

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

HERALD

OCTOBER 2021

FREE INDEED!

Gilbert Poole

32 years wrongly imprisoned

7 years free in Christ

ILLINOIS MEMBERS
ILLINOIS FOCUS
INSIDE



Those who search the skies for the soon coming of Christ are also charged to look, while on Earth, for ways to best please Him. Of course, there are many things that we do to fulfill that goal and all of them are wonderful—reading the Bible, searching Scriptures, praying and being in communication with God. It’s striking, however, that in Matthew 25, Jesus Himself puts sharp focus on how those who seek to serve Him can do so in a rather deep and robust way—by serving others.

Every year the *Herald* searches for stories which vibrantly illustrate this kind of service. In this issue, we devote our feature pages to looking at Prison Ministry. Some may recoil at the thought of visiting these dark, foreboding places—and we get that, but it is our sincere hope that these incarcerated men and women will not go unnoticed. The eyes of the Lord can see even those who are in the forgotten periphery of the world, whether guilty or innocent (Proverbs 15:3). It should come as no surprise that He expects His followers to do the same. ■

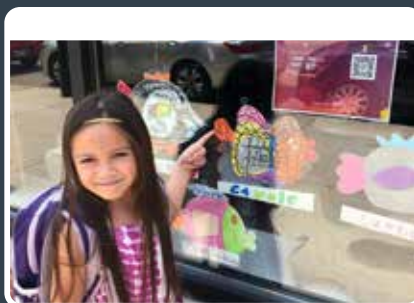
Debbie

Debbie Michel
Editor, Lake Union Herald

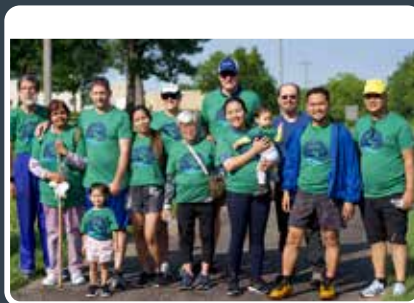


ONLINE NEWS

Former Michigan Conference Children's Ministries coordinator, Linda Gallimore, 72, passed away unexpectedly August 5, due to sudden breathing complications (not COVID) in the emergency room. She is survived by her husband, former Michigan Conference president, Jay Gallimore, daughter, Alicia Weber, and son, Matthew Gallimore.



You may recall that last summer Epic Church opened a new center to transform hearts with the arts in Chicago. The Center of Urban Influence continues to serve the Wicker Park and surrounding communities, and this summer hosted an art camp led by professional artists teaching classes such as pottery, sculpture, drawing, spray painting, murals and printmaking.



On July 11, the Durand Church hosted Hike & Bike for community of Durand with the purpose of promoting health as well as helping the local food pantry. Sponsored by AdventHealth Durand, the event brought out 36 individuals from both the church and community.



After three years on the market and several deals that almost closed, the old Lake Region Conference building was finally sold. The proceeds from the sale were used to pay off the loan on the new conference headquarters, located in Mokena, Ill. The new building, pictured here, has been occupied by the conference since spring 2018.



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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
One Voice	38
On The Edge	39

EVANGELISM

Sharing Our Hope	10
Telling God's Stories	12
Partnership With God	36

LIFESTYLE

Family Focus	6
Alive & Well	7

CURRENT MATTERS

AdventHealth	24
Andrews University	25
News	26
Mileposts	32
Announcements	33
Calendar of Events	34
Classifieds	35

FEATURES

14

Behind Bars But Not Beyond Grace

By Danni Thaw

20

The Legacy of Prisoner #21303

Photo Essay

PHOTOGRAPHY ON COVER AND PAGE 3 by Jason Lounds

ON THE COVER: Gilbert Poole Jr. **ON THIS PAGE:** Michael Angelo Barrera

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'I was in prison and you came to Me'

When I was a boy, our family lived in a small city in the mountains of southern Peru. I would occasionally go with my friends to visit the prison on the edge of the city.



