

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

HERALD

AUGUST 2021

WAVES of PRESENT TRUTH

PODCASTS
AND RADIO
MINISTRIES
EXPANDING
THE REACH OF
GOD'S WORD



DISRUPTIVE
ADVENTIST

ILLINOIS MEMBERS
ILLINOIS FOCUS
INSIDE



There's no doubt media ministry is having its moment. COVID-19 challenged us when we found our houses of worship were closed. Online ministries were poised to fill the void where we could continue sharing the gospel and building an authentic faith community. The possibilities and choices, whether or not the pandemic threat continues, have changed our options for communicating the gospel.

I'm personally excited about this issue of the *Herald* for several reasons. One is because my entry into the Seventh-day Adventist Church was aided by media ministries. It was toward the end of my time working in secular media that I found myself going into my office, closing the door and, instead of listening to the news, clicking on the 3ABN or Amazing Facts websites. It was convenient. It was personal. It was vital sustenance for my starved soul.

I'm encouraged by the array of diverse media options we now have for connecting with those searching for hope, and pray you'll find inspiration in reading about what's happening in the broadcasting and digital space in our region. ■

Debbie

Debbie Michel
Director of Communication



ONLINE NEWS

Clifford Jones, Lake Region president, accepted a call to serve as the Dean of the School of Theology at Oakwood University, effective July 1. In an email to constituents, Jones said, "Thank you for the privilege of partnering with you in mission and ministry for the last seven years, and please know that your love and support significantly contributed to making my service meaningful and memorable."



You may recall in our May cover story that Detroit-area pastors of the Lake Region and Michigan conferences led their congregations in a study of how the Bible addresses issues of ethnocentrism and cultural superiority among believers. On Friday, June 11, they all met for lunch, their first in-person meeting in 15 months.



The *Herald* and Adventist Young Professionals Midwest Chapter are partnering in July and August to bring you a summer concert celebration. The concerts and testimonials, available on our Facebook page and YouTube channel, feature Michelle Odinma, Emily Jurek, Kenric Rimoni, and The Watchmen. We pray these programs will be a blessing to you.



AMITA Health physicians and staff joined forces on Sabbath, June 19, to provide free medical care to more than 140 people at a Mission at Home clinic in Glendale Heights, Ill. The day-long clinic offered medical evaluations across a variety of specialties, including primary care, orthopedics, podiatry, sports medicine, pediatrics and dental services.



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CONTENTS

TELLING THE STORIES OF WHAT GOD IS DOING IN THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

PERSPECTIVES

President's Perspective	4
Lest We Forget	8
Conexiones	9
Conversations with God	44
One Voice	46
On The Edge	47

EVANGELISM

Sharing Our Hope	10
Telling God's Stories	12
Partnership With God	45

LIFESTYLE

Family Focus	6
Alive & Well	7

CURRENT MATTERS

AdventHealth	26
Andrews University	27
News	28
Calendar of Events	37
Mileposts	38
Announcements	40
Classifieds	41

FEATURES

14

Waves of Present Truth

By Kam Ferguson

18

Quick to Listen: Podcasters Explore Life and Faith

By Becky St. Clair

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'This is the church for me'

Our family was all out on the beach a few weeks ago when I got the phone call telling me that I had been elected as president of the Lake Union Conference. Right there in the sand we held a “family council.” The next day I accepted the invitation to serve in this great territory. Pat and I are delighted to be returning to our “home” in the Midwest.



SALVATION IN JESUS MAKES US ONE. THE GROUND AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS IS LEVEL.

The last time I wrote an article for a union paper, it was a guest editorial for the *Columbia Union Visitor* when I was a young pastor serving in the Chesapeake Conference. What follows is a slightly modified version of that editorial. The thoughts expressed here, I believe, are timeless and vital to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Society tends to separate people, to classify us into groups and subgroups. In the secular world, there are divisions based on income, culture, race, gender, background and even political party.

Christianity, on the other hand, stresses unity and oneness. *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all* (Eph. 4:4-6 NKJV).

A friend once told me a beautiful story. Years ago, he was studying the Bible with an Adventist pastor. In time, the pastor invited Bill to attend the local church.

After Bill's second Sabbath at the church, the pastor told him that the next week would be Communion Sabbath. Bill was told how we practice foot washing as part of the Lord's Supper. It was quite strange to him, but he agreed to come to the celebration.

The next Sabbath, when it was time to separate for the foot-washing service, Bill made his way toward the room where the men were to meet. Now it happened that before he attended that Adventist church, Bill had known two church members — one was his physician, the other his trash collector.

That day, as he walked into the room, the first thing Bill saw was his doctor washing the feet of his friend, the trash collector. Bill remembers, "When I saw those two men, whom society says are classes apart, doing the simple act of washing each other's feet, I told myself, 'This is the church for me.'"

That day the trash collector and the doctor were illustrating the truth that the apostle Paul wrote of: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus* (Gal. 3:28 NKJV).

Salvation in Jesus makes us one. The ground at the foot of the cross is level. ■

Ken Denslow is president of the Lake Union Conference.

*There is neither Jew
nor Greek, there is
neither slave nor
free, there is neither
male nor female; for
you are all one in
Christ Jesus
(Gal. 3:28 NKJV).*

Contemplating the Seasons of Life

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1



▲ Joseph and Deidre Garnett

On March 12th of 2020, we both arrived home from our perspective jobs with the knowledge of the looming worldwide pandemic. We both were under the impression that we would be back to work in a matter of weeks. We fell into a cooperative work routine — whoever had the most meetings worked from our home office while the other sought out another space. Sabbath School and virtual church became a routine as well. Although the news from overseas seemed grim, we took it all in with a “This, too, shall pass” attitude. But life as we knew it quickly became “pre-COVID” and “post-COVID.”

Watching the news, we began to hear of the vast number of American workers losing their jobs; we were humbled and thanked the Lord for steady employment. In April, we received word of the passing of someone we actually knew, and the pandemic suddenly became very real to us. We would eventually lose numerous friends, and even family, most of whom were in throes of life — working, parenting, traveling, loving — until they encountered COVID-19.

In October 2020, my mom died suddenly of natural causes. She resided in an assisted living facility at the time of her death, so our interactions leading up to her death had been very limited. We laid her to rest, following COVID safety guidelines and restrictions,

not the celebration of a life well-lived that we felt she deserved. She would never meet her great-grandchild, born two months later. As the family grappled with the loss of “grandma,” God blessed us with our first grandchild, Jaden, who immediately became the love of our lives. We love it when he wears the onesie that reads,

“The Result of Social Distancing!”

God brought us through *the valley of the shadow of death* (Ps. 23:4). He never left us, and the joy of new life awaited us on the other side. *A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance* (Eccl. 3: 4)!

The Bible tells us that, in this life, we will experience seasons that are wonderful as well as those that are difficult. We will experience great joy as well as immense pain. What we have lived to realize is this: none of the seasons or experiences of life are wasted. God shows us that in every experience there is beauty (Eccl. 3:11). Psalm 30:5 assures us that *Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.*

We have learned over the course of this year that we are to live by faith and trust in the Lord in all things for we are living out His divine plan for our lives. *We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose* (Rom. 8:28). ■

THE
Lord
IS MY
strength
AND MY
song

EXODUS 15:2

Joseph and Deidre Garnett, co-directors of Family Ministries for Lake Region Conference

How I lost 40 pounds

“The question of how to preserve the health is one of primary importance. When we study this question in the fear of God, we shall learn that it is best, for both our physical and our spiritual advancement, to observe simplicity in diet. ...

“... Let us patiently study the question. We need knowledge and judgment in order to move wisely in this matter. Nature’s laws are not be resisted but obeyed.” (9T 153)

I want to confess something. It always has been difficult for me to stay in good health. I have tended to be overweight since childhood. I know that many have this tendency for genetic reasons but, in my case, it was because I ate excessively. As a result, I have had several health problems, especially high blood pressure and both high cholesterol and triglyceride levels. I have been a vegetarian since I was baptized but still ate too much, especially vegetarian meat.

When I studied at Andrews University, I was able to change my lifestyle. I ate healthy and exercised, so during my time there I was able to stay relatively slim. But during the years that I was a church pastor, my weight oscillated. In 2001, my wife and I went to an Adventist lifestyle center in Oklahoma. There they taught us the principles of good health. After two weeks, we came out of there, refreshed and committed to staying healthy. However, when I started working at the Lake Union, I gradually fell into the same routine of overeating and not exercising. I gained weight again and started to have problems with high blood pressure and high metabolic numbers.

When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, I discovered that people who suffer from high blood pressure and excess weight are four times

more likely to die from the virus than those who are in good health. I understood then that it was necessary for me to take control of my health. First, I prayed to the Lord and put my faith in the verse that says: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (Phil. 4:13). When eating, I counted calories using an app called MyFitnessPal. I also recalled the eating principles I had learned at the lifestyle center and made a commitment to stay vegan. Then I started walking a minimum of four miles a day/ five days a week.

However, I knew it would be a slow process so I needed to be patient until I could see the fruits of my effort. Thank God, I’ve already lost 40 pounds, my blood pressure is normal, my cholesterol number dropped from 203 to 150, and the triglyceride number dropped from 325 to 102. Additionally, I feel more energetic and my mind is clearer when I read and pray.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a beautiful health message. I know it is not easy to change your lifestyle, especially your diet. However, for your own sake, I recommend that, in addition to praying, studying the Bible and attending worship, that you also take your health very seriously. As you do so, remember that *whether you eat or drink or do anything else, do it all for the glory of God* (1 Cor. 10:31). ■

Carmelo Mercado is vice president of the Lake Union.



▲ Carmelo Mercado

The “Advertising” of Adventist Education: The Avondale Experiment — 2

As we noted yesterday, Ellen White spent a great deal of her time during the 1890s working closely with the development of the Avondale school in Australia as a pattern, whose principles the Church could apply to other institutions.*



▲ George R. Knight

In early 1894 she wrote that “our minds have been much exercised day and night in regard to our schools. How shall they be conducted? And what shall be the education and training of the youth? Where shall our Australian Bible School be located? I was awakened this morning at one o’clock with a heavy burden upon my soul. The subject of education has been presented before me in different times, in varied aspects, by many illustrations, and with direct specification, now upon one point, and again upon another. I felt, indeed, that we have much to learn. We are ignorant in regard to many things” related to education. (FE 310)

Mrs. White was giving serious thought to the proposed Australian facility because she saw the possibility of developing a school outside the sphere of influence of Battle Creek College. In her keynote testimony regarding it, she set the tone for thinking about a new type of Adventist school. It would be a Bible school

that emphasized missionary activities and the spiritual side of life. In addition, it would be practical, teach young people how to work, and have a rural location.

After 20 years of trial and error, Ellen White was more convinced than ever regarding the type of education that the church needed. From her growing understanding of her own testimonies during the past two decades, she already had explicitly affirmed that the Bible must be at the center and that Adventist schools should not follow the false leads of classical education. It had, she wrote, “taken a “different order” (6T 126), but the process of understanding and implementing that understanding would develop rapidly between 1894 and 1899.

As we have noted again and again during the past few months, God leads His people step by step. He does not give all understanding at one time. God directs us to the next step at the proper time. So it was in the field of education. By the 1890s, Adventism was ready for an educational revolution. ■

...GOD LEADS HIS
PEOPLE STEP BY STEP.

*“Yesterday’s” devotional was published in the June/July 2021 issue.

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, p. 305. Reprinted with permission.

Justo Morales, Hombre de Fe

He peleado la buena batalla, he acabado la carrera, he guardado la fe. Por lo demás, me está reservada la corona de justicia, la cual me dará el Señor, juez justo, en aquel día; y no sólo a mí, sino también a todos los que aman su venida (2 Timoteo 4:7,8).

Conocí al pastor Justo Morales en una reunión ministerial en el año 2006. Él acababa de ser nombrado coordinador hispano de la Asociación de Illinois. En aquel entonces yo había sido vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago por solo dos años y estaba todavía en el proceso de conocer los muchos desafíos que enfrentaban los hispanos en la Unión. Fue en esa primera reunión de pastores que me di cuenta que existían también serios desafíos en la asociación con respecto a cómo lograr unidad en las iglesias manteniendo un espíritu de misión. Fue un gusto observar a Justo en acción en aquella reunión y durante los trece años que sirvió como coordinador hispano. Pude notar por lo menos tres cualidades claves que un líder consagrado debiera tener.

Humilde – Cuando conocí a Justo, él ya tenía veintinueve años de experiencia como obrero en el Perú. Había sido pastor de iglesia, director de varios departamentos a nivel de asociación y de unión, profesor de teología, y hasta presidente de varias asociaciones.

He notado a través del tiempo que hay personas que tienen la tendencia de contarles a los demás acerca de lo mucho que han podido lograr. Jamás escuché a Justo hablar de lo que había hecho antes. Él prefería mirar hacia el futuro y trabajar en equipo con los pastores. No exigía que los demás hicieran lo que él sugería. Estaba siempre listo y dispuesto a escuchar las ideas y comentarios que otros hacían.

Apasionado – Justo era un hombre muy dedicado a la misión a la iglesia. Le gustaba mucho trabajar personalmente con los miembros de iglesia, dando clases de entrenamiento y aconsejándoles en muchos aspectos de la vida. Además, Justo promovía constantemente el evangelismo con sus pastores y les proveía los recursos

necesarios. Su esposa Rosa y él sentían también una gran pasión por el ministerio infantil y trabajaban incansablemente en esa área, tanto para la Asociación como para la División Norteamericana.

Amor por los demás – Lo que más recuerdo de Justo es su amor por los demás. Cuando se me acercaba tenía siempre una sonrisa, y me saludaba como si fuera su mejor amigo. Lo mismo hacía al encontrarse con otras personas. Daba la impresión que Justo quería saber cómo se encontraban en su peregrinaje espiritual. Era evidente también que amaba mucho a su esposa Rosa, a sus hijos y a sus nietos.

Siento mucha tristeza al saber que no podré ya ver o conversar con mi apreciado amigo y aprender más de él. Sin embargo, doy gracias a Dios que Justo Morales, al igual que el apóstol Pablo, peleó la buena batalla y guardó la fe. Espero el día de la resurrección cuando podré darle un fuerte abrazo y agradecerle por haber sido un ejemplo de lo que es ser un fiel siervo del Señor. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago



▲ Carmelo Mercado



◀ El Pastor Morales vivió su vida en servicio a Dios y a su familia. Al momento de su muerte trabajaba para la conferencia Regional del Lago de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día, pastoreando la iglesia Hispana Chicago Shalom II y el grupo Hispano Rockford Salem. Igualmente trabajaba como presentador para el Ministerio del Niño y Adolescente de la División Norteamericana.

