <https://www.cye.org/ministries/music-worship>.

LAKE UNION

Offerings

- FEB. 3** Local Church Budget
- FEB. 10** Word Budget (Emphasis: Adventist Television Ministries)
- FEB. 17** Local Church Budget
- FEB. 24** Local Conference Advance
Special Days
- FEB. 3-24** Black History Month
- FEB. 10** Christian Marriage Sabbath
- FEB. 10** Health Ministries Sabbath
- FEB. 10-17** Christian Home and Marriage Week
- FEB. 17** Christian Home Sabbath

have the opportunity to enjoy exhibits, or request to bring your own. For more information, call 269-473-8200 or email communications. luasi@gmail.com. You also can visit our website at <http://www.asilakeunion.org>.

MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OFFICE HAS MOVED!

Our new physical address is 5801 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917; mailing address is P.O. Box 24187, Lansing, MI 48909. The switchboard number is 517-316-1500 (direct line numbers will not change), and the fax number is 517-316-1501. Hours are Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ASI LAKE UNION SPRING FELLOWSHIP will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Benton Harbor/ St. Joseph, Mich., **April 20-21**. Sessions begin Friday afternoon, so plan to get there early to get the most out of the weekend! Come, enjoy and fellowship with us as we share testimonies and profound gratitude to our Savior. You will



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

OBITUARIES

BAUER, David H., age 85; born Nov. 19, 1931, in Pittsburgh, Penn.; died Oct. 24, 2017, in Hendersonville, N.C. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich. He served as vice president for Development and Public Relations at Andrews University, and as president of the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; and sister, Ruth Spangenberg.

Memorial services were conducted in Hendersonville and Berrien Springs, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

BERGER, Irene A. (De Pas), age 98; born Aug. 31, 1919, in Wilson, Mich.; died Oct. 28, 2017, in Marquette, Mich. She was a member of the Wilson Church.

Survivors include her son, Russell F.; daughters, Beverly Postler and Nancy Larsen; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Tom Hubbard, and interment was in Wilson Cemetery.

DOWELL, Charles R., age 84; born Aug. 15, 1932, in Knoxville, Tenn.; died April 16, 2017, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Judith Ann (Deck); sons, Randy and Mike; daughter, Teri Guzicki; sisters, Nancy, Martha and Kathy; and six grandchildren.

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

EKKENS, Kathleen (Moon), age 77; born Dec. 18, 1939, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Oct. 21, 2017, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her son, John Holland; daughters, Laura Keller, Julie Verthelle and

Karen Case; sister, Eileen Horne; and 10 grandchildren.

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

FISHER, Paulette K. (Jannasch), age 73; born April 7, 1944; died Nov. 3, 2017, in South Bend, Ind. She was a member of the South Bend First Church.

Survivors include her husband, Ron; son, Kenneth; daughters, Korilyn Hauersperger and Karin Fisher; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted followed by graveside services, and interment was in Sumption Prairie Cemetery, South Bend.

HELCHER, Richine (Nau), age 65; born July 5, 1952, in Cheboygan, Mich.; died Nov. 7, 2017, in Flint, Mich. She was a member of the First Flint Church.

Survivors include her husband, Harry "Hank"; son, Michael D.; daughter, Patricia Lynne Truett; brothers, Richard Ranville, and Dennis, Joseph and Wilbur Nau; sister, Marilyn "Robin" Heid; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Jonathan Chitwood, and interment was in Flint Memorial Park Cemetery, Mt. Morris, Mich.

KOCH, Gunter W., age 92; born Nov. 25, 1924, in Tokyo, Japan; died July 8, 2017, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his sister, Hildegard Landschoot; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Don Dronen, and interment was in North Shore Memory Garden Cemetery, Coloma, Mich.

LESHER, William R., age 92; born Nov. 14, 1924, in Carlisle, Penn.; died Aug. 18, 2017, in Loma Linda, Calif. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich. William was very involved in mission service, a General Conference administrator and president of Andrews University.