▲ Ken Denslow

It was a squalid place, packed with prisoners and vermin. Prison food was almost non-existent and the little they had was barely palatable. Family members found it necessary to bring food to pass through the fences where their loved ones were being held. It was not a place that I would have wanted to be confined.

Many years later, I went one Sabbath afternoon with a prison ministry group based out of a local congregation to visit a prison for women. We were to lead out in a worship service with singing, prayer and Bible study. When the service concluded, there were some moments to mingle and visit with the prisoners. As I was standing in that makeshift chapel, observing those around me, I heard a

female prisoner ask one in our group, “Do you know how I can get a Sabbath School quarterly?” My ears perked up. I was immediately curious. Who was this, asking for an Adventist Bible study guide? She had her back to me so I slowly made my way around to where I could see her face. Then I heard myself say, “Linda? What are you doing here?”

Linda (not her real name) was a member of my church. The last time I had seen her was when she and her family shared a potluck Sabbath dinner with a group at our house a few months before. We still had her forgotten casserole dish in our kitchen cabinet. Shortly after that day, they just disappeared, and no one seemed to know where they had gone.

As Linda and I visited that day in the prison, she shared that she had been convicted of a “white collar crime” and was now serving her sentence in this prison. She told of the shame and embarrassment that led her to quietly disappear, fearing she would be judged or condemned by her church friends.

I must say that she didn’t fit my picture of a convict. She did, however, fit into Christ’s picture of someone He loves and died for. It is precisely the Lindas of the world and the bedraggled and broken criminals like I visited in the South American prison with whom He most identifies. In fact, He said as much just a short time before His arrest, conviction and death. His words are recorded in Matthew 25:

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; . . . I was in prison and you came to Me.” He recognized that He would be questioned on this point and further said: *“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me”* (NKJV).

In this issue of the *Lake Union Herald*, we are recognizing the work of prison ministry. We praise God for those in our churches who give of themselves to bring hope and wholeness to those behind bars. You truly are ministering for and to Jesus. ■

Ken Denslow is president of the Lake Union Conference.

WE PRAISE GOD
FOR THOSE IN OUR
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TO BRING HOPE
AND WHOLENESS TO
THOSE BEHIND BARS.

Sexual Assault in the Christian Home

She was devastated when her husband died in a tragic car accident, leaving her alone with three young daughters. She soon remarried a good Adventist man from a family she knew well.



▲ Alina M. Baltazar

They went on to have three children of their own. Soon after her daughters became teenagers, they told her that their stepfather was raping them at night, telling them to keep it secret. She couldn't believe her husband would do such a terrible thing. Her kids eventually grew up and had their own families, but then her youngest son committed suicide after he started molesting his own daughter. It eventually became known that her (second) husband had actually molested his own biological children as well and even some neighbor kids.

Sexual abuse within the family is devastating and can be intergenerational, like in this story. It is particularly heartbreaking when it happens in a Christian home. You may think these types of things don't happen within Adventist homes. In a recent survey on an Adventist college campus, around 10 percent of Adventist students report being molested before the age of 18 (females more likely than males). A vast majority of child sexual abuse is by someone known by the child, including close family members.

Being sexually abused as a child by a trusted authority figure, especially by a parent, is harmful in many ways. Research has found higher rates of depression, substance use, suicidal thinking, more likely to abuse children themselves (although the vast majority don't), and marital problems among those who were abused. Adventist college students who have been sexually molested were 3.5 times more likely to have attempted suicide in their lifetime (females more likely than males).

There also are spiritual consequences. Within a Christian home, a child may feel guilty for having sex outside of marriage, even thinking it is his/her fault.

If the abuse is by a parent, it can distort a child's view of a loving Heavenly Father. Jesus knew how harming a child can have devastating effects when He said, *Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea* (Mark 9:42).