Coming Home

AFTER PRAYING THREE DECADES FOR MY PARENTS, THEY ARE BAPTIZED

ON A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY AT THE END OF APRIL, I WADED INTO THE GULF OF MEXICO WITH TWO VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE — MY PARENTS, DAVE AND LINDA LONG. A few days before, they had asked if I would baptize them into Christ and the Adventist faith they had recently come to embrace. My wife, Chris, was standing in the waves with camera in hand to capture the moment as my mother and father were “buried at sea” and resurrected into a new life in Jesus.

Baptizing my parents was truly a high point in my ministry. It also was the result of God’s grace working in our family over many years. My older brother, Tad, was the first in our family to respond to the gospel and Three Angels’ messages. He shared the Truth with me, and we were baptized in the ’80s. The desire to see our parents united with us in the Truth led us to pray and share biblical materials and messages with them over three decades, with little apparent result. But God was working.

In April of 2020, when COVID-19 moved the “Ignite Indiana” *Hope Awakens* series by John Bradshaw online, our parents were able to tune in down in



Florida and watched every presentation with interest. After that series, on a phone call in late May, Tad and I did something we had not done in a long time — we prayed together for the salvation of the parents we love. It was a sacred moment, two brothers interceding for their mom and dad. We could sense God hearing and responding to our heartfelt and united prayer.

What followed that prayer was amazing. The Carmel Adventist Church, where I pastor, featured a 13-part series on the book of Hebrews which my parents eagerly watched online. Next, they completed the *Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides*, read *The Story of Redemption*, and joined the Carmel Church in reading the Bible in a year, along with the *Conflict of the Ages* series, by Ellen White. Receiving the truth from several sources in a consistent, connected way, deepened my parents’ convictions and culminated in their decisions to be baptized. We are so grateful for how God has answered our prayers and united our family in the Adventist faith after so many years!

The following is a short testimony from my dad:

“After much research, I became familiar with Christian history and studied the Bible, supplemented with Ellen White’s writings. I’ve always thought one had to believe that Scripture contains absolute truths by which God saves human beings. If you believe Scripture is only partially true, then you can rationalize not following certain parts and you become the arbiter of truth.

“My education and training were in science — requiring analysis of facts and proofs with critical thinking, uninfluenced by emotion. I find that

◀ *Robb Long’s parents, Dave and Linda, were baptized April in Venice, Florida, just outside of the condominium where they live in their retirement. Since they do not yet have a home church in Florida, they were voted into Carmel’s membership, the first fruits of their Carmel Church Online Congregation. “With all of the suffering caused by COVID, God has certainly made good come of it,” says Robb. “We look forward to continuing to send His truth out via technology, reaching hungry souls wherever they may be!”*

faith is a decision regarding righteous living in accordance with the Ten Commandments that is made when convinced by the facts and historical truths found in God's Word. This allows one to accept the spiritual realm of God's creation which we are to seek for our salvation. Living by natural and divine laws protects us from Satan's influence on our emotions, enabling us to choose between right and wrong.

“When I understood the history of Catholicism and Protestantism, and their place in Bible prophecy, I started to discern the half-truths and misinformation coming from

many pulpits and theologians. I sought out the convictions of my two sons and became convinced that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a denomination following Scripture in a straightforward manner, unpolluted by traditions imposed by Satan working through men. Baptism by immersion is just the first step in my confession of faith and commitment to righteousness, being led by the Holy Spirit to claim my salvation through Jesus Christ and assurance of eternal life in God's Kingdom.” ■

Robb Long pastors the Carmel Church in Carmel, Indiana, and is the conference's Evangelism coordinator.

WE ARE SO
GRATEFUL FOR
HOW GOD HAS
ANSWERED OUR
PRAYERS AND
UNITED OUR
FAMILY IN THE
ADVENTIST FAITH
AFTER SO MANY
YEARS!



Assurance

KEEPING THE FAITH ON A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

By Gabrielle Umana

“THE BEST FOUR YEARS OF MY LIFE.” THAT’S WHAT I WAS OFTEN TOLD ABOUT COLLEGE.

Sure, the first week went great, and the second one as well but, by the third week, I sure was hoping this wouldn’t be the peak of my lifetime.

Maybe it was the excitement of leaving home, or perhaps the hope for the amazing experiences to come, but I couldn’t wait to go to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Throughout my first day, I was wide-eyed at all the wealth and resources the University had to offer. I couldn’t believe that *I* actually had made it in, that *I* was about to embark on a journey to success at U of M. When I began speaking with students in my cohort, however, I was quickly met with a different reality — *I* was “different.”

Different isn’t always a bad thing. In fact, it’s often quite beneficial. But as an 18-year-old (and even still as a 21-year-old), this is a difficult concept to grasp. You see, I spent my whole life waiting for this moment, always trying to be the best, working towards 100 percent and extra credit, doing the most I could to ensure my success. That was my “difference.” But the difference I was forced to recognize that particular evening was about things over which I had no control, particularly my background.

I am a child of immigrant parents, one of which was on disability and the other who was sustaining my siblings and me on a teacher’s salary. My family had experienced a substantial number of struggles, but I never considered that these truths might be impediments to my success. Yet in this world of privilege, such that I had never seen before, I suddenly believed I fell short in every aspect. People were sharing their unbelievably high SAT scores as if they were A-’s when they wanted A+’s. Internships with their parents’ friends, AP classes, summer programs



Raymo Victor

▲ Gabrielle Umana

... “*How on earth did I make it here?*” I thought. This is where my struggle with impostor syndrome began.

“Impostor syndrome is . . . doubting your abilities and feeling like a fraud” (Burey & Tulshyan, 2021). Boy, did I ever. The more time I spent with my friends, the more I saw how financially and emotionally protected they were by their parents, their families, their communities — and how I wasn’t. Then, things started getting difficult. Debilitating, even. My struggle with impostor syndrome, along with my struggle to afford class materials, began affecting my academics. To top it all off, my brain decided it was the perfect time to start processing childhood trauma.

This is where God stepped in. (Or, at least, this is when I noticed.)

I missed going to church, teaching Beginner’s Sabbath School, and enjoying the sermons at my church back home in Berrien Springs, so I decided to go to the Ann Arbor church for the first time. After a 40-minute bus ride and a lot of walking, I finally made it. I barely caught the “Amen,” but I was glad to be there. I was invited to the potluck (What college student says “no” to free food?) so, naturally, I went, but I noticed that we were waiting for something — or someone — to arrive.

“The students are coming! The students are coming!” Then BAM! A crowd of about fifteen students hustled through the entrance. I spent the rest of the day with them and was then informed that the University had not one, but two Adventist student organizations! Campus H.O.P.E. (a weekly, student-run, on-campus church service, and more) and Adventist Christian Fellowship, or A.C.F. (in charge of mid-week Bible studies and other evangelistic efforts). Needless to say, I was thrilled. I met presidents of both organizations and was promptly invited to Wednesday’s Bible study: “Let’s Taco ’bout Jesus.” And, yes, we ate tacos.

I started attending Bible studies each week, and my devotional life was sparked. For the first time, I understood what it meant to study my Bible, and my life and my perspective on everything changed completely. I was falling in love with God more and more each day and feeling closer to Him than ever. Despite this, however, everything else in my life continued to fall apart faster than I could try to put it back together. My academics were suffering and getting worse by the minute while my mental health took a sharp turn for the worse, and I eventually fell into a deep depression.

If you’ve experienced depression, you will understand that it makes you lose interest in what once brought you joy, and struggle to perform daily activities. As a result, I stopped going to class, stopped doing my schoolwork, and stopped taking care of myself. The only thing I did was go to Bible study and attend church every Sabbath. It was at this point that I started to question what I perceived to be God’s plan. Why did He bring me to U of M and leave me to fend for myself? Why did He promise me success only for me to fail? I started to get upset with Him, which sounds harsh, but it reminds me of a group of people from the Bible.

In Exodus Chapter 14, the Israelites found themselves between a sea and an army of Egyptians desiring their death. Although God had met all of their needs up to this point, they turned to Him and became angry, asking why He would deliver them from Egypt just to have them die in the desert. Sounds crazy, right? How could they?! How dare they doubt God! Yet in my weakness, God revealed to me that I wasn’t much different from them.

As I said, I continued to go to Bible studies and attended church every Sabbath. I never told anyone what was happening, but He knew. And with each study,

sermon and newfound friendship, God revealed His character to me. He told me that He is a God of fulfilled promises, not empty ones; a God of mercy and love and, most importantly, faithfulness, even when I lacked in faithfulness myself. So, in spite of my doubt and confusion, I praised Him. I praised Him for His character and His goodness towards me, even when I didn’t feel it.

Time passed. Little by little, He began to deliver me from my depression, from my helplessness, and from myself. He made a way where there was no way, as He always does, and somehow managed to rescue my grades. He sent me help from so many different directions, I didn’t know how to react. All I could do was praise Him more.

My friends, this is the God we serve — a God of deliverance. This was my experience from my first semester of college and, after that, things got significantly worse. Some days, I didn’t know how I was going to continue, much less succeed. But do you know what has become stronger? My faith. I have seen God deliver me and cannot deny His ability to do it for me again. Although everything in my life may be deteriorating, His protection and His covering over me remains steadfast. And even if His deliverance does not come when or how I want it to, I know that it will come. I encourage you to believe the same.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth (Heb. 11:13). ■

Reference:

J. Burey, R. Tulshyan. (2021, March 31). Stop Telling Women They Have Imposter Syndrome.

Harvard Business Review. <https://hbr.org/2021/02/stop-telling-women-they-have-imposter-syndrome>

Gabrielle Umana is entering her fourth year at U of M, Ann Arbor, majoring in Psychology and hoping to obtain a Master’s degree in Social Work. She’s looking forward to serving as the president of Adventist Christian Fellowship, the Adventist organization that propelled her involvement into public campus ministries.

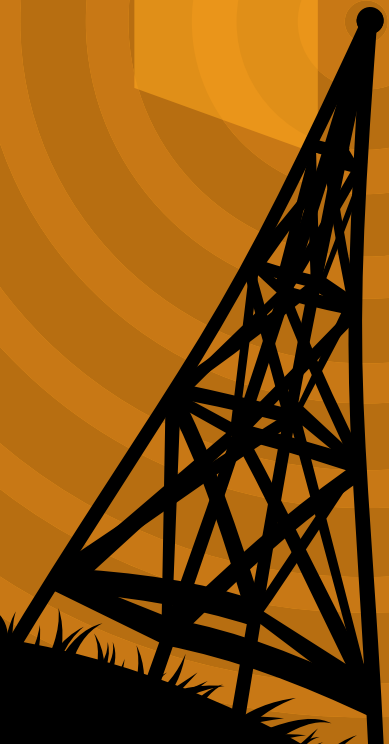


▲ Umana (second from right) with some of the members of the Adventist Christian Fellowship at University of Michigan.

COVER STORY

WAVES of PRESENT TRUTH

By Kam Ferguson



Strong Tower Radio (STR) listener Carmen Thomas tuned her ears keenly to what she was hearing on W217BB 91.3 FM, a Christian station that STR obtained in Decatur, Illinois. She learned many new elements of truth she had not heard previously and was impressed to keep listening and to visit her local Seventh-day Adventist church.

Within two years, after careful study and the continued conviction of the Holy Spirit, Carmen embraced the everlasting gospel and signified her decision in baptism at the Knoxville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Peoria, Illinois.

Another listener, Myles Trowbridge, discovered STR accidentally when a friend was changing the radio dial and found WIHC 97.9-FM, aired from Newberry in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.). A long-time seeker for God who did not seem to fit in at any church he visited, Myles kept listening. *"They will lie to me at some point,"* he thought, just as other pastors and teachers had whose teachings had not aligned with the Bible. To his amazement, all of the STR programs taught Bible truth, so he began attending the Cornerstone Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. There he met people teaching and living the truth and fully embraced the everlasting gospel, signifying it with baptism. Myles shares, "I finally know the truth. I seek to always do God's will — anything else is foolish. It is my joy to follow Jesus. He changed my life; obeying His Word is central to my life."

These are a few of the testimonies of how God continues to reward the faith of those who are embracing the Three Angels' messages heard on STR, an independent, supportive radio and TV ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with offices located in Cadillac, Michigan.

Since 2009, God has enlarged this listener-supported ministry from one radio station to twelve radio stations,

one TV station and, beginning June 2020, streaming online at StrongTowerRadio.org/streaming. In June 2021, iPhone and Android apps became available to further enable listening to STR almost anywhere. Featured programs include Amazing Facts' Bible Answers Live, Your Story Hour, programs from Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), Life Talk Radio, Moody Radio, always uplifting Christian music, and Fresh Manna, an hour timeslot providing a larger audience for Michigan area pastors' sermons. STR currently produces approximately 20 percent of programs aired.

Birth of a Ministry

Strong Tower Radio's beginnings are rooted primarily in two elements: God's providential leading and persistent fascination of STR founder and president, David Bolduc, with radio evangelism. David spent some time volunteering with 3ABN which further encouraged his zeal for radio, and he also explored low power FM (LP-FM) radio options. While none of these LP-FM options worked out, through the search process he was led to discover what would become the first STR signal, located in the Cadillac area where his wife, Bethany, was raised and her family still lives.

It would be a challenging two-year experience to start the radio ministry, but God used circumstances in their lives to draw them nearer to Him and strengthen their faith for where He was leading. The previous summer, the

► *The Strong Tower Radio recording of the flagship interview program, "Strong Tower Radio Today." Pictured (clockwise from bottom left) is host Jilane Fenner, engineer John Duman, guests Fadia and Chad Kreuzer, and co-host Tom Mejeur.*

Bolducs welcomed their second son into the world and all seemed wonderful. Within several months, however, they noticed concerning symptoms with their new son. Numerous visits to neurologists and other specialists led to brain surgery at Cincinnati Children's Hospital which, through God's providence, was not only successful but also paid for by various resources! They left the hospital with the \$118,000 bill completely paid! Praise God!

David states, "Through it all, we felt the Lord's leading and His blessings. We were drawn into a level of trust that, without our son's surgery, we would never have known! We were better prepared for this radio ministry as a direct result of our son's surgery experience."

During an infrequent Federal Communication Commission (FCC) open window for Non-Commercial Education (NCE) FM band applications (88.1-FM to 91.9-FM), David discovered an available radio signal in Cadillac on October 1, 2007. He and his family made two trips from their home in Decatur, Illinois, to Cadillac to further explore the opportunity. They met with local churches to gauge their interest, found much enthusiasm for an FM station, and proceeded to form a board of directors, an LLC with bylaws and then applied for a construction permit with the FCC in just three weeks' time!

After that initial three-week flurry of activity, it was a long, two-year process before Strong Tower Radio first broadcast on December 10, 2009, on 91.9-FM, WGCP, Cadillac.