Survivors include his wife, Veda (Van Etten); daughters, Eileen Leshner and Martha Keough; sister, Jean Krenrich; and several grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Dwight K. Nelson, Arnold Swanson, Glenn Russell, Najeeb Nakhle, Stephen Zork, Andrea Luxton and Niels-Erik Andraesen, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

MORRIS, Richard I., age 88; born Sept. 16, 1928, in Decatur, Mich.; died May 13, 2017, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his nephew, Ron Morris; and many other nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

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

MEYER, Donald E., age 86; born Sept. 27, 1930, in Mishawaka, Ind.; died Aug. 12, 2017, in South Bend, Ind. He was a member of the South Bend First Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ardis (Hicks); sons, Jon A. and Edwin H.; daughter, Cheryl A. Roberts; brother, Leonard E.; four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Throstur Thordarson, with private interment.

SNYDER, Andrew J., age 89; born April 13, 1927, in Diller, Neb.; died March 8, 2017, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Julia (Tomson); son, David; daughters, Denise Greutz, Rebecca Becker and Rachel Kroncke; three sisters; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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

STAFFORD, Beatrice (Waltz), age 101; born Feb. 23, 1916, in Ledford, Ill.; died Nov. 2, 2017, in Harrisburg, Ill. She was a member of the Eldorado (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Phillip; daughters, Linda Stafford and Susan Cornett; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Dale Barnhurst and Tom Ferguson, and interment was in Bramlet Cemetery, Muddy, Ill.

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$36 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$46 per insertion for all others. A form is available at <http://www.herald.lakeunion.org> for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.herald.lakeunion.org>.

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

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MISCELLANEOUS

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

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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 a 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.

BLACK HILLS LIFESTYLE MEDICINE CENTER:

Tired of diabetes medications, migraine headaches, or not feeling your best? Then come to Black Hills Lifestyle Medicine Center to find the fountain of youth and the secrets to well-being. We offer a health program each month, so call 605-255-4101 for information and to reserve your space. Find more details online at <http://bhlmc.org>. BHLMC — Your Wellness Retreat.

EMPLOYMENT

THE EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY

DEPARTMENT at Southwestern Adventist University invites applications for a full-time faculty position. Preferred candidates will hold a doctorate in Educational Psychology or Secondary Education and have university teaching experience. Master's degree considered. Must have or be able to obtain a Texas teaching credential. Send CV and cover letter to Donna Berkner at dberkner@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks a full-time Systematic Theology faculty member for 2018-2019. Ph.D. preferred; master's degree considered. Successful candidates will have teaching and pastoral experience. Send CV and cover letter to Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

is looking for a full-time English professor with a Ph.D. Candidates with a degree in any literature or writing specialty will be considered. Send a CV to Judy Myers Laue, Chair, Department of English, Southwestern Adventist University, 100 W. Hillcrest St., Keene TX 76059, or lauej@swau.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY IS HIRING! To see the list of available positions, go to <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

OB-GYN AND PEDIATRICIAN NEEDED for Adventist-owned/operated Rural Health Clinic

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 9
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:00	6:10	6:18	6:27	6:36	6:44
Chicago, Ill.	5:06	5:15	5:24	5:32	5:41	5:49
Detroit, Mich.	5:47	5:56	6:05	6:14	6:22	6:31
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:04	6:13	6:21	6:29	6:37	6:44
La Crosse, Wis.	5:16	5:25	5:35	5:44	5:54	6:02
Lansing, Mich.	5:52	6:01	6:10	6:19	6:28	6:36
Madison, Wis.	5:10	5:20	5:29	5:38	5:47	5:56
Springfield, Ill.	5:18	5:27	5:35	5:43	5:51	5:58