Here are some tips on what to do if you become aware of a child being molested:

- ALWAYS accept what a child tells you and then let the Child Protective Services or similar agency in your area investigate if the accusation is correct. On average, sexual perpetrators molest over 100 victims in their lifetime.
- Get professional help. There are thousands of trained mental health professionals, including many who are Adventist, who can help a child and the perpetrator.

There are different ways to prevent this devastation.

- Let's talk about it. There is a huge stigma around incest which makes it easier to keep it a secret. To bring it out of the shadows, we need to talk about it and the harm that it causes.
- Boundaries are good. Although intimacy in families is a wonderful thing, if that intimacy is something you wouldn't want others to witness, then you are crossing a potentially dangerous line. ■

For more information and additional resources, check out the End It Now website (Adventists Say No to Violence): <https://www.enditnow.org/>.

For a list of Adventist counselors in your area, use this link: <https://www.nadfamily.org/resources/counselors/>.

Alina M. Baltazar, PhD, LMSW, CFLE, is a professor of Social Work at Andrews University, a licensed clinical social worker, and a certified family life educator.

Be Kind to Yourself

As a therapist and a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, one of the things that surprises me when I talk to people is the way we talk to ourselves.

Many of us constantly barrage ourselves with words and thoughts we would never dream to speak out loud if they were directed at another person. If we wouldn't speak harshly to another person, why is it okay to speak harshly to ourselves inside our head?

The Bible assumes we love ourselves. That's why it contains statements such as *"love your neighbor as yourself"* (Matthew 22:39). I don't think we're doing a good job loving ourselves when we constantly repeat phrases like, *"That was dumb"* or *"I'll never look like ____."* Sometimes we even pull others into our negative self-talk by thinking, *"No one will listen if I speak up,"* or *"What I have to say is stupid and they'll think I am incompetent."* When we do this, our brain interprets those messages the same as if the other person said those messages to us audibly. We believe them as if they came from the other person and can often treat that person as if they said it. We may often bring that up later in an argument, *"You think my opinions are stupid,"* when really those are our own thoughts we are projecting onto others. This can leave the other person hurt and confused by our reaction because we are speaking as if our thoughts came from their mouth.

When I am working with clients around this topic, I tell them to imagine they are trying to teach a six-year-old boy or girl to play basketball. When the child attempts to make a basket, what would happen if the adult teacher were to say statements like, *"You suck! You're never going to make a basket if you shoot like that. This is why no one wants to play with you!"* The child would be devastated. You would be devastated if you said things like that to a small child. The child quite likely would be unable to make the next basket because of the way they feel about what you said. You

could imagine they may never want to play basketball again.

Why, then, is it okay for you to say those things to yourself? It's not. Those words and phrases are not motivating. They are destructive and hurtful. Just like the example of a child playing basketball with a critical adult, your negative messages to yourself are also destructive and hurtful. These thoughts accumulate and often have lasting effects.

I am not saying that you can never try to improve your skills or analyze your actions. What I am recommending is that you stop the negative messages and replace them with, *"Well, that didn't work out well. What can I do differently next time so I don't have to feel badly?"* That's a much more gentle and motivating response. ■

Important Note: This article is not intended to take the place of therapy, medical advice, or to diminish the effects of mental or personality disorders.

Dr. Brad Hinman, LPC, LMFT, AASECT certified sex therapist; director, Hinman Counseling Services; assistant professor, Andrews University



▲ Brad Hinman



The “Advertising” of Adventist Education: The Avondale Experiment — 4

You are yourselves taught by God to love one another.

1Thess. 4:9, REB



▲ George R. Knight

Spiritual revival in the church and its teachings had led in the 1890s to call for a similar reformation in Adventist education. The denomination’s schools were to be both more specifically Christian and Adventist than they had been in the past.