David and the STR board were content with that single station, yet God had greater plans and placed unsolicited growth opportunities before them. As God leads, He provides, and God, through His faithful people, added station after station as the ministry grew with prayer and generous financial support.

Reliance on the Holy Spirit

Strong Tower Radio continues to follow that growth model, relying on the Holy Spirit's providential guidance instead of trying to create growth opportunities. During the past eleven years, STR has developed relationships with several media brokers who periodically send leads of stations for sale. Strong Tower Radio then contacts the



Penny Merche

area pastors to gauge interest, then presents to church boards and, when strong support is expressed, moves forward with fundraising to purchase the station.

By God's grace, again through His faithful people, prior to this article's publication, two new stations are being added to STR that cover the greater Kalamazoo and Battle Creek areas. These stations came to STR through a media broker, yet God brings some opportunities in the most remarkable ways.

A few years ago, STR received a call from a man asking, "Would you like to buy a station?" Intrigued, David explored further. The caller owned a station in north central Michigan and happened to hear STR when the regular 91.9-FM station in his area went off air for two days. This enabled STR's signal to travel much farther and this man liked what he heard! Wanting to downsize to LP-FM, he offered to sell his full-power FM station to STR for a modest price. After positive meetings with the local churches, STR moved forward with the purchase and WBHL 90.7-FM was added to the broadcast family. It has been a very fruitful venture as dozens of souls have given their hearts to Jesus in baptism because of listening to WBHL.

New Opportunities

It appears that 2021 will be a growth year for Strong Tower Radio, as opportunities continue to emerge or "land at the doorstep." Along with the new stations mentioned, there was an FCC auction this July which provided another growth window. The Lord impressed church families of the western U.P. to contribute funds toward STR participating in this auction. According to God's will, He'll deliver the construction permit for a 100kW signal at Houghton, Michigan, into STR's stewardship before August.

Another opportunity is the 2021 NCE window. This is the first NCE window to open since 2007 when STR was born! Metro areas are saturated, but more opportunity

exists for rural areas, especially in the U.P. This may be the year that STR covers Michigan's entire Upper Peninsula with the everlasting gospel 24/7/365.

There are several newly emerging opportunities in Michigan's Lower Peninsula about which STR presently cannot share any details.

Satan clearly despises these developments and testimonies, and he wars against STR continually. Yet, as the apostle Paul boldly states, *We are not ignorant of Satan's devices¹ and any effective warfare will be fought in God's armor alone.²*

How can you help? Please pray for Strong Tower Radio for continued protection from enemy attacks. Pray for STR supporters, listeners, and that the Holy Spirit will give greater power to the broadcasts. Pray that many, not a few, but hundreds, even thousands, will be convicted *annually* by the messages they hear on STR and move forward in faith. Please pray for the members of the churches where listeners will visit, that the members will be ready to receive them, nurture them, both in doctrine and example. Please pray for STR's growth opportunities, that God's people will respond with great faith and continuous financial support.

When visiting the Cadillac area, we invite you to make time to visit Strong Tower Radio's office and recording studios, and hear the amazing testimony of how God provided such a miracle facility! Please call 231-468-2087, go to the STR studios at 7669 South 45 Road, Cadillac, MI 49601, or visit STR's website at STR.FM. ■

¹2 Corinthians 2:11

²Ephesians 6:12-18

Kam Ferguson is Development director of Strong Tower Radio.



Media Ministry in Indiana

Of the five conferences in the Lake Union, Indiana has the largest number of conference- and church-supported media ministries.

Terre Haute Church operates a high-powered radio station and airs programs in a large region of southwestern Indiana. One can drive on I-70 and pick up the signal for several miles on the interstate as far north as Rockville, Illinois. The church pays the monthly expenses to air 3ABN programming, thanks to faithful donors from other churches in Indiana and Illinois.

Mike Shinn runs the station and says there are regular listeners in the penitentiary who have come to rely on the messages. "We had a lightning strike here and the station was off the air for a while. We got a call from prisoners asking why they couldn't hear the station," he said.

The other low-power stations (New Castle, Shelbyville and Kokomo) broadcast out of their churches and reach a 7- to 8-mile radius out into their communities. Their members maintain the equipment and raise money to pay for the expenses.

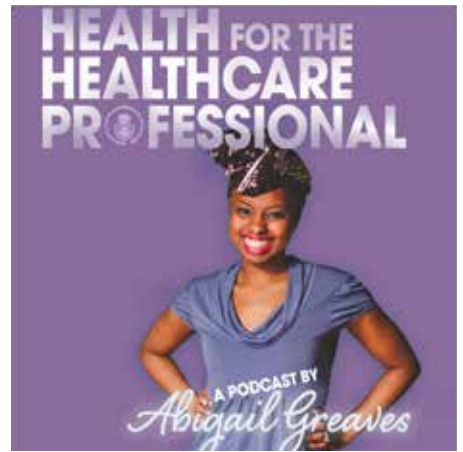
In addition to the radio stations, a television station, WHMB Channel 40, is operated and funded by the Cicero Church. Pastor Aaron Clark of the Cicero Church and Conference president, Vic Van Schaik, host a thirty-minute interactive Bible study program on various topics. Airing three times per week, it potentially reaches 1.5 million homes across Indiana. The Conference also helps to support *It Is Written* programming airing on WHMB.

"We wish we could see even more media ministries started as this medium reaches a lot of people for a relatively low amount of money," said Van Schaik.

If you're in Indiana, you can listen to the program/ stations:

Hope for Life TV – WHMB, 40.1 TV
Terra Haute 3ABN – WYLJ, 107.5 FM
New Castle – WHHC-LP, 100.1 FM
Kokomo – WJJD-LP, 101.3 FM
Shelbyville – WSHI, 95.5 FM

◀ Pastor Aaron Clark of the Cicero Church (right) and Conference president, Vic Van Schaik (left), host a thirty-minute interactive Bible study program on various topics. Airing three times per week, it potentially reaches 1.5 million homes across Indiana.



Quick to Listen: Podcasters Explore Life and Faith

From the early days of Adventist media ministries, beginning with evangelist H.M.S. Richards' founding of the Voice of Prophecy in 1930, Adventists have utilized technology to broadcast the gospel to a mass audience. Today, there are Adventist organizations and individuals continuing to push the audio frontiers.

One of those ways is through podcasts, a platform not unlike radio which has the power to influence and mobilize large segments of the population. Whether or not you're actively listening to any podcasts, you have likely heard of them. Although the format dates to the early 2000s (it's named after the iPod), podcasting has had an expansive growth spurt over the last few years.

We are highlighting some podcasters from around the Union (or lived here in recent years) for your listening pleasure. Do you have a favorite? Are there any we missed?

This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come (Matt. 24:14 NASB).



Why I Am Here

An avid podcast listener, Michael Kusarawana was inspired by the stories he was hearing, but he knew there was something missing. "Many of the stories I heard felt forced, as though they were being used to fit a specific agenda." Kusarawana decided to create a method of storytelling that was honest, open and

relatable. In September 2019, he started his first podcast, "Why I Am Here."

"It's stories of how God has helped people go through different circumstances in life," he explains. "Basically, it's sharing everyday people's journeys to a connection with God."

In interview style, Kusarawana, an associate pastor at Berrien Springs Village Church, walks through his guests' stories with them in an effort to attribute success in life to its true source: God.

"Their lives have been transformed and, through Him, they find the courage to share their personal stories so that others can be transformed, too," Kusarawana adds. "Quite a few people have come to me and said they didn't know so-and-so went through X or Y, and now they're grateful to my podcast for allowing them to know others better. Storytelling is bringing people together with the knowledge that there is a God who helps people. That's what those other podcasts are missing, and it's exactly what I wanted in mine."

LISTEN: tinyurl.com/WhyIAmHerePodcast



Conflict Audible

Ivan and Olivia “Livvy” Ruiz-Knott wanted to work through the *Conflict of the Ages* series in a serious and intentional way. So they decided

to do a podcast as they made their way through the series.

“We realized pretty early on that there are a bunch of things we don’t know about Ellen White or these books,” Ivan admits. “We knew they were important and central to Adventist identity, but we still had a lot of questions.”

Their first episode, featuring George Knight, Adventist author and historian, and Michael Campbell, professor of Religion at Southern Adventist University, was released in January 2020 to many positive reviews. Although the intention was to make a one-year podcast, they are looking at creating at least eight more episodes.

“There’s just too much interesting material we want to get to,” says Ivan. “Ellen White is even more fascinating than we had already thought, and there is so much to learn and wonder about.”

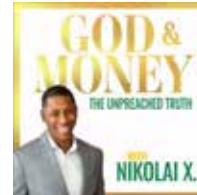
The Ruiz-Knotts have heard from experts on the topic that they have represented things well, and a few professors have integrated the podcast into their course curriculum.

Ivan points out that though White’s writings are timeless, and so is the challenge of properly understanding, interpreting and applying her writings to the present day.

“All of the episodes focus on the history of Ellen White and the effect of her writings on the church,” Livvy

explains. “As long as people are interested in understanding her better, these episodes will continue to provide value.”

LISTEN: tinyurl.com/conflictaudible



God and Money

Nikolai Greaves, pastor at Champaign, Decatur and Peoria churches in Illinois, believes there are two forces that are very relevant

in today’s society but are rarely talked about in conjunction with one another: God and money. With a background in the corporate world and a degree in business administration, Greaves brings to his ministry a passion for helping others recognize ways to develop their financial skills in order to utilize them productively for God.

“Some people walk away from the issue of money because they believe Jesus is coming soon and they don’t need to worry about it,” he explains. “Others feel as though taking interest in their finances takes their focus away from their spiritual life. And there are a few who want to know how to take care of their finances and their spiritual life at the same time. I want to address all of these groups and more in my podcast.”

Although it is a relatively new production, started in February 2020, Greaves has already received positive feedback about what he has to say. In his podcast, he discusses from a biblical standpoint how God feels about

Radio Ministry Milestones

Small Beginnings

In 1930, Dr. H.M.S. Richards’ first, regularly scheduled “Family Worship” programs were broadcast daily from KNX in Los Angeles. In 1937 the name of the broadcast was changed to the Voice of Prophecy. Today the **Voice of Prophecy** is heard either Sunday or daily on some 800 stations in North America. Overseas, another 1,100 stations carry radio programs that bear the same name or are closely affiliated with the V.O.P. (www.voiceofprophecy.com)

money, debt and people of various economic standing. He also addresses the prosperity gospel, explaining it and debating whether it's important or overemphasized.

"Money is not the root of all evil," Greaves explains. "The *love* of money is. It's about what you *do* with your money that matters. In church, we talk all the time about the need to return 10 percent tithe, but we never discuss how to handle the other 90 percent. That's what I want to do."

Listen: tinyurl.com/TheUnpreachedTruth



What's Your Story?

Leilani Langdon was a social worker for nine years and director of ministries for her Illinois church before she decided to become a stay-at-home mom with a mission. While listening to a sermon, she was struck by the message.

"A lot of us live our lives in shallow water because we can see the ocean floor and we can reach the shore," she paraphrases. "God is calling us to the deep where our only anchor is in Him."

God began to show her how things she'd already been doing should come together.

"I had no idea how to do what He was asking me to do," Langdon shares, "but, in that moment, I had such a strong 'why' from God that the 'how' didn't matter."

So she found people willing to share their stories, and launched her weekly live show podcast. Langdon and her guests have discussed job loss, infidelity, adoption, autoimmune disease, child loss, and debt-free living, to name a few.

"People have found their freedom in Christ and have come to a place of wholeness, even if their story is not yet over," Langdon explains. "Their stories are both moving and empowering."

Several followers have shared how listening to someone else tell their story has helped them find direction in their own. And that includes Langdon.

"For the longest time, God has been trying to move in my life in a powerful way and I have allowed fear to stop me," she admits. "Taking this step was huge for me, but the more steps I take, the less afraid I become. It's not safer in the shallows, and through the creation of this podcast, God has finally gotten that through to me."

Watch and Listen: tinyurl.com/leilanilangdon



Advent Next

History of church architecture. The Trinity. Women's ordination. The Great Controversy. African history of Christianity. The theology of beauty. Fear. How God expresses Himself. Domestic violence. Bible translations. Ecology.

LifeTalk, the radio outlet for programming from Voice of Prophecy, Breath of Life, It Is Written, Jesus 101, Faith for Today, and all the North American Division Adventist ministries, was founded in 1991 by Paul Moore. Their first radio station, KSOH in Yakima, Washington, began broadcasting in March 1992. Today, LifeTalk is heard globally on over 200 affiliate stations, and is broadcast on Galaxy 19 (Channel 1004) and streamed on Amazon Echo-Alexa, Google Home, Roku, Mobile Apps, and www.lifetalk.net. LifeTalk KIDS is LifeTalk Radio's new radio channel for children, streaming 24/7 from LifeTalkKIDS.net.

These are just some of the topics Kendra Arsenault has already addressed in her podcast, Advent Next. For the last year, Arsenault has brought in experts for interviews on an array of subjects, something she jokingly terms “Adventist TED Talks.”

A Masters of Divinity student at Andrews University, Arsenault felt keenly the gap in education for lay members of the church when it comes to anything beyond the fundamentals of the Bible.

“There is so much to know and learn about the Bible and sometimes we get stuck at just the basics,” she says. “The more we know, the more we tread with care on topics on which we don’t have all of the insights. We walk a little more humbly, knowing we don’t know all things, and this attitude makes for better dialogue with non-believers, those of different faiths, or even those within our own church.”

Arsenault believes wholeheartedly that if access to education is increased, the church will have more confident lay members willing to coordinate and participate in outreach and share the gospel message with others.

Listen: adventnext.podbean.com



Health for the Healthcare Professional

“There are so many great podcasts out there which talk about health and

wellness, but there isn’t much conversation about health for those who are providing healthcare for others.”

Abigail Greaves is a busy woman. Between her job as a respiratory therapist, her role as wife and mother, and her volunteer positions at her church, finding time to take care of her own health often takes a back seat. “We’re so busy taking care of others for 12 hours and then we come home and take care of our families,” she points out. “I wanted to create a podcast speaking to us as healthcare professionals and the specific health needs we have.”

Between sharing her own perspectives as a professional and interviewing those in other areas of healthcare, Greaves feels she has not only been able to educate others but has learned a lot herself.

“I wanted to be able to reach a multitude of people but on my schedule — and theirs,” she explains. “Presentations require a group of people to be in the same room at the same time. A podcast speaks to the healthcare professionals on crazy schedules — they can pause me whenever they need to and then come back when they get another free moment.”

Another perk of the podcast? Greaves points out that even people who aren’t in healthcare have reached out to tell her they’ve benefitted from what she shares.