on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, Calif. Competitive pay. For more information, call Randall Steffens at 615-604-0142.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a University Faculty — Architecture. The Assistant/Associate Professor of Architecture holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the School of Architecture & Interior Design. This individual demonstrates competence in design studio education, teaching, and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. For more information, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks an Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Psychology. The Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Psychology will teach a full load of courses in pastoral care, counseling, advise and provide mentorship to Seminary students, provide spiritual and therapeutic counseling services to seminarians, direct the psychological screening of applicants to Seminary, provide advocacy and leadership in the area of pastoral care and counseling to the Seminary community, participate in Seminary and University life, and carry regular faculty responsibilities related to teaching, service, research and administration. For more information, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_3.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a candidate for Facilities Associate Director in our Facilities Maintenance Department. Preference is experience in planning, budgeting, maintenance of College facilities, in addition to strong leadership/interpersonal skills/team leader. Responsibilities in roads, building safety, HVAC, water distribution/treatment, general building maintenance, compliance for hazardous materials, etc. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231, or visit <http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking full-time positions in our Facilities Management Department. Looking for positions of Tradesman Supervisor-Painter, and Tradesman 1-Carpenter. Preference is for training and applied experience in trade areas of general painting, and carpentry. For Painter, experience in color/finish/application/etc. For

Carpenter, experience in cabinet making/floor coverings/installation/etc. For both, able to be team player, handle multiple projects. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231, or visit <http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking an online adjunct professor/s to teach part-time courses in newly-organized Senior Living Management Certificate program through the Department of Business. Submit cover letter and current CV/résumé to denise.rivera@swau.edu. Candidates must have industry-specific (Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care) knowledge and/or experience and a minimum of a master's degree in a related field. Preference given with prior teaching experience.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking an Associate VP of Finance. Responsibilities include strategic financial planning/leadership, financial/operational budgets, and working with chief leadership to develop and implement financial goals/investments. Preference is for a bachelor degree in Business/Accounting, CPA or master's degree in Business Administration, 3-5 years' experience in management role, higher education experience. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a Controller in the Financial Administration Department. Responsibilities include leadership and supervision over the accuracy and productivity of day-to-day financial activities, collaboration on annual budgeting, provision of financial analysis tools/metrics, oversight of the operations in the accounting department, including strategic thinking for department goals and objectives. Preference is bachelor's degree in Accounting or related field. CPA license preferred, as well as minimum of five years' experience and supervisory responsibilities. For more information or to apply, call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

UNION COLLEGE seeks a Seventh-day Adventist PA faculty member, master's degree required. This position will be responsible for both didactic and clinical components of the curriculum. Prior teaching experience desired but not necessary. Send CV and references to

Megan Heidtbrink at megan.heidtbrink@ucollege.edu. For further information, visit <http://www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings>.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a Director of Human Resources. The Director of Human Resources is the chief human resources officer of the University and serves as an advocate regarding benefits, policies and practices that would have a positive impact on employees and as an advisor and strategic partner to University administration. Provides leadership through the management of a comprehensive human resources department, ensuring that all HR programs and initiatives are integrated and effective in supporting the overall mission, goals and objectives of the institution. For more information, visit <https://www.andrews.edu/admsvs/jobs/manage/approve/1600>.

CAPTAIN GILMER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Fletcher, N.C.) is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Kindergarten Teacher. This full-time, salaried position (with benefits) is responsible for fostering the intellectual and social development of children in the first phase of their elementary school experience. Duties will include both teaching and staff duties. Position requires current basic NAD teaching certification; candidates must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Contact the Fletcher Academy, Inc. HR Manager at 828-209-6714.