Ellen White’s numerous testimonies on education during her Australian years continued to give direction to the Avondale School. Furthermore, living adjacent to the campus during its formative stages, she was able to take part in developing the institution in a way that was unique in her experience. Beyond that, W.W. Prescott, who had collected and edited the manuscripts for *Christian Education* (1893) and *Special Testimonies on Education* (1897), spent several months on the campus in the mid-1890s. During that period, he and Ellen White had extended conversations on Christian education. They both benefited by being able to come to a fuller grasp of the implications of the testimonies and how one might implement their principles. She wrote to her son, Edson, that Prescott drew

out her mind and thoughts as her husband had done earlier. Their conversations, she claimed, enabled her to clarify her thinking and to say more than otherwise. “We could see some matters in a clearer light” (MS 62, 1896).

Not only did the Avondale experiment help place the Bible, student spirituality, missions and service to others at the focal point of Adventist education, it also urged it to be rural wherever possible. Thus, in place of the few acres at the edge of town that had sufficed for Battle Creek College, the new institution would be established on the 1,500-acre Brettville estate in a rural location. The acreage and rural location not only allowed the students to be away from the problems of the city and close to nature, but it also provided the school ample room for the teaching of practical skills for the world of work. Adventist education would never be the same after the establishment of Avondale. Not only did the denomination now have a massive amount of material on educational ideals from the pen of Ellen White, but it had a real-world model that it could pattern after in other parts of the world.

Given the importance of education to the church, we who are older need to take a larger interest in our young people and our church schools. We not only must support them with our funds, but also help them become what they can and should be. ■

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. 307. Reprinted with permission.

<https://www.centerforadventistresearch.org/>



▼ Ellen G. White

Campestre Hispano de Wisconsin 2021

“Llegó la hora”

El pastor Evelio Miranda, Coordinador de Ministerios Hispanos de la Asociación de Wisconsin nos informa cómo Dios bendijo el Campestre Hispano de Wisconsin 2021.

Con la autorización del Comité Ejecutivo de la Asociación de Wisconsin y siguiendo las recomendaciones existentes de distanciamiento social establecidas por el departamento de salud del estado, la hermandad hispana se hizo presente.

El Señor llenó de bendiciones los corazones de los asistentes con los mensajes traídos por el pastor Marco Huaco, quien, urgió a la congregación que “Llegó la hora” de organizar a la iglesia a través de los ministerios eclesiales con niños, jóvenes y adultos para cumplir la Misión.

La psicopedagoga Abigail Esther Crisóstomo, al instar a las familias y miembros de iglesia, enfatizó que “Llegó la hora” de vivir en armonía, vivir el evangelio de Jesús y vivir en amor mientras nos preparamos para ver a Jesús venir en las nubes.

La parte musical fue presentada por el cantante cristiano internacional Javier Rosales, quien a través de mini-conciertos presentados cada noche, nos elevaba al trono de la gracia de nuestro Señor y preparaba así nuestros corazones para recibir con gozo el mensaje de la noche.

“El Abuelito Jim”, con su figura encorvada, con un bordón en la mano y acompañado de alguien que lo ayudaba a subir las gradas de la plataforma, con mucha energía cautivó los corazones de niños, jóvenes y adultos con sus mensajes. Cada noche hizo conciencia de que “Llegó la hora” en la que los niños puedan escuchar de manera infantil, con la ternura de un abuelo que habla a su nieto, que Jesús está tocando la puerta de sus tiernos corazones.

El sábado de mañana, último día del campestre, el Abuelito Jim presentó un mensaje acerca del pronto regreso de Jesús e hizo un llamado a los asistentes para que rindieran sus vidas a Jesús. Luego, al mediodía, en el lago Wakonda, los acampantes, administradores y pastores de nuestra Asociación fuimos testigos del bautismo de 19 nuevos miembros que habían decidido que ‘había llegado la hora’ de entregar sus corazones a Jesús.

No cabe duda que después de casi dos años de pandemia y a pesar de las restricciones existentes por el Covid-19, el Señor bendijo de manera especial a las familias hispanas de Wisconsin en este campestre. La gloria sea para el Señor Jesús.