Listen: tinyurl.com/healthforprofessionals

Local Successes

Your Story Hour — In the 1940s, a small group of people was concerned about character development of youth in their Southwestern Michigan community. Someone proposed the perfect idea: a Saturday afternoon story hour. Soon neighborhood kids met weekly above the local fire department to hear Bible and true-to-life stories. A short while later, someone heard a radio evangelist confess a need for children’s radio programming. When the local radio station was contacted, they were enthusiastic about the idea. Your Story Hour went on the air live for the first time on March 27, 1949. (www.yourstoryhour.org)



Adventist History Podcast

“In Adventist podcast years, I’m old,” jokes Matthew Lucio, Illinois Conference pastor and podcaster.

His show has been around for over five years.

When he started the podcast, it was a way to motivate himself to do something he’d always wanted to do — learn Adventist history so he could understand “why we are the way we are.” He adds, “It’s like a spiritual family tree.”

One of the biggest lessons he’s learned thus far is to have empathy for our Adventist ancestors. “I’ve seen a lot of their faults,” he says, “which makes me love them for who they are.”

The feedback for his podcast has been vastly positive. He says he appreciates that people take five minutes to send him a note, let alone 30 precious minutes of their lives to listen to his podcast. As his goal is to find possible Adventist futures in harmony with our Adventist past, it seems the connections his podcast inspires are a good start in that direction. History-telling, as Lucio points out, is an ancient, spiritual act of community-forming.

“I make this podcast for reasonable people who take what they believe seriously but don’t take themselves seriously,” says Lucio. “They’re the only kind of people you can be vulnerable with.”

Listen: adventisthistorypodcast.org



The Meier Hall Dean's List

In summer 2019, Donnie Keele, dean of men in Meier Hall at Andrews University, start-

ed a podcast he dubbed, “Conversations for Students; Conversations with Students.”

“It’s a space where students can express their views but also are challenged to know and articulate their thought processes,” he explains.

When the residence hall staff noticed a steady decline in the readership of their hall newsletter, they knew they had to come up with a new way to communicate effectively with their residents. They hit upon the idea of a podcast and started building it with the goal of being inclusive and authentic, perhaps even creating a space to advocate for ideas and values central to the university’s purpose: advocating for character development in students via integrity and discernment.

“Facilitating conversation has taught me a lot about the value of questions,” Keele admits. “Taking time to think through what I’m curious about has helped me craft better questions that lead to better dialogue.”

Although their podcast is intended specifically for Meier Hall residents, Keele says that it’s possible that anyone interested in hearing about collegiate issues and perspectives would find it engaging.

Listen: meierhall.podbean.com

WAUS is located on the campus of Andrews University and broadcasts classical music, news updates as well as the church service from Pioneer Memorial Church and other Christian programs, such as “Scriptural Pursuit.” The station, then known as WEMC, went on the air in 1921 when John Fetzer, an amateur radio equipment operator, transferred his equipment to Emmanuel Missionary College. During the Great Depression, in 1930, the school sold the station to Fetzer. In 1971, after a capital campaign raised the needed funds, WAUS was on the air. (www.waus.org)



Adventist Peace Radio

Jeff Boyd, who in his previous day job was writing research grants and coordinating academic conferences

at Andrews University, was becoming increasingly frustrated with blogging. By the time he edited the conversations he had had down to an acceptable word count, much of the speakers' passion was gone.

"Although I didn't like hearing my own voice, I wanted people's stories and passions to come alive for the audience," Boyd says. "A podcast had to happen."

Four years in, and Boyd is extremely happy he swallowed his pride and made the switch.

"Each interview helps me think more clearly and deeply about what it means to be a disciple of the Prince of Peace, the One who came preaching peace, the One who blessed the peacemakers," Boyd says.

Who is this podcast for? Anyone who wants to embrace the teachings of Adventism but who also believe in values of peace and justice need to be held tightly and embodied more authentically.

"I hope listeners come away with a renewed sense of God's mission in the world," Boyd says. "We are God's ambassadors for the Kingdom of Peace with a broad ministry of reconciliation."

Listen: adventistpeace.org/podcast



In Pursuit of Love

Before Kara and David Ocegüera met, they had both gone through divorce. Although it wasn't something either of them had chosen, they wanted to share what they were learning from their experiences.

"A successful marriage isn't necessarily one that lasts for 50 years," Kara points out. "A successful marriage is one in which the couple enjoys being with each other."

They have addressed topics such as the effects of stress on a relationship, how to have difficult conversations, developing a spiritual life together, why being healthy matters, when the feelings fade, and many more.

"We want to be vulnerable and relatable," Kara shares. "We aren't going to pretend to have all of the answers, but we want others to avoid what we went through."

Sharing personal relationship anecdotes can be potentially challenging as a pastoral couple, but David says their church family appreciates the authenticity of the project, and that it allows them to get to know the congregation better, too. David is the lead pastor at Bolingbrook Adventist Church in Illinois, and Kara is a trained social worker, currently staying home with their two-year-old daughter.

David quotes the familiar saying, "There's a message in your mess," and adds that he and Kara have found the purpose in their pain.

3ABN —Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) began in the early morning hours of November 15, 1984, when Danny Shelton, a carpenter from Southern Illinois, was kept awake by troubling thoughts. As he recalled the Christian television stations where he and his daughter Melody had sung gospel music, he felt concerned about the way God was misrepresented at times. Longing to find a way to express God's love to the world, he suddenly felt strongly impressed to "build a television station that would reach the world with the undiluted three angels' messages [of Revelation 14], one that would counteract the counterfeit." On November 23, 1986, just over two years after Danny had been impressed to build it, Three Angels Broadcasting Network began to broadcast on satellite. The radio network was established Feb. 28, 2000, and has a footprint that covers the entire globe. (www.3abn.org)

“This podcast was born out of a calling to be faithful to a God who was asking us to share our testimony,” he says. “People need to know He’s not done with their story yet. In fact, He’s still writing ours.”

Listen: inpursuitoflove.org/podcast



Disruptive Adventism

Jose Briones, who until a rather recent move to Georgia was a pastor in the Michigan Conference, describes his podcast as “an open space for people to listen to the diversity of thought that Adventism brings.” Featuring individuals who fall anywhere and everywhere on the Adventist spectrum, “Disruptive Adventism” began as a platform to amplify the voices of young adults.

“People are always saying how youth are the future, but we believe that they have a voice now and that this voice must be heard,” Briones explains. “Everyone deserves a place in the conversation, so we work hard to provide that opportunity.”

Although Briones is now leading as a pastor in a different conference, the rest of the podcast team remains in Michigan — Felipe Mendes is an independent graphic designer and Tyler Rand is executive director of an orchestra in Ann Arbor. Together, they aim to create a podcast for anyone with an open mind who is willing to learn.

“Most of our topics are thoughtful interactions,” he says. “We want to create dialogue with people, even people we disagree with.”

This approach has been well-received. Listeners have described the podcast as “the NPR of Adventist podcasting.”

“What our young people have to say matters *now*,” Briones says with feeling, “and the world should hear what they have to say.”

Listen: tinyurl.com/disruptiveadventism



ManTalk

By day, Chad Bernard is the director for Youth and Men’s Ministries for the Michigan Conference, and, alongside his associate director, Craig Harris, he produces a vodcast (video blog and podcast) called ManTalk, specifically directed at Adventist men.

“Maybe they’re raising a family or are caught up in their career and don’t have a whole lot of time to spend on their devotional life,” Bernard says.

Launched during the pandemic when Bernard and Harris were looking for ways to connect with men in the church, the vodcast has thus far touched on topics such as how to pick your battles, the power of physical touch, gift-giving, integrity, prayer, how to use your hobby as a ministry, and others.

Bernard says that being in the public eye in this way has really reminded them of the importance of being a good witness for Christ, even when they’re not ‘on the clock.’ Something they didn’t expect, though, was that their audience would include a fair number of women. Additionally, they’ve learned at least one school has been watching episodes of ManTalk for worship, and they love that their audience is so diverse.

“I believe I was placed on this earth to lead other people in getting close to Jesus,” Bernard says. “There are many different ways to speak to others of Jesus, and this vodcast is ours. I encourage people to hear God’s calling and step out in faith to try it their own way.” ■

Listen: tinyurl.com/mantalkvodcast

Becky St. Clair is a freelance writer.

This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come (Matt. 24:14 NASB).



Summer Scallion Vegetable Slaw Recipe

THE SUMMER SEASON IS A GREAT TIME TO INTRODUCE SIMPLE AND LIGHTER MEALS TO YOUR TABLE, BUT WITHOUT SKIMPING OUT ON THE NUTRIENTS YOU NEED TO KEEP YOU ACTIVE WHILE YOU'RE ON THE GO. A QUICK BUT FLAVORFUL SALAD IS A GREAT WAY TO DO THAT.

The surprising addition of fresh pear lifts the flavor profile of this salad from coleslaw into a special dish. With more research pointing toward the benefits of cruciferous vegetables, a serving of this cabbage-rich salad will help your heart, cholesterol and

overall health — and a tasty way to deliver good nutrition. The dressing is a uniquely Asian combination of sweet, hot, salty and sour that can be used at many other meals. Bright green soybean edamame can be found precooked in your grocer's freezer section.

Overview:

Yield: 4 servings
Cooking Time: 0 minutes
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Total Time: 15 minutes

Ingredients:

3 c. red cabbage, shredded
 3 c. green cabbage, shredded
 1 c. red bell pepper, thinly sliced
 1 c. edamame beans, cooked and cooled
 1 c. fresh carrot, julienned
 1 c. scallions, ½-inch bias cut
 ½ pear, thinly sliced

For the vinaigrette dressing:

½ c. rice vinegar
 1 Tbsp. fresh ginger, minced
 1 Tbsp. fresh garlic, minced
 2 Tbsp. shallots, minced
 2 tsp. soy sauce
 1 tsp. sesame oil

Instructions:

Follow the prep technique next to each ingredient. Combine all ingredients for dressing and blend well. In a large bowl, combine salad ingredients and fold in the dressing. Refrigerate at least 10 to 15 minutes before serving.

Nutritional Data:

calories 127, fat 3g, sat fat 0.21g, cholesterol 0mg, sodium 150mg, carbohydrates 21g, fiber 7g, sugars 10g, protein 6g

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Center for Faith Engagement

A FOCUS ON FAITH INTEGRATION

At the start of 2020, the Andrews University Office of Campus Ministries (CM) team began a design thinking process to prayerfully assess faith engagement in higher education. They looked at University surveys from various parts of the campus community and listened to feedback from seasoned undergraduate and graduate student leaders. They also examined a three-year study by David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock presented in the book, “Faith for Exiles.”

It became clear to the CM team that a generational shift was already underway and that existing approaches would become increasingly less effective in strengthening students’ spiritual vitality. In fact, students continuously pointed to a key influencer in their spiritual life—engaging their faith through service in all the ways that one can serve others. The CM team, along with key University leaders, began the work of revamping the University’s spiritual master plan to reflect a methodology that responds to current students’ needs and the mission of Andrews University.

“Our commitment to be a missional community is central to our institutional identity,” says José Bourget, University chaplain. “It is a testament to God’s wisdom when the research says to move more boldly into one of Adventist education’s guiding principles: ‘It [true education] prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come’” (Education 13).

As a result, to represent the strategic shift to fully embrace the concept of “World Changers Made Here,” the Office of Campus Ministries name was retired in July 2020 and a renewed vision of the University’s namesake was launched: Center for Faith Engagement (CFE). CFE is committed to inspiring students to be resilient disciples of God and—teaming with faculty, staff and students—to develop graduates who are fully devoted to God and who see life’s work as a holy calling with eternal impact.

In addition to Bourget, the CFE executive team includes Danielle Pilgrim, associate chaplain; Prescott Khair, the newest associate chaplain and member of the pastoral staff at Pioneer Memorial Church; and Teela Ruehle, director of Student Missions & Service Projects.

The CFE team plans various large and small gatherings, forums on contemporary issues, small groups, crisis intervention, pastoral care, service projects and hands-on leadership development. They also support various projects pitched by students and student clubs. Just before the pandemic, CFE began developing a digital discipleship strategy that included a student’s idea for a University Faith app where students can find all campus faith engagement opportunities, explore meaningful content and share prayer requests. CFE coordinates student missions; Change Day, a day of service to the community; and ongoing change projects, as well.

CFE often works with other campus entities to holistically approach a variety of topics. For instance, the 5th Annual National



Lloyd Martinez

▲ The first Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Vespers was held for Proximity Vespers on Friday, April 9. In celebration of AAPI Heritage Month, the theme of the vespers was “Rise Together.”

Day of Racial Healing (held this year), CFE partnered with the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Campus Center to provide a space for open dialogue via story circle discussions. CFE has also provided time and facilitated conversations, with the Center for Teaching & Learning, for faculty to network and dialogue at “Tea and Learn,” offering resources and support, with the International Center for Trauma Education & Care, for victims of sexual abuse through an on-campus support group. In preparation for next school year, CFE is coordinating with student clubs, academic departments and churches for increasing community engagement in Benton Harbor and plans for student-led and -run evangelistic meetings with Harbor of Hope Church in spring 2022.

“The CFE team is already developing future plans and strategies toward wholeheartedly teaming together, also referred to as ‘faith integration,’” says Bourget. “Practically speaking, this means the future of CFE is closer to an innovation lab for engaging faith where we as a University community are all ‘spurring one another on toward love and good deeds’” (Heb. 10:24). ■

To learn more about the CFE team, visit andrews.edu/faith or follow their Instagram and Facebook pages.

Compiled by Gillian Panigot, Communication manager & FOCUS editor

Academy students recognized for 'Caring Heart'

The Lake Union and North American Division's Office of Education believes that teaching young people to be actively involved in witnessing and service activities is central to the educational goals of the school and the mission of the church. For this reason, the secondary student Caring Heart Award for Christian service has been established to give recognition to those students who have demonstrated a personal commitment to active service and witnessing activities.

Through the Caring Heart Award, the importance of witnessing and service activities is emphasized and given appropriate

recognition along with academic, athletic, music and other school awards and honors. An additional purpose of this award is to foster increased awareness and participation in witnessing and service activities by all students.

The Caring Heart Award is provided to each NAD-accredited senior academy that has selected an eligible candidate. The award consists of a special scholarship award certificate with a value of \$500, paid by the Union, and accompanied by a plaque and engraved Bible provided by the NAD Office of Education.

Below are the recipients for the 2020–2021 school year.