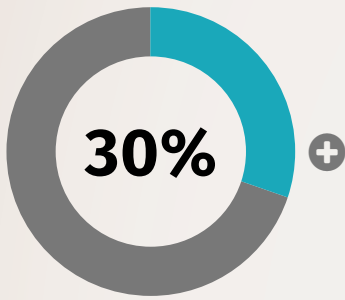
REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE: An Adventist community in a rural setting that offers affordable homes or apartments and caring neighbors, with a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, planned activities and transportation, as needed. Wolfe Living Center offering independent living and nursing home. For more information, visit <http://www.summitridgevillage.org> or call Bill Norman at 405-208-1289.

By the Numbers

2016 LAKE UNION TITHE

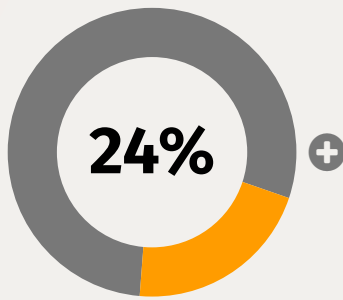
This information shows some examples of how our tithe supports God’s mission in the Lake Union and beyond.



\$23,753,922

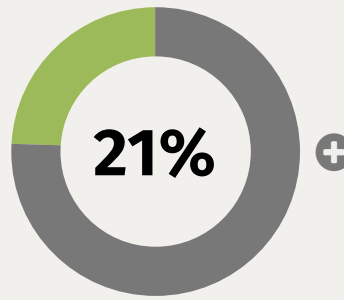
CHURCH MINISTRIES

Pastors and Bible workers salaries and benefits, expenses of departmental leadership such as Children’s Ministries, Pathfinders, Personal Ministries, camp meetings, church planting, and evangelism



\$18,954,702

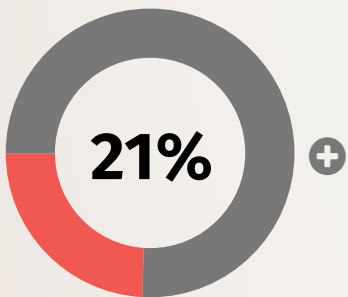
SHARED WITH WORLD CHURCH AND NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



\$16,773,626

EDUCATION

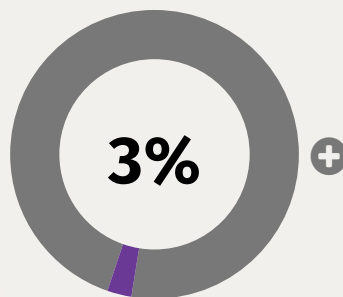
Elementary schools, senior academies and Andrews University



\$16,123,152

SUPPORT SERVICES

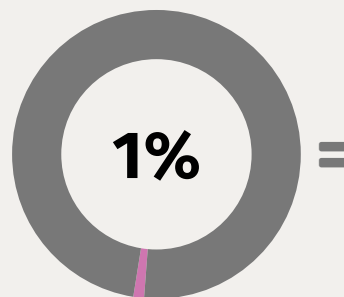
Medical expenses, retirement benefits, plant services, and administration



\$2,020,778

SPECIAL SERVICES

Communications, health education, community services, disaster response and planned giving



\$868,051

LITERATURE EVANGELISM

Subsides to support literature sales efforts



\$78,494,231

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

[Tithe]

A brochure with further details is available from your local conference.

Honor Roll

WHEN MY JOB WAS ON THE LINE, MY CHURCH STEPPED IN

By Lauren Galang



Levy Scheele

▲ Lauren Galang

A MONTH BEFORE MY BAPTISM, I nervously approached my manager to tell her of my decision to honor God’s law and keep the seventh day holy.

My boss replied, “Well, you realize working Saturdays is a requirement for this job, right?” and “You committed to Saturdays when I hired you.”

Her response didn’t take me by surprise. I knew that my availability to work weekends was always a “priority” and had agreed to this when I started my retail job. In fact, Saturdays were our busiest day, especially during our huge, once-a-month, fifty percent off sales.

“Yes,” I told her. “I committed to working Saturdays, but I have since then committed to God and a wonderful church.”