Gracias a todos los pastores hispanos y voluntarios que ayudaron en la preparación del Campestre Hispano.

Los esperamos el próximo año o nos veremos en el cielo, lo que suceda primero. ■

Pastor Evelio Miranda, Wisconsin coordinador hispano



▲ Evelio Miranda



▲ Dios concluyó al campestre hispano de Wisconsin con esta linda cosecha de almas.

Scraps of Faith

By Brian R. Carlson

FROM EXPERIENCE, YOU KNOW GOD CAN WORK IN MIRACULOUS WAYS. But even the mightiest of faith warriors may be a bit skeptical about how God could use a scrap of paper in the backyard of an Indiana home.

Harry Hartmann has dedicated his life to serving the Seventh-day Adventist Church in both the publishing and pastoral ministries. He also is committed to keeping his yard clean. “I usually make it a practice to pick up little pieces of paper and trash in my yard when I get home,” says Hartmann.

One afternoon in April, he noticed a ripped piece of paper lying in his backyard and went to pick it up. It was wet from a rainstorm the day before, but, upon closer inspection, he noticed that it was half of a \$50 bill.

“I went inside and showed it to my wife,” says Harry. “Both of us felt like we should do something more with this, if possible. Something more than just getting Taco Bell.”

Hartmann had been reading “Asking to Give,” a chapter from *Christ’s Object Lessons*, and a particular quote came to mind: “Our prayers are not to be a selfish



asking, merely for our own benefit. We are to ask that we may give. The principle of Christ's life must be the principle of our lives."

With this quote in mind, he prayed that God would help him find the other half of the \$50 bill and, if He did, Harry would donate that money to National Camps for Blind Children, a program of Christian Record Services.

Hartmann has been a dedicated supporter of Christian Record Services ever since he spent a day at a blind camp and was impressed with how great the counselors were and how they helped the campers have fun each summer.

Over the next week, he talked to each of his neighbors to ask if they had lost any money. Nobody had. Then it happened. He found the other half of the \$50 bill in his yard—on the OPPOSITE side of the house from the original find.

True to his word, Harry took the two halves of the bill to the bank, deposited them, and wrote a check to Christian Record Services. He thought that might be the end of the story. But it was not. God had bigger plans.

Hartmann has been part of a regular prison ministry at Elkhart County Criminal Justice Complex for many years. One day, he talked with a group of prisoners and told them about finding the \$50 bill. Curtis, an inmate, seemed to be paying close attention to the story and wanted to know more about Christian Record Services.

A short time later, Harry received an email from the county jail saying that Curtis wanted to donate \$200 to blind camps. The next time he visited, Curtis confirmed that he wanted to help kids who are blind have fun.

"It was a good story of how God works in mysterious ways," said Curtis. "I love Harry, and I figured it would be a good way of using the money. For something good."

Curtis did have some money in savings, but inmates need special permission to send those funds outside of the prison system. Thanks to a few prayers, he finally got the permission he needed and sent the \$200 to Christian Record Services.

"I was reading this book that tells us that we should do our best to serve people," said Curtis. "I like helping people and wanted to do something kind. I love to work for God through Christ and am just trying to do my part."

It started with half of a soggy \$50 bill in an Indiana backyard. Thanks to two men who listened when God

gave them messages through their reading, it became a significant gift to help individuals who are blind at summer camps across the country. ■

Brian R. Carlson, Digital Media manager for Christian Record Services

For more information, visit www.christianrecord.org, call 402-488-0981, or email info@christianrecord.org. You also can request a card to share with someone who is legally blind at <http://bitly/CRSBshare>.

▼ One afternoon in April 2021, he noticed a ripped piece of paper lying in his backyard and went to pick it up. It was wet from a rainstorm the day before, but, upon closer inspection, he noticed that it was half of a \$50 bill.