ANDREWS ACADEMY



During his four years at Andrews Academy, **Jake VanDenburgh** made a strong impression with the students and faculty. Elected class pastor for his freshmen and then sophomore years, Jake's love for the Lord and his humble, kind and dependable character was seen by the students from day one. He shared Jesus through numerous class vespers, school devotional talks, Bible retreats and, more importantly, lived his faith such that so many were impacted. His junior year, he volunteered with an unofficial SA support group that not only helped the

Student Association but others in need. For example, one time he and a group of students spent several hours cleaning and tidying a storage room next to the office of a teacher that had been injured. During his final year, he led the school as SA pastor. Jake found many ways to demonstrate his Christian character to fellow students, faculty and community, and continues to do so this summer as a summer camp staff.

BATTLE CREEK ACADEMY



Oriel Paulino-Peña has invested thought and hard work into the school as the Battle

Creek Student Association president this past school year. He has worked to involve as many members of the student body as possible and has built a fine team of students from every class. He also led his class as treasurer and worked hard to make senior class fundraisers and events successful, often showing up earlier than anyone else to make sure everything was ready and staying to ensure that everything was cleaned up. Oriel also donated his time as a tutor this year for a Spanish-speaking student who had trouble in math. He designed lessons to help him master new concepts and continually treated him with patience and kindness. Oriel also regularly reaches out to an elderly lady in our community; this year, when she had her 100th birthday, Oriel made sure our school celebrated her birthday with her. Oriel's consistently good attitude, strong work ethic and kind heart make this reward well deserved.

GRAND RAPIDS ADVENTIST ACADEMY



Aubury Lim is a junior at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy. Aubury's love for Jesus is evident as she demonstrates the characteristics of Christ through her kind, caring personality. She is loyal to her friends and our school community. Aubury has an amazing work ethic and is diligent in all that she does, academically and otherwise. She is caring, kind, joyful and spiritually connected. She willingly steps in and helps whenever there is a need. Aubury is a leader in her class, student association, and Pathfinders. She is dependable, approachable

and consistent. Fellow students and staff know she is trustworthy and advocates for others. Aubury's contributions have made our school a better place.

GREAT LAKES ADVENTIST ACADEMY



Jacob Pierce is a dedicated, diligent young man who has kept Jesus at the center of his life. He models his life after Jesus as he looks for opportunities to serve other people whenever an opportunity arises. The Lord has given Jacob mechanically gifted hands, and he has put them to use for the service of others. Whenever Jacob sees something that needs to be fixed, he responds to the opportunity without prompt. Whenever he sees someone carrying a load, pushing a cart or working on a project, Jacob jumps right in to help. The best part of all is that he always serves with a smile and is often heard singing praises to Jesus as he works for others. Jacob has served his fellow classmates this year as senior

class pastor, as residence hall assistant (RA), and as a Plant Services maintenance worker. His friends have nicknamed him "Overtime" for his heavy load of service for others. He has been an absolute joy to have at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, and truly has a Caring Heart like his Savior!



HINSDALE ACADEMY

Luke Hamel has been an excellent student leader throughout his academy experience serving as the Student Association (SA) pastor his junior year, and SA president his senior year. Luke found many ways to demonstrate his Christian character to fellow students over the years — learning a completely new instrument for band when there was no one else to play it, earning the Hurricane Award for character excellence in athletics twice, and embracing numerous mission opportunities in the community like volunteering with National Honor Society at the mobile food pantry. Luke also is an active member in his home church, Elmhurst Seventh-day

Adventist Church, where he has participated in mission trips, led Sabbath School activities and preached sermons. He was recently invested as a Master Guide. Luke plans to attend Texas Tech University where he will study engineering and continue sharing Jesus passionately.



INDIANA ACADEMY

During the four years **Alissa Sampson** attended Indiana Academy, she made a strong impression. Alissa's caring attitude towards others made her a perfect candidate to be a resident assistant (RA) in the ladies' dormitory her junior year. She always was a compassionate listener, led a small group Bible study and gave support to the other students academically and emotionally. Her dedication to exemplify a loving, Christ-like character earned her the position of Head RA during her senior year. Alissa will be greatly missed on campus and in the dormitory, but she's left a legacy of caring interaction for the other girls to build upon.



WISCONSIN ACADEMY

Nathan Gulzar grew up in the Congo, the son of missionaries, and came to Wisconsin Academy after his father met our principal at a General Conference session. He adjusted quickly and has always been friendly and pleasant to other students. He has been a very faithful worker, volunteering to work in the cafeteria before he was legally allowed to hold a job. He will be studying aviation at Andrews University this fall with the goal of serving as a mission pilot. We appreciated having Nathan for four years and wish him the best as he seeks to follow God's plan for his life. ■

Andrews University Press releases new book on faith and science

BERRIEN SPRINGS, Mich.—Evidence for a designed creation and a worldwide flood is the focus of a new, popularly-oriented book from Andrews University Press intended for the college classroom and general readership.

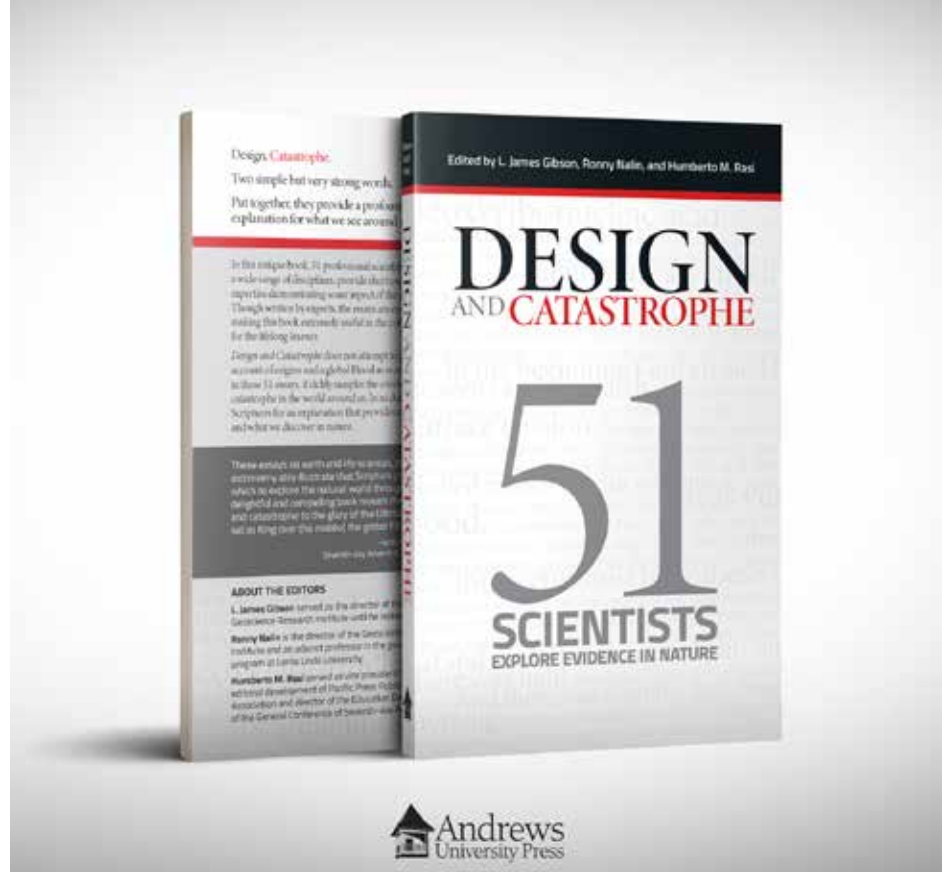
“Design and Catastrophe: 51 Scientists Explore Evidence in Nature” was released this spring by Andrews, in partnership with the Geoscience Research Institute (GRI) in Loma Linda, Calif.

“We are excited to present this rich sampler of some of the overwhelming evidence for the design/catastrophe paradigm in the world around us,” said Ronny Nalin, one of the book’s general editors, and the new director of GRI.

Nalin said that the 51 scientists collectively represent a broad cross-section of specialties in the scientific world, including geology, paleontology, biology, chemistry, botany, genetics, computer science, medicine, physics, astronomy, engineering and mathematics. He said the 51 articles in the book are each about three-pages long and are written and edited to be understandable and useful to the non-specialist.

“These writers are all experts in their fields,” Nalin said. “And the mark of being an expert is to be able to communicate something meaningful to someone who doesn’t know everything the expert does. So, the authors each have written a short essay on some specific scientific topic that illustrates how the biblical teaching of origins helps them make sense of the marvels of intricate creative design in nature or the evidence for catastrophic, large-scale activity consistent with the biblical account of a worldwide flood.”

Among the 51 essays in the book are: “Wonderful Water,” “From Chemical Space



▲ Book cover

to Creative Grace,” “Why Chimpanzees Can’t Play Chopin,” “Cholesterol: The Wonder of Biosynthesis,” “Mathematics and Design in the Realm of Bees,” “Megabreccias: A Record of Catastrophes” and “Human Life Span after the Flood.”

Two other general editors, Humberto M. Rasi and L. James Gibson, worked closely with Nalin to prepare the book and provide editorial guidance. Rasi is the former director of the Education Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Gibson is Nalin’s long-time predecessor as director of GRI. Rasi and Nalin prepared the book in honor of Gibson, who retired from GRI in August 2020 and to whom they dedicated their work.

“We expect this book to have wide use in the college classroom and for the educated layperson,” Rasi said. “It has good solid, scientific content, but is also accessible to the casual reader.” Rasi, himself a long-time educator, also served as vice president for editorial development at Pacific Press Publishing Association, has written many articles and co-edited

with Gibson other books on religion and science, including “Understanding Creation: Answers to Questions on Faith and Science.”

“Design and Catastrophe” is available from Amazon.com, from Adventist Book Centers, and directly from Andrews University Press at universitypress.andrews.edu. ■

Jeff Boyd is Media Relations manager for Andrews University.

“WE ARE EXCITED TO PRESENT THIS RICH SAMPLER OF SOME OF THE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE FOR THE DESIGN/ CATASTROPHE PARADIGM IN THE WORLD AROUND US.”



▲ Justo Morales

Lake Region pastor killed in car crash

Justo Morales, Lake Region pastor, tragically lost his life on Monday, June 7, in a car crash in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was with his wife, Rosa, who received treatment and released from Memorial Hospital in South Bend, Ind.

Morales lived his life in service to God and his family. At the time of his death, he was working for the Lake Region Conference, pastoring the Chicago Shalom II Hispanic Church and the Rockford (Ill.) Salem Hispanic Company. He also was working as a Children's Ministries presenter for the North American Division.

Previously he worked as the Hispanic Ministries director for the Illinois Conference and before that spent many years as a pastor and administrator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Peru. Morales' passion was children and family ministries where he and Rosa devoted much of their time to training leaders, teaching parents and telling kids about Jesus' love.

Eddie Allen, Lake Region Hispanic coordinator, remembers Pastor Morales as "an amazing man and an excellent worker who, with his wife, Rosa, passionately helped with family life and children's ministries in the Lake Region Conference."

Morales served Illinois for 17 years — four years as the pastor of the Fox Valley

District, and 13 years as the Hispanic Ministries director.

Ron Aguilera, Illinois Conference president, said that he deeply appreciated Morales' friendship and support. "Justo served with gusto," he said. "My fondest memories with Justo are the evangelism crusades we held together in Bogota, Columbia, and Panama City, Panama. His smile and enthusiasm communicated his love for God and people. I will miss my friend but look forward to a great reunion when our Lord returns in the clouds to take us home."

Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union vice president and Multicultural Ministries director, says that Morales was a friend who always saw strong possibility in doing the work of God in unique ways and did not think in negative terms. "One of the things I will always appreciate about Pastor Morales is how he helped lead the Illinois Hispanic pastors to join hands with Lake Region Hispanic pastors and the Lake Union and the North American Division in a joint evangelistic effort with Elder Alejandro Bullon in 2008. This joint event was a first of its kind in our Union. He was instrumental in leading his pastors to support this initiative. I will deeply miss our conversations about life and mission. I long to speak with him again when Jesus comes again."

Survivors include daughters, Ana Le-Floch (son-in-law Ghislain) and Mirtha; son, Enrique (daughter-in-law Marcella); grandchildren, Gabriel, Alysa, Angelique and Elias. ■

Katie Fellows, Communication assistant, Lake Union Conference



▲ The newly opened Central Church, now set in a neighborhood overlooking a natural wetland and mature trees, is located at 4250 Remembrance Road, Walker, Mich.

Grand Rapids Central moves into new building

As you face the new Grand Rapids Central Church building, you can't help but point your thoughts to the Savior. The rough stone base is a reminder that Jesus Christ is our true rock and foundation. A full red roof provides the unforgettable image that our confessed sins are covered by His shed blood. Vertical siding, large glass planes and the soaring ridge of the sanctuary all lift the eyes of believers toward heaven and the hope of Christ's return.

This new structure opened for worship on Sabbath, June 3, and, despite needing some additional finishing touches, there was much to celebrate.

"We are praising God for His goodness and providence in leading us to construct a church that represents His beauty and grace," said head elder Michael Mattzela.

The need for a new space was necessitated by multiple factors. By the mid-1990s, concerns grew about the increasing amount of repairs the historical building needed and would need in the future. The steep stairs made attending difficult for members. The church shared a parking lot and having access was becoming difficult. The neighborhood around the church was less safe. These



David Shull

▲ *First Sabbath in the new building. The structure has three wings which are based on the Holy Trinity: a Sanctuary wing for worship and praise of the Father, a Classroom wing from to learn from Christ our Teacher, and the Fellowship Hall to bond believers as the Holy Spirit bonds us to each other and to the Godhead.*

many concerns brought Central's members to make a difficult decision in spring 2017 to find a new church home.

Four-year Sojourn

After the decision was made to look for a new church home in 2017 and the building was sold, a committee was formed to begin looking for another church to purchase.

The committee chair, Kathy Price, asked the committee members to keep in mind that, "We need to have our church close enough to Grand Rapids Adventist Academy so we can be a benefit to them. We want to be available for them to have a variety of different programs at our church."

While the team looked at several churches, there were only two that looked promising and were within close proximity to the school. The team prayed that the

Lord would open the door for the church they should purchase and close the door for the one they should leave alone. Then the door closed on both churches.

A short time later, the team began considering a piece of land that was three miles from the academy. This land had been for sale for the past 15 years. Every previous plan for this land had been rejected and the price of the land had decreased over time.

The people in the surrounding neighborhood were pleased with the idea a church would be built near them. The Walker City Hall, library, police and fire stations were across the street from the land. The city was excited to have a church join their city center.

Construction Begins Amidst COVID

In July of 2020, the earthmovers began preparing the land for the church's

foundation. The committee considered waiting a year before building, due to the uncertainty of what would happen because of COVID-19. With prayerful consideration and stepping out in faith, the decision was made to continue with construction. Financial gifts came from a broad number of members. A loan was obtained from the Lake Union Revolving Fund. A request was made for MAP Funds, and members made pledges of financial help for the next five years. More funds are still needed but stepping out in faith has allowed the church to be built before much of the present increase in building materials occurred. Some contracts were signed just weeks before the cost increases would have prohibited moving forward with building.