Although I was raised as a Christian, Sabbath was something new to me — a beautiful reminder of God’s love for me, and I was determined to honor this special day. But it wasn’t going to be easy.

My boss asked if I could still work Sabbath mornings. Even though it was tempting to compromise,

I thought, Why would I fight for the Sabbath and only receive 80 percent of it? My answer to her was, “No. I need Saturdays off, at least until sunset.”

But as word travelled among my colleagues, some workers (and my bosses!) made snide comments. “Oh, I heard you’re into Jesus now,” one worker said. “I have never heard of someone needing a Saturday off for church . . . Maybe I should sign up!” another said.

I loved my job and the close-knit bond with the others on my team, but I began thinking that asking for Saturdays off was a betrayal to them. I hated feeling that way. Perhaps, I thought, I should quit this job. The true meaning of the Sabbath just wasn’t getting through to them.

Things took a turn for the worse when my hours were cut from 20 to five. As I prayed for deliverance, I texted my managers, pleading, “I’ll work any shift that becomes available, anything except the Sabbath.”

Then I reached out to my church for help and felt reassured when the members and pastor gave me endless support. A document was drafted stating that, not only in the name of God, but also in the name of law, I had every right to request a day off for religious purposes.

After a lengthy process with some twists and turns, my employer realized I was serious and granted me Saturdays off! Imagine my delight in no longer working eight- to nine-hour shifts every Saturday but, instead, enjoying the day worshipping my Heavenly Father and remembering all He has done for me. It’s amazing how God honored me when I decided to honor Him!

Challenges such as the one I experienced prepare us to be strong and courageous, so long as we are obedient to Him. *The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ* (1 Peter 1:7 KJV). ■

Ivy Tech freshman, Lauren Galang, baptized last November, is a member of the Carmel Church in Indianapolis.

Feeding the Soul

By Sara Kroneck



Sara Kroneck

▲ Joel Campbell

FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS, Joel Campbell's family has spent one Sunday every month serving a meal at a shelter in their hometown of Green Bay, Wisconsin. It all started when Joel's father felt a desire to get his family involved in a ministry. When the homeless shelter expressed a need for a family to help provide one of the meals at the shelter on a regular basis, they stepped up to the plate, and they now serve around 150 people every time.

"There's been a lot of memorable people through the years. Some have impacted our family directly," Joel shares. One Sabbath, his family was passing out books when his mom noticed a man who they had fed at the homeless shelter several times. He seemed distraught and upset, so they stopped to talk with him and found he was struggling with a lot of hardships. "My parents tried to help him get back on his feet. He even stayed at our house for a little while," Joel says. "I think the shelter gave

us an opportunity to connect with people on a really personal and spiritual level."

Sometimes people strike up conversations asking about the vegetarian stew his mom serves. "My mom is pretty bomb at seasoning, so she does all the extra stuff with the broth," he laughs. "Some people come up afterwards, crying, saying they had a hard week. Being able to eat the food and such friendly service really made their day, or their week, or their month! That's happened more than once," he continues.

When he was younger, Joel didn't always appreciate getting up early to go help.

"What 10-year-old likes to wake up at 5:30 in the morning on a Sunday?" he laughs. Looking back now, he is thankful for the impact it has made on him. "As I got older I realized, Wow, this is a real opportunity to be a blessing for others and to put into action what we read in the Bible." He says that continues — there are always new people and new experiences, and it has helped him understand Jesus' life and ministry in a tangible way.

Joel encourages other young people to get involved in ministry. "Do what you need to do to find some way to help out! Maybe you haven't taken the time to look, but there's always something you can do. Helping other people is sometimes more powerful than any other kind of ministry, and it can bring you closer to Jesus." ■

Sara Kroneck is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan and lives in Plymouth, Wisconsin.