Church members volunteered in places where they could help reduce costs. Men cut down and removed trees. In cold of December and January, the weathering protection coating was painted on the outside. In spring 2021, members helped paint the inside walls, install the sanctuary ceiling, provide food for the volunteers, clean the windows inside and out, thoroughly clean construction debris, removed trash from around the building, and helped to install the sound system.

Moving Out in Record Time

On June 3, the church was given a Temporary Occupancy Certificate which allowed them to move in and worship in their sanctuary and classroom wings. Even though the building was still under construction, church members worked together to move out of their church home for the last 80 years and into the new building. Seventy-two hours later, including a 24-hour rest on Sabbath, the old church was empty, cleaned and ready for the owners to use. This effort avoided another rent payment on the old church. God gave strength to make this move happen.

A Vision Becomes Reality

The new church is designed with a single barrier-free level throughout, reminding us that God is accessible to all people.

The structure has three wings which are based on the Holy Trinity: a Sanctuary wing for worship and praise of the Father, a Classroom wing to learn from Christ our Teacher, and the Fellowship Hall to bond believers as the Holy Spirit bonds us to each other and to the Godhead. These three wings represent the three identities that exist in spiritual unity. The three wings of the building unite in a triangular foyer where church members may enter and gather in harmony with one another.

The northwest windows of the church look out on a natural wetland and mature trees, creating a psychological retreat from the world and inspire peaceful contemplation of our Creator.

The downtown Central Church, with its beautiful sandstone exterior and elegant stain glass windows, is now Central Church set in a neighborhood with walls of soaring clear windows which lets God's light stream through to remind us that, *You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. . . it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven* (Matt. 5:14-16).

"While we are pleased to have a new home and to offer a new lighthouse in the community that draws others to Christ," said David Shull, the architect who also serves as the church treasurer, "it is our fervent hope that this is but a temporary stay until we can be reunited with our Creator in the clouds of glory." ■

Judy L. Shull, Grand Rapids Central Church
Communication director



▲ The basketball and faith four-day event, consisted of several components: exhibit booths, giveaways, community service, talent show, food vendors and community grants. Pictured here: Benton Harbor Pastor Taurus Montgomery (left) awarding grant to Peace for Life leaders.

Church hosts event to combat violence in its community

Following an uptick in gun violence in Benton Harbor, including the fatal shooting last summer of a 19-year-old on the same street where he pastors, Harbor of Hope Church pastor, Taurus Montgomery, knew he and the church could not remain on the sidelines.

In mid-June, they held "The Final Play," an event that brought families together to set the tone for a positive, productive and peaceful summer in the city of Benton Harbor.

"Instead of sitting back and complaining about the youth, we decided to do something," said Montgomery. He has pastored the church for almost nine years and lives with his family in the economically depressed community. "Something that will showcase opportunities that are available to the youth, set the tone towards preventing an uptick of summer violence, unite community and leaders around the shared goal of youth empowerment, and spread love and hope throughout the city."

The basketball and faith four-day event, consisted of several components: exhibit booths, giveaways, community service, talent show, food vendors and community grants. There were representatives from more than 20 organizations, sharing

information from health and wellness to financial literacy to education with attendees. Each evening, there also was an episodic stage play centered around a young man approaching summertime with talents and abilities but facing a challenging environment.

Community Grants

Teams in the charity basketball tournament competed for a \$1,000 prize and as well as a chance to donate \$2,500 to the charity they represented. The organization with the most social media shares received first pick of the basketball team to represent them. The Benton Harbor mentoring organization, 400 Men, had first pick and chose Benton Harbor All-Stars, which placed second in the tournament. 400 Men was awarded \$1,500. Peace of Life of Benton Harbor chose the Oakwood University team, and they placed first. Peace for Life was awarded \$2,500. The African American History Museum of Benton Harbor received a \$1,000 community grant.

Community Outreach

The Community impact portion of the event consisted of participants going to Family Dollar, Phillips 66 gas station, Marathon gas station, Kartar Foods and a barbershop to bless community residents with free groceries, free gas, free haircuts and, of course, free prayers.



Large Number of Volunteers

The Harbor of Hope Church was able to execute this event, which attracted over 400 attendees, by utilizing the skills of over 100 volunteers and a planning committee that met for nine months.

One of the volunteers, Shannon Trecartin, remarked that it was obvious God had picked very specific people with complementary skills to make the event a success. "And as a side," she said, "planning the final play really revived my relationship with God. It reminded me of the excitement that comes when you dedicate your time and talents to God and blessing His children."

Decision for Baptism

One of the players, a young man named Napoleon, made a decision to follow Christ. He had been attending Harbor of Hope before the pandemic and was glad they were once again engaging with the community.

Community's Response

Diane Young, a local influencer, said she was impressed with the high degree of professionalism and wrote on social media: "Thank you, Taurus Montgomery and supporters, for the grants awarded to some amazing groups working to make our community a better place to live and work. The exhibit booths, the networking, the basketball tournaments, the praise team and the stage play was such a blessing to Benton Harbor. But what touched me even more was the young man wanting something different, wanting a better life, wanting to be saved. Thank you, Jesus!"

Another "The Final Play" event is planned for next June. To learn more, visit: <https://www.onefinalplay.com/> ■

Jharony Fernandez-Gibbs, Youth director, Harbor of Hope Church



Debbie Burns

▲ On April 17, the Evansville First Church accepted 15 new members of the Haitian group on profession of faith.

Haitian group organizes at Evansville First Church

When Jephthe Simon Beaubrun and his young family moved from Florida to Indiana in 2018, they began attending the Evansville First Church. Two other Haitian families were there already but, within a year, that number had grown significantly. By 2019, the French- and Creole-speaking families jumped in number to two dozen.

It turns out, other Haitians were following a similar path, coming from bigger cities in Florida and New York where they were experiencing a shrinking job market. In the southern Indiana area where Evansville is located, just five miles across the Kentucky state line, they found manufacturing jobs in the auto and meat-packing industries. “We’re paying less for housing and making more money,” explains Jephthe, who goes by “Simon.” He works as an instructor helping businesses implement Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

Before long, Evansville First Church pastor, Jose Gonzalez, noticed that the Haitians attending Sabbath School were paying keen attention but not really understanding the lessons in English. It was something Simon, who’s multilingual, noticed as well. When the pastor approached the group with the idea of having their own class, they leapt at the opportunity.

From there the church started ordering Sabbath School lessons in French and Creole, then offered to have the Haitian group begin worshipping in the adjacent community center.

The group became more organized with one of the Haitian families donating a piano. Microphones were purchased. Guest speakers began preaching.

In December 2020, they celebrated their first anniversary and even picked out a name for the church.

A week before the anniversary celebration, they asked members to pray for a name and, on the day, each person wrote their preferred name on a piece of paper which they placed in a basket. They sung

and prayed. Then, a child plucked out one of the folded-up papers. The group’s name would be Shekinah, which means the glory of the Divine presence of God. For Simon, it was meaningful, considering COVID. “God has kept us going.”

There are enormous opportunities for evangelizing the burgeoning Haitian population.

“We now have two restaurants and, in many businesses, you hear the languages spoken,” he notes. “People are coming. They’re buying houses. Evangelism will give us a big opportunity to minister to more people and we’re seeking ideas for ways to do it. We’re planning to print up leaflets to leave at Haitian businesses. Reaching out is the big thing for us now.”

On April 17, the Evansville First Church accepted 15 new members of the Haitian group on profession of faith. The long-term goal is to form a Haitian or French-speaking church, with French-Creole-speaking leadership.

Pastor Gonzales, who has been ministering at the Evansville First Church for the last two years, says that he and the members are excited to help launch another church. In 2003 they birthed the Spanish church and this is a continuation of a tradition of welcoming emerging immigrant groups.

However, the good news comes with mixed feelings, Pastor Gonzales admits. “We want to reach out to all the people groups but, with this, we’re separating. It would be nice to keep everyone worshipping together although we understand the need to worship in the native language.

“I’m glad to see that we are able to get the gospel message out into the community. It’s the spirit of Evansville [First Church] to get the gospel to the community.” ■

Debbie Michel, Lake Union Conference director of Communication



▲ Ken Denslow

Ken Denslow named Lake Union president

On June 9, the Lake Union executive committee convened a special virtual session to elect a new president. The committee prayerfully considered several

names and ultimately voted to elect Ken Denslow as president. Previously assistant to the president of the North American Division in Columbia, Md., Denslow replaces Maurice Valentine who was elected in April to serve as a NAD vice president.

Lake Union general vice president Carmelo Mercado, who served as the recording secretary for the Lake Union executive committee, said a list of leadership qualities expected in the new president was compiled which was used in the careful selection of a candidate.

"We are thankful that Elder Denslow has accepted our invitation and pray that God will bless and use him as he leads our Union to fulfill the mission that God has given the Seventh-day Adventist Church," said Mercado.

Denslow has had a long association with the Lake Union. He received his bachelor's and MDiv degrees from Andrews University and started his ministry as Boys Dean at Cedar Lake Academy. After pastoring for a few years in the

Michigan Conference, he left to serve in the Chesapeake Conference. Denslow returned to the area to assume the role of associate director of the North American Evangelism Institute (NADEI). He then moved to the Illinois Conference and, between 1993 to 2011, served in various roles including ministerial director, executive secretary and, ultimately, president, a position he held for nine years. He became assistant to the president of NAD in March 2011.

"My wife, Pat, and I are excited to be returning to our 'home union,'" said Denslow. "I look forward to working with the conferences of the Lake Union as we serve our Father God in building a community of faith prepared to meet Jesus."

Denslow's wife is a retired educator, and they have two grown children: Michael and his family live in Chicago; Kristin lives with her husband and daughter in Keene, Tex. ■

Debbie Michel, Lake Union Conference director of Communication



▲ Steve Poenitz

Two Lake Union leaders retire

Two members of Lake Union Conference leadership announced plans to retire after an almost combined century of dedicated ministry in the church.

Steven Poenitz, Lake Union Conference executive secretary, retired on June 6, and **Jon Corder**, Lake Union Conference associate treasurer, retired at the end of April.

Poenitz first started in ministry in 1974 as a pastor in the New Jersey Conference while also attending the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Since then, his ministry took him to the following posts:

1985-1986: Kansas Nebraska Conference – Pastor

1986-1993: Oregon Conference – Pastor

1993-1997: Northern California Conference – Pastor

1997-2008: Georgia Cumberland Conference – Pastor

2008-2018: Indiana Conference – Ministerial Director and Conference President

2018-2021: Lake Union Conference – Executive Secretary

Former Lake Union president Maurice Valentine said Poenitz has been a great example of Christian professionalism, intensely recording all activities of the Lake Union Conference, tracking the growth with great interest and asking insightful questions. "It was always clear he's a soul-winner at heart and did all in his power to undergird both of his major responsibilities, that of



▲ Jon Corder

the executive secretary and Ministerial director," he shared. "He grew into his position very well, having great responsibilities on many fronts to track and did them with great aplomb. He and Ernestine will be missed in our region."

The Poenitzes plan to re-settle in the south and thanked everyone for the warm memories they will take with them. "My wife and I have been blessed to spend three years in the Berrien Springs community and the four states of the Lake Union. We will treasure the special friendships made with the office team members and leadership of the respective conferences."

Jon Corder has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church with distinction for several decades, beginning as a Pacific Union College student in 1972. Since then, he has worked in the North Pacific and Lake Union areas with passion and dedication.

2016-2021: Lake Union Conference

2011-2016: North Pacific Union Conference

2008-2011: Oregon Conference

1999-2008: Upper Columbia Conference

1997-1999: Upper Columbia Academy

1987-1997: Upper Columbia Conference

1979-1987: Pacific Union College

1978-1979: Educational Felt Aids

Lake Union treasurer Glynn Scott said that while Corder was at the Lake Union the past five years, he has shown visionary leadership. Under Corder's stewardship, "\$2.1 million was returned to the local conferences for mission and ministry while at the same time the Lake Union Revolving Fund has grown from total assets of \$47 million to \$50 million.

"Jon and Cheri are committed church leaders for the Stevensville Church, and we are grateful for their dedication and commitment to service."

Corder says that, as he looks back over the years, he's grateful for how God has provided for him. "I'd be in one place and the door would open up in the next place. Even though I encountered challenges at times, God remained faithful and kept providing good people for us to work with."

The Lake Union Conference will greatly miss them all, and we wish them well as they embark on their retirement. ■

Katie Fellows, Lake Union Communication assistant

AUGUST

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

- Aug. 7** Local Church Budget
- Aug. 14** Christian Record Services (NAD)
- Aug. 21** Local Church Budget
- Aug. 28** Local Conference Advance

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS FOCUS FOR THE MONTH – SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Aug. 21** EndItNow Emphasis Day

AUGUST

ILLINOIS

- July 28–31:** Family Camp Meeting, Camp Akita
- Aug. 20–22:** Adventurer and Pathfinder Empower Leadership Weekend, Camp Akita
- Aug. 21:** Hispanic Children's Ministry Training, Location TBD
- Aug. 27–29:** ACF Campus Leadership Training, multiple public college campuses
- Aug. 28:** Hispanic Women's Retreat, Location TBD

INDIANA

- Aug. 20–22:** Hispanic Youth Retreat, Timber Ridge Camp
- Sept. 3–6:** Hispanic Camp Meeting, Timber Ridge Camp

LAKE REGION

- Aug. 7:** Prison Ministry – "Do's and Don'ts of the Angel Tree Program for Adventists," Motor City
- Aug. 7–14:** Evangelismo de Verano
- Aug. 8:** ACS Outreach Ministry, Berean Church
- Aug. 14:** Ministerio Juvenil – Marcha "No Drogas"
- Aug. 21:** Health Ministries "Take Charge of Your Health," Virtual
- Aug. 27–28:** Ministerio Juvenil – Campamento Jovenes
- Sept. 3–6:** Ministerio Multilingue Hispano – Campestre Hispano, Camp Wagner

MICHIGAN

- Aug. 6–8:** iShare Conference, Great Lakes Adventist Academy
- Aug. 15–20:** PCM Bible Boot Camp, Camp Au Sable (Northwoods)
- Sept. 2–6:** UP Camp Meeting, Camp Sagola

WISCONSIN

- Aug. 11–15:** Hispanic Camp Meeting, Camp Wakonda
- Aug. 14:** Hispanic EndItNow Day, Women's Ministries, local churches

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.lakeunionherald.org>. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

ANNIVERSARIES



Dale and Thelma BAPTIST were married on June 17, 1956, in Hinsdale, Ill., by Pastor Phillips, but celebrated their 65th anniversary on June 30 by gathering with their family at the home of one of their daughters in Park City, Utah. The whole family was present for the occasion – children and spouses, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even the one-month-old.

Members of the Monroe Church in Wisconsin for five years, they are 70-year members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Dale enjoyed a career as an engineer, retiring in 1995; Thelma worked as a school lunch manager and retired in 1994. They have seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Dale and Thelma enjoy outdoor hikes, outdoor bikes, playing games and family dinners. Most importantly, they begin and end each day with family worship.



Frank and Elma DAVIS of Chicago were married 65 years ago on June 10, 1956.

Frank is from East St. Louis, Ill., and Elma from Cheshire, Conn. They first met in Chicago when the Pine Forge Academy choir came to sing (Elma and her twin, Elnora, were choir members). With a relationship built on correspondence and visits, eventually they were engaged and then married in New Haven, Conn. They settled in Chicago and started their family. They have four children: Jenal (Jerome) Harris, Marvin Davis, Silas (Rhoda) Davis and Rodney (Esther) Davis; six grandchildren, Ashton, Chloe, John Carlos, Benjamin, Andrew and Joshua.

Frank worked hard as an excellent interior decorator, owning his own business, and Elma was a licensed practical nurse. They were busy in the church, first Hyde Park and later Shiloh, holding various church offices. They believed in Christian education and all of their children attended the Shiloh Academy.

OBITUARIES

BROOKS, Darlene J. (Denler), age 77; born March 5, 1944, in Faribault, Minn.; died March 5, 2021, in Edmond, Okla. She was a member of the Grand Haven Church in

Grand Haven, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Daniel Floyd Brooks; sons, Noland Brooks, and Clifton Brooks; daughter, Wendy (Brooks) Brightman; brothers, Arnold Denler Jr., Julian Denler, Loren Denler, Leland Denler, and Veryl Denler; sister, Angeline Froemming; and four grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Jean Mark Kessler; interment was in Clearwater Lake Cemetery in Clearwater Lake, Wis.

CARLSON, Deborah L. (Latta), age 66; born May 3, 1954, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Dec. 7, 2020, in LaGrange, Ill. She was a member of the LaGrange/Brookfield Church in LaGrange, Ill. Survivors include her husband, Duane D. Carlson; stepsons, James Carlson, Dewey Carlson; daughter, Vicki S. (Carlson) Davis; brother, Steve Latta; sister, Geraldine (Latta) Barfelz, Judy Carol (Latta) Anderson, Sandra K. (Latta) Barnes; one grandchild. No funeral or memorial services were conducted.

EGGER, Michael "Mike" Edwin, age 77; born April 12, 1944, in Hemet Calif.; died May 30, 2021, in Rochester, Minn. He was a member of the Hudson Church in Hudson, Wis. Survivors include his wife, Yvonne (Wells) Egger; son, Robert (Deb) Egger; daughter, Ruth Egger; and three grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Rowell Puedivan; inurnment was in Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minn.

FALCÓN, Lázaro, age 87; born Nov. 14, 1934, in Havana, Cuba; died Feb. 20, 2021, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Berrien Springs Spanish Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his wife, Carmen R. (Guerra) Falcón; daughters, Clemen (Falcón) Sheppard, and Carmen (Falcón) Escotto; brother, Antonio; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by pastors Nilton Garcia; Moise Ratsara, and Obdulio Segui; interment was in Union Cemetery in Berrien Springs, Mich.

FANCHER, Duane C., age 79; born Sept. 18, 1941, in Grand Ledge, Mich., died April 25, 2021, in Ukiah, Calif. He was a member of the Ukiah Church in Ukiah, Calif. Survivors include his wife Carol (Wotring) Fancher; son, Keefer Kane (a/k/a Doug Fancher); daughter, Jen (Fancher) Collins; brother, Chuck (Sandy) Fancher. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Jen Collins; inurnment was in Rosehill Cemetery, Berrien Springs, Mich.

FRANKLIN, Dennis "Denny," age 78; born Feb. 21, 1943, in Highland Park, Mich.; died April 19, 2021, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. He was a member of the Midland Church in Midland, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Barbara (Ashmore) Franklin; sons, William (Helen) Franklin, Charles Franklin, Robert (Therese) Franklin, and Christopher (Pam) Franklin; daughters, Sarah (Tom) Nadort, Melissa (Scott) Howe, Holly Franklin, and Laura Franklin; sister, Karen (Tom) Mosher; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Fred Calkins; inurnment was in Cremation Society of Mid-Michigan and mausoleum, Bay City, Mich.

GLIDDEN, Arnold, age 95; born Jan. 11, 1926, in Flint, Mich.; died April 6, 2021, in Ooltewah, Tenn. He was a member of the First Flint Church in Flint, Mich. Survivors include his sons, Paul (Mary Jo) Glidden, and Philip (Lynette) Glidden; daughter, Connie (Glidden) (Gary) Ross; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. A private ceremony for family was held in July.

GRIFFEY, Rosemary (Larkey), age 95; age 95; born Sept. 9, 1925, in Shelbyville, Ind., died June 4, 2021, in Pendleton, Ind. She was a member of the Anderson Church in Anderson, Ind. Survivors include daughter, Lisa Kay Haller; six sisters; and two grandchildren. A private funeral service was conducted.

KUSZMAUL, Cathryn M. "Kitty" (Dietz), age 84; born Sept. 21, 1936, in Logansport, Ind.; died June 22, 2021, in Spencer, Ind.

She was a member of the Spencer Church in Spencer. Survivors include her husband, Billy Kuszmaul; daughters, Melissa K. (Rodney) Dick, and Judith A. Willis; sister, Diana Baler; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Melvin Matthews.

LAWRENCE, David Daniel, age 76; born March 23, 1945, in Terre Haute, Ind.; died April 12, 2021, in LaCrosse, Wis. He was a member of the Sparta Church in Sparta, Wis. Survivors include his wife, Marjorie Ann (Coon) Lawson; daughters, Davina (Keith) Fingerson, Danielle (Andrew) Lawrence, Desiree Parker, and Marlana Parker; daughter-in-law, Jill (Rob) Lawson Ahrens; sisters, Mary (Richard) Halverson, Deborah (Gene) Fulford; sister-in-law, Pamela Lawson; and five grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Richard Halverson; interment was in Rockland Cemetery in Rockland, Wis.

LAWSON, David Daniel, age 76; born March 23, 1945 in Terra Haute, Ind., died April 12, 2021 in LaCrosse, Wisc. He was a member of the Sparta Church in Sparta, Wis. Survivors include his wife, Marjorie Ann (Coon); daughters, Davina (Keith) Fingerson, Danielle (Andrew) Lawrence, Desiree Parker, Marlana Parker; daughter-in-law, Jill (Rob) Lawson Ahrens; sisters, Mary (Richard) Halverson, Debra (Gene) Fulford; and five grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Richard Halverson. Internment was at the Rockland Cemetery in Rockland, Wis.

MIZER, Wilma F. (Eldridge), age 83; born April 16, 1938, in Seville Township, Mich.; died April 23, 2021, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. She was a member of the Twin Cities Church in Alma, Mich. Survivors include sons, Mark S. (Lara) Butler, Timothy S. (Jean) Butler, Thomas E. (JoAnne) Holley, and Edward E. (Dawn) Holley; daughter, Pamela J. Butler; brother, Donald "Gus" Eldridge; sisters, Donna Hastings, and Virginia Zwierzynski; 12 grandchildren; and

10 great-great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Daniel Jean-Francois; private inurnment.

RAU, Robert William, age 80; born Feb. 4, 1941, in Saginaw, Mich.; died June 25, 2021, in Midland, Mich. He was a member of the Midland Church in Midland, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Mary (Decker) Rau; sons, Bill (Tracey) Rau, and Ric (Carol) Rau; stepsons, Jeff (Tammie) Auvil, and Mark; daughter, Carol Anne (Greg) Boal; step-daughters, Shari (Thomas) Bock, Sandra Pawley, and Paula Chris) Kipper; brothers, Herbert (Janice) Rau, and Lawrence Rau; sisters, Marjory Corrigan, and Kathryn (Wayne) Hubbell; 24 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held; inurnment was in Brentwood Cemetery in Caro, Mich.

SHERWIN, Verlen D. "Pete," age 85; born July 3, 1935, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Nov. 30, 2020, in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was a member of the Grand Rapids Central Church, Grand Rapids, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Kathleen R. (Limberg) Sherwin; sons, Timothy (Birgit) Sherwin, and Thomas (Meredith) Sherwin; daughters, Teri (James) Rodgers, and Traci (Eric) Umali; brother, Neal Sherwin; sister, Lavonne Peak; 12 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. The family held a private family burial at East Hickory Cemetery in Barry County, Mich.

SOWERS, Benjamin Lee, age 79; born Aug. 19, 1941, in Terre Haute, Ind.; died May 31, 2021, in Bloomington, Ind. He was a member of the Terre Haute Church in Terre Haute. Survivors include his wife, Hazel (Cox) Sowers; sons, Brent Sowers, and Rex (Shannon) Sowers; daughter, Shannon Sowers Caplinger; brother, John (Ann) Sowers; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Brother Dusty Langley and Pastor Ken Olin; interment was at the Sowers' family farm in Bowling Green, Ind.

WALECHKA, Kelly G., age 53; born July 20, 1967; died May 20, 2021, in Carney, Mich. He was a member of the Wilson Church in Wilson, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Andrea (Loew) Walechka; daughter, Emily Walechka; father, Jim (Vivian) Walechka; mother, Joy (Soper Palmgren) Walechka; and brother, Jeff (Stephanie) Walechka. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Tom Hubbard; interment was in the Wilson Church Cemetery in Wilson.

WYCKOFF, James "Jim," age 88; born Sept. 27, 1932, in Watertown Township of Tuscola County, Mich.; died May 8, 2021, in Vassar, Mich. He was a member of the Vassar Church in Vassar, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Mary (Candella) Wyckoff; son, David (Debbie) Wyckoff; daughter, Gail (Wyckoff) (Wayne) Bunting; stepdaughters, Gina (Rob) Dunneback, and Nicole (David) Albrecht; brothers, Maurice, and Albert; sisters, Deb, and Jan; three grandchildren; nine step-grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; five step-great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

CORRECTION

Our apologies to the extended Hyde family for the errors in this obituary as published in the June/July 2021 issue.

HYDE, Helen Ruth (Lunz), age 97; born July 23, 1923, in Matteson Township, Waupaca County, Wis.; died April 29, 2021, in Collegedale, Tenn. She was a member of the Jackson Church in Jackson, Mich. Survivors include her son, Elwyn (Joy) Hyde; daughters, Karen (Maurice) Simpson, Christine (Ronald) Herr, and Jeanette (Douglas) Teller; sister, Ardyce Moravetz; nine grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and four step-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ronald Herr; interment was in the Fifield Cemetery in Jackson.

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.lakeunionherald.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.lakeunionherald.org>.

JOIN UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY IN CELEBRATING 100 YEARS of ministry, service and God's blessings at our centennial weekend, **Sept. 17–19**. Sabbath service speaker is Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference of SDAs. Honored speakers include Bill Knott and John Thomas. Visit our website for details and updates — unionspringsacademy.org!

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that a **regular Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists** will be held in the Indiana Academy Gymnasium at 24815 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana, 46034, on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to: receive reports; elect a conference president, secretary-treasurer, departmental directors, a Conference Executive Committee, a Board of Education, a Standing Nominating Committee, and a Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee; enact, amend, or repeal Bylaws and vote recommended changes to the Constitution for the Indiana Conference and Indiana Academy; and issue credentials and licenses for the ensuing term. Delegates will transact such other business as may properly come before the delegation. Each church will be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. The organizing committee will meet the same day, **Sunday, September 26, 2021**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Indiana Academy Chapel at 24815 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana 46034. The first meeting of the Standing Nominating Committee is scheduled for Sunday, July 18,

2021, at 9:30 a.m. at the Indiana Academy Chapel. Elder Ken Denslow, president of the Lake Union Conference, will serve as chair of the nominating committee. Vic Van Schaik, president Mark Eaton, secretary-treasurer

INDIANA ASSOCIATION

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that a regular Quadrennial Session of the members of the Indiana Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., a corporation, will be held in connection with the Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the Indiana Academy Gymnasium at 24815 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana, 46034, on Sunday, September 26, 2021. The first meeting of the Association will be called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to restate and amend the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of the Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are likewise delegates to the Association meeting. Vic Van Schaik, president Vialo Weis, secretary

PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, Oct. 1–2, at Dakota Academy. Come and renew your friendships. Honor classes: 1946/1947, '51/'52, '56/'57, '61/'62, '66/'67, '71/'72, '76/'77, '81/'82, '86/'87, '91/'92, '96/'97, 2001/2002, '06/'07, '11/'12, '16/'17. Call 701-751-6177 ext. 212 or visit our website: www.dakotaadventistacademy.org.

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.lakeunionherald.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.lakeunionherald.org>.

EMPLOYMENT

WANTED — A lady to occasionally assist with cleaning and cooking, to live in. Nice home in Wisconsin countryside. Lots of free time. Best to have automobile. Call 608-483-2145.

GLACIER VIEW RANCH (Ward, CO) has a Full-time Food Service Coordinator position available. Job description and application link: <https://www.rmcsda.org/job-posting-food-service-coordinator>.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a full time Associate Vice President of Finance for Financial Administration. Major duties include provision of leadership and guidance for all financial aspects of PUC and Howell Mountain Enterprises, ability to develop and implement long- and short-term financial goals consistent with the mission of PUC, budget and balance analysis, and development of strategic tools and systems for critical financial and operational goals. Also must work in conjunction with the Vice President of Financial Administration in engaging the Board of Directors and other members of cabinet in matters of finance, auditing and investment issues. For more information or to apply, please call Human Resources

at 707-965-6231 or visit our website at www.PUC.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for HVAC Lead Master Technician-Plant Services.

The HVAC Technician will install, trouble-shoot, repair and perform preventive maintenance on central heat and air systems, water source heat pump systems, PTACs, chillers, boilers, freezers, ice machines and other refrigeration. Other jobs as assigned related to the maintenance, renovation and construction of campus facilities. Certification for refrigeration and HVAC Universal preferred, and a minimum of five years of experience as a heating/air conditioning and refrigeration specialist with varied experience in maintenance tasks is preferred. For a detailed description and qualifications please visit: southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for Waste-water Collection System Operator-Plant Services.

The Waste-water Collection System Operator will be responsible for the Southern Adventist University waste-water collection system, its operations, reporting requirements, and repairs. Must have a Waste-water Collection System Operator license. Must have knowledge of how to perform all system maintenance and repair functions. Must be experienced in all duties listed above. Basic computer skills required. Must be able to read, write, and speak English fluently. Must hold a valid

U.S. driver's license with reasonable driving record. For full description and qualifications: southern.edu/jobs.