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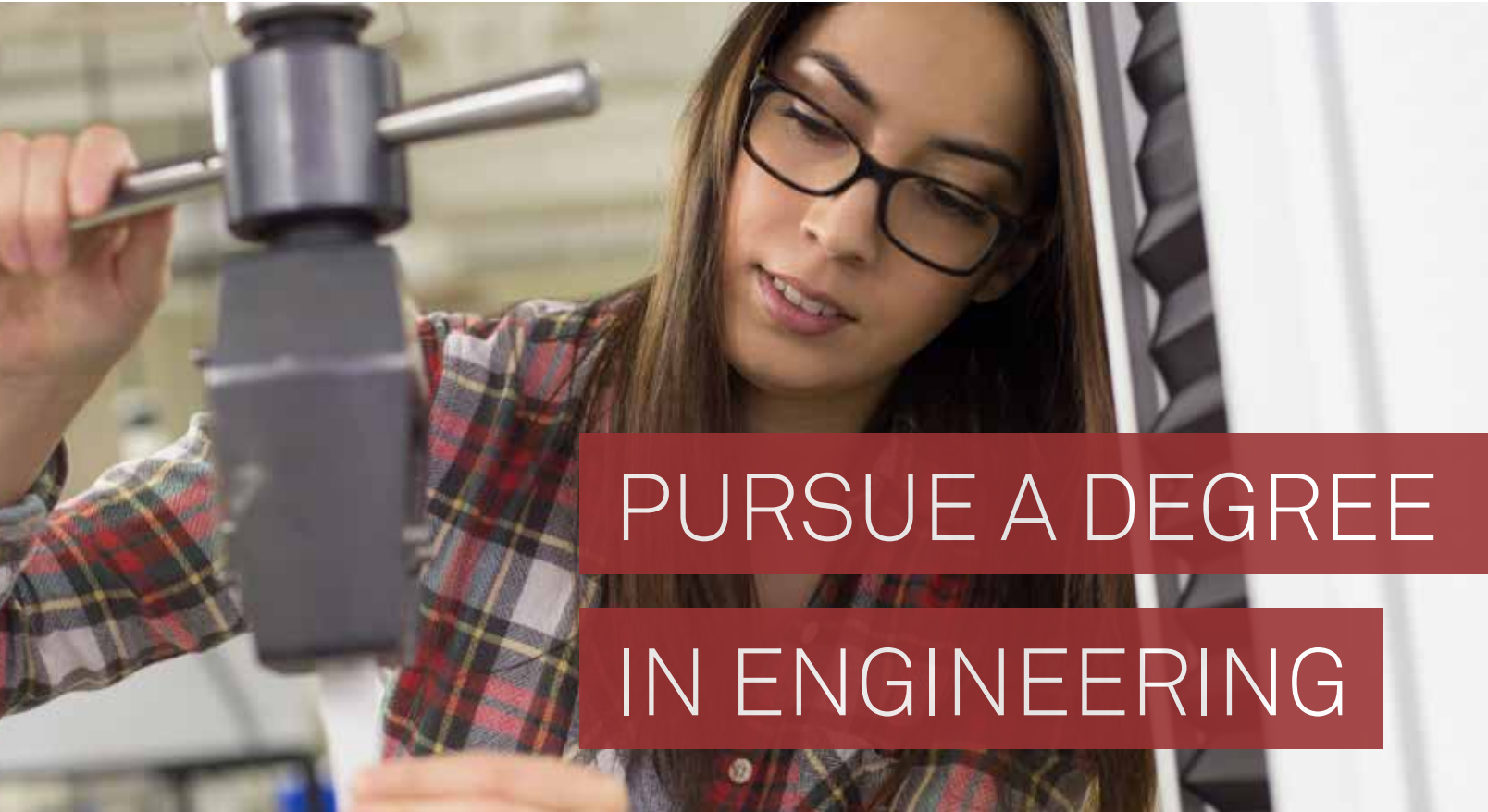
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Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at <http://herald.lakeunion.org>.

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