STALLANT HEALTH, a rural health clinic in Weimar, Calif., **is accepting applications for a Family Practice physician, and an NP or PA to join the team.** Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: marva@stallanthealth.com.

UNION COLLEGE (Lincoln, NE) is seeking applicants for a Religion Program faculty with an emphasis on Discipling. MDiv or masters in a related field required; DMin or PhD preferred. See the full job description and instructions for application at https://ucollege.edu/employment_under_faculty_jobs.

UNION COLLEGE (Lincoln, NE) is seeking candidates for Vice President for Academic Administration to provide strategic direction, leadership, and oversight for the college's academic programs and fulfillment of strategic goals. Earned doctoral degree required. Apply at <https://ucollege.edu/employment>.

SERVICES

NEW/USED Adventist Books: TEACH Services helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation. Visit www.LNFBOOKS.com for used books and your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com for new book releases.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Aug. 6	Aug. 13	Aug. 20	Aug. 27
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:56	8:47	8:37	8:26
Chicago, Ill.	8:01	7:52	7:42	7:31
Detroit, Mich.	8:44	8:35	8:24	8:13
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:51	8:42	8:32	8:22
La Crosse, Wis.	8:20	8:10	7:59	7:48
Lansing, Mich.	8:51	8:41	8:31	8:19
Madison, Wis.	8:11	8:01	7:51	7:39
Springfield, Ill.	8:05	7:56	7:46	7:36

ADVENTIST TOURS 2022 — Israel in Jesus' Steps, March 9–17 and June 12–21 (Jordan/Egypt optional); New Testament Alive/7 Churches, June 2–12, African Safari and Service, May 24–31, Germany-Austria: Luther to WWII, June 22–July 1 (includes Oberammergau Passion Play); Thailand, July 27–Aug. 7. All tours are Adventist-led with excellent rates and beautiful experiences for all ages. \$1750+/person. For full details, contact tabghatours@gmail.com or [facebook.com/TabghaTours](https://www.facebook.com/TabghaTours), or call 423-298-2169. "The best trip I've ever had! Nothing comes close." "Fabulous!" "The Bible comes alive." "An awesome experience!"

EXPEDITION EGYPT 2022 — Join two experienced biblical archaeologists, Drs. Bob Bates and Stefanie Elkins, next March 16–27, for an unforgettable tour through

ancient Egypt. For more information, visit digtheadventure.com or contact Stefanie at selkins@andrews.edu.

REAL ESTATE

COLLEGEDALE GUESTHOUSE — 1½-bedroom fully equipped condo w/kitchen and laundry; no steps; huge deck; secluded woodland setting. "Absolutely delightful," say guests. "Very clean." \$80/night for two (2-night minimum). Jolena King, 423-716-1298. See pictures at www.rogerkingrental.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

BOOK RELEASE — *The Autumn of Our Lives*, the delightful life story of Pastor Jim Hoffer, 150 pages, over 100 pictures, adventure, mission stories, family history, humor and poetry. Details and ordering information at www.LostArkSeminar.com.

READ *The Lost Thread of God's Love*

Today — If you've ever wondered what day God wants us to worship on, or if He even really cares, by the time you finish this book, there'll be no doubt in your mind that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord. The author of *The Lost Thread of God's Love* traces the Sabbath's history from creation through the last days of this earth's history and into heaven and the new earth. To read a preview of the book, go to <https://tsibooks.com/previewpdf/9781479609505PREVIEW.pdf>.

CLARIFICATIONS – JUNE/JULY 2021 ISSUE

In the article, "Raising a Well-balanced Family" (p. 6), the author said, "Then, Naomi bears children with Boaz." A more correct statement should have read: "Then, Ruth and Boaz' child was counted in Naomi's lineage." We regret the confusion.

A few of you contacted us in response to our article entitled "The Gospel and Mental Health" (p. 19) to say that the Bible doesn't state that Jesus was sexually abused. We reached out to the author, David Sedlacek, for further clarification and this was his explanation:

When you understand the purpose of Roman punishment, it was to exact the greatest pain and humiliation possible. So, for example, when Jesus was scourged, His clothing was removed and He was exposed naked to the soldiers. When He was crucified, He was crucified naked, not

with the loincloth depicted in pictures. These are acts that I would define as sexual abuse. Ellen White also describes His abuse in careful language: "While in the guardroom, awaiting His legal trial, He was not protected. The ignorant rabble had seen the cruelty with which He was treated before the council, and from this they took license to manifest all the satanic elements of their nature. Christ's very nobility and godlike bearing goaded them to madness. His meekness, His innocence, His majestic patience, filled them with hatred born of Satan. Mercy and justice were trampled upon. Never was criminal treated in so inhuman a manner as was the Son of God" (*Desire of Ages* 710). Again, this does not specifically state that Jesus was sexually abused, but "all the satanic elements of their nature" is a strong statement.

If you know of a student about to attend or is already on a public university in the Lake Union, you should reach out to the conference representative for help in providing an anchor in the young person's faith journey.

Illinois Conference
Pastor Michael Campos
mcampos@ilcsda.org

Indiana Conference
Pastor John Leis
jleisiii@gmail.com

Lake Region Conference
Zakia Jarrett
zaklynn@yahoo.com

Michigan Conference
Pastor Israel Ramos, director
iramos@misda.org
Pastor Leeroy Hernandez, associate
lhernandez@misda.org
Alanna Rodriguez, assistant
pcm@misda.org
517-316-1569 – office

Wisconsin Conference
Pastor Zack Payne
zpayne@wi.adventist.org



PROJECT SAFE CHURCH

The Lake Union and its Conferences are participating in a ground-breaking initiative to deter, detect, and hold accountable sexual and physical abuse that impacts the church.

Project Safe Church involves training pastors and church leaders to create a visible reporting mechanism, as well as the ability to connect victims with trained practitioners.

The program also involves training panels of impartial, investigative decision makers who can resolve various allegations, as well as make recommendations for resolution of disputes.

For more information, visit www.projectsafechurch.org



'We are not defeated!'

.... *In the world ye shall have tribulation (trouble); but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* —John 16:33 KJV



▲ Paulette Taylor

In a time when we know not what the day will hold — snowfall in the spring; volcanoes, silent for centuries, now erupting; moral, mental and rational behavior declining; all while dealing directly with a rampaging COVID-19 virus and its variants. We would have never, ever, dreamed of encountering any of this in our lifetime. *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me* (Ps. 23:4 KJV). We are not defeated!

We must remember, this path we walk is NOT by chance. God, in His wisdom, placed us here, specifically, at this time in history. My path is not yours, nor yours mine. Our family, friends, co-workers, etc., all have been placed here according to His plan. We each have lessons to learn, and issues only He can resolve. *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”* (Jer. 29:11 NIV). We are not defeated!

“There is no comforter like Christ, so tender and so true. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always there, . . . He is always at our right hand to speak soothing, gentle words; to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer.” This text is from the book, *Ye Shall Receive Power*, by Ellen G. White.

So where do we go from here? The only way we’ll ever stand is on bended knees with lifted hands! Prayer is the answer. Remember, those that kneel before God, can stand before anyone! God really *is* our Rock, our Salvation, our only Hope. We are not defeated!

I am reminded of two families I knew while growing up. They were joyous, happy and lived their lives in His strength. They shared a heart for the Lord. Of course, they had life problems. All who live on Earth do, but it was a real joy being around them. You probably know dear souls like these. People with a genuine zeal for life and, no matter what, they sincerely show His love to others. Praise God for them!

Every prayer prayed reaches the ears of the Master. And no prayer is ever prayed in vain. *“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”* (Is. 41:10 NIV). We are never defeated with God on our side!

Let’s continue praying for each other, as He maintains and sustains us, all the way to Glory! ■

Paulette Taylor is the Prayer coordinator for Indiana Conference.



Redeeming the Time

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Christian stewardship may be defined as “utilizing and managing all resources that God provides to us for His honor and glory.” Many Christians limit their concept of stewardship to the use of their talents, or how they spend the money that God has entrusted to them, or even how they use their time.

However, the utilization of all three resources to the honor and glory of God is the primary purpose of Christian stewardship. The focus of this short discourse is on the stewardship of time because this resource can have a significant impact on the way we use our talents and finances to usher in the Kingdom of God.

The Bible is replete with references to the significance of time in a number of its verses and/or passages. Ecclesiastes 3: 1 emphasizes that *For everything there is an appropriate time and an appointed time for every activity on earth.* Galatians 6:9 admonishes us to *not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up.*

There are three Greek words used in the New Testament that refer to time. One is *hora* which is translated “hour,” another is *chronos* from which we get our English word “chronological,” which is time in general or a period of measured time. Then there is *kairos*, which refers to the appointed time, a fixed or special occasion. The opportunities that come our way, we ought to seize them because God has arranged that time (*kairos*) for us. (*A Biblical View of Time* by Loren Pinillis, June 8, 2011)

According to Matthew 2: 1-2, the wise men experienced *kairos*, and seized the opportunity by traveling several hundred miles to see the Baby Jesus.

Acts 8: 26-38 gives a more vivid example of the use of *kairos*. The Angel of the Lord beckoned Philip to go to a place where he would find an Ethiopian eunuch who needed to confess Jesus as his Savior. Philip seized the opportunity by following the angelic instructions and an Ethiopian eunuch was baptized.

As good Christian stewards, we need to take advantage of every opportunity that God has given us. For example, inviting the poor and destitute into your home for a meal, lending a helping hand to those in need, clothing the naked, bringing hope to the hopeless, providing comfort to the comfortless, and being a voice to the voiceless.

The Apostle Paul draws our attention to the fact that the true Christian is the only one to whom time is a friend. Why? Because we carry with us the only gift that transcends time. It is a gift that will encourage when there is discouragement, a gift that can turn sorrow into joy. This gift is Jesus and He belongs to us. This same gift gives us the Scripture text, Matthew 24:14: *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.* We need to make the most of God’s gift of time because, one day, each one of us will have to give an account of how we used the time which He entrusted to us. ■



▲ Garth Gabriel

Garth Gabriel, acting president, Lake Region Conference

Lights Out

By Andrew Hosford

THE DAY OF MY GRADUATION FROM FLIGHT SCHOOL LAST SEPTEMBER IS ONE I WON'T SOON FORGET. Not just because I had completed the rigorous training, but it was what would happen on my way home. As I prepared for the hour-long flight home that night, I checked the fuel in the tanks and did my usual walk-around, pre-flight inspection. With a friend in tow, I started the plane's engine, taxied into position and did the usual before-takeoff checklist.

About a half-hour into the flight, I smelled something burning. At first glance, my instruments didn't show that anything was wrong. I looked over everything more carefully to see if there was a problem lurking. It was then I noticed that the digital clock was flashing a warning that indicated the power was dwindling. After communicating with an air traffic controller, I turned off as many electronic devices so I could conserve power.

In looking at my options, I remembered my destination airport was not very well lit. The next closest airport had much better lighting so we made the decision to divert there. As I turned toward that runway, I saw that it was lit at full intensity. *"Thank you, Lord!"*

I then flipped on the power switch briefly to troubleshoot and noticed both fuel gauges were reading just above empty. *"That's weird,"* I thought. I had checked the fuel before departure and had more than double the quantity I needed. (I later learned that we had plenty of fuel and that Cessna gauges were reading low due to the reduced power).

► Andrew Hosford

Now less than five miles away from landing, the runway lights on the plane were miraculously still on and the engine was running. I sent up another prayer of gratitude. *"Yes! Thank you, Father."*

Nearing the runway, I again flipped on the power switch and observed the remaining voltage wasn't enough for the landing lights. Nevertheless, the landing was smooth and uneventful. As soon as we got to the ramp and shut off the engine, the timer on the runway lights expired. My friend and I were surrounded in darkness.

As I sat there in the parked plane, I knew for sure that God was very near and that He had sent angels to turn on the runway lights just for us. Instead of being fearful when everything was going wrong, I had peace. Instead of worry, I felt secure with the knowledge that God was near and was reminded of the passage of Scripture which says, *The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him (Ps. 34:7-9 NKJV).* ■

Andrew Hosford is a missionary pilot originally from Berrien Springs, Michigan. After accepting God's leading into missionary aviation, he graduated from the School of Missionary Aviation Technology in 2020. God opened the doors wide for Andrew to join a mission team in Nicaragua in early 2021, using an aircraft on floats to serve the villages along the eastern coast of that country. Andrew looks forward to the next steps God has in ministry for Him.

Andrew received a \$100 scholarship for this article. If you're a youth or young adult interested in submitting an article for consideration, please contact: herald@lakeunion.org.



It Takes a Little Village

By Elijah Horton



▲ Jazmin Martinez

JAZMIN MARTINEZ HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE LITTLE VILLAGE HISPANIC CHURCH FOR HER ENTIRE LIFE, BUT SHE ADMITS SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE "BIG PICTURE" ABOUT GOD UNTIL SHE WAS OLDER.

During her teen years, Jazmin had the realization that she couldn't "just feed off my parents' faith anymore" and began wondering about the reason for attending church.

In October 2010, the Chicago native made the decision to transfer from a public school to Hinsdale Adventist Academy. It was there she began to know God for herself and see Him work in her life.

In the years after high school, Jazmin's faith and devotion to God remained steadfast, even as the group of friends she'd been attending church with since childhood started to dwindle. Over time,

she found herself taking on more responsibilities in the church and, most recently, she led out in the church's efforts to feed the homeless.

However, it was three years ago when Jazmin was confronted with a family crisis that her faith really deepened. In January 2018 her father started getting very sick. Initially, she and her family thought it was his diabetes acting up. Unsure of the exact cause, he made several visits to the emergency room. After continued digression, he was admitted to the ER for blood work, MRIs and a series of tests. They found a mass on his brain and eventually had to do an operation. While in surgery, he experienced complications, had a stroke and, as a result, ended up in a coma.

Almost as soon as word got out, the hospital's waiting room began filling up with her church family. The waiting room got so full they had to go to another waiting room. "You felt this warmth, that you were not alone. Not only because God was with us, but our church family was with us. Who has that blessing to have their church family there?" she marveled.

In the weeks that followed, her father did wake up, but he was not the same. Eight months after his diagnosis, he passed away. "Even though things didn't turn out the way we hoped," she said, "God was there every step of the way." She leaned into God's Word for solace and was comforted by 2 Corinthians 5:12, which reminded her, *For we walk by faith, and not by sight.*

For Jazmin, this daily walk is a testimony to the truth that we should *Hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for He is faithful that promised)* (Heb. 10:23). ■

Elijah Horton is a Chicago-based freelance writer.

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