Photos by Christa McConnell

From Heartache to Happiness

A MARRIAGE (RE)ARRANGED IN HEAVEN

By Dewan and Bimla Singh



A WEDDING INVITATION ARRIVED IN THE POST THAT DAY, ALONG WITH OTHER MISCELLANEOUS, LESS INTERESTING

ITEMS. After opening the ivory envelope, we passed the finely engraved card from family member to family member. Shock, disbelief and even anger registered on the faces as, one by one, each person read the words. There was

the name of my betrothed, Bimla, but alongside her name was the name of another man! How could this be? My hands shook, and my mind raced as I tried to make sense of this nightmare. Surely there must be some mistake!

Bimla and I had both grown up in India where arranged marriages have long been accepted practice. They still are today, although love matches also occur. In arranged marriages, parents or other relatives assume the important task of choosing a suitable partner for their unmarried family member. I knew that when it came to marriage, my family expected me to rely upon the wisdom of my elders.

One day, my brother came to me with some news. One of his good friends was planning to leave for America but, before doing so, this friend wanted to see his sister, Bimla, married. My brother and his friend had discussed the matter, and both agreed that Bimla and I would be a fine match.

Respect for one's elders is a very important tenet of family life in traditional Indian homes, so I listened carefully to my brother's words. I knew I could trust this father figure who had always demonstrated he had my best interests at heart. I thought quietly for a moment about what he had outlined, that I should unite our families by marrying Bimla. After weighing his words some more, I assured him I would willingly abide by his counsel.

Discussions between the two families commenced in earnest and, after a year, Bimla's family agreed to a wedding date. I spent much time in prayer that year. I wanted to be sure that I was following not only my family's will, but my Heavenly Father's will as well. As time passed, I grew increasingly convicted that in preparing to marry Bimla that I was following God's leading.

Now, as I held the unexpected wedding invitation in my hand, I couldn't help but wonder, "*Had I been wrong somehow? Had I allowed my family's desires and my own resolve to crowd out God's promptings?*" "No," I reasoned to myself. I had remained faithful. I had prayed. I had studied the Bible. I had sought God's leading at every step of the way. But here in my hand was printed evidence that in just three days, all I had come to expect and hope for would dissolve. "Lord," I prayed, "*I am helpless. I can do nothing. If it is your will for Bimla and me to marry, please do something! Do something now!*"

Although I knew it would be incredibly painful, I decided to accept this invitation and attend the wedding of Bimla and this other man. At first, my family members resisted this idea. They insisted that our family had suffered a terrible insult. Eventually, however, my elder brother and his wife agreed to accompany me to the wedding. With heavy hearts, we set out. Never had there been such reluctant wedding guests!

On the day of the wedding, just before arriving at the chosen venue, we ran into someone we knew. He asked where we were going. My brother explained where we were headed and was told, “I’ve just come from the bride’s home. Don’t go there, Mr. Singh. Return home. The wedding has been cancelled.” Our acquaintance had very few other details to share.

Mystified, we returned home. At first, we thought there must have been a death in the family, or perhaps some terrible accident had occurred. Why else would a wedding be called off at the last minute? Upon arriving home, little by little, we began to learn more about what had happened. The wedding had been set to take place. Decorations, flowers, food, musicians, all were ready. More than 1,000 guests had gathered to join in the celebration. Suddenly, just an hour before the ceremony was scheduled to begin, the police arrived and arrested the groom for alleged criminal activities. Upon hearing this part of the story, my family members and I felt very bad for all concerned. Immediately we began to pray for the individuals and the families.

Fifteen days later, several of Bimla’s family members called upon my family. “We have been punished,” they said contritely. “Please accept our apologies. We seek your forgiveness and wish to honor the original marriage proposal. Would you be willing to do so also?”

My brother sat silently for a while, pondering this latest turn of events. I could read the anger registering on my sister-in-law’s face. I understood why she felt that way. While we wished no one ill, it had been a very difficult time for all of us. We excused ourselves to discuss this unexpected offer.

“What is your will?” my brother asked me. “I remain in agreement with the original betrothal between you and Bimla,” he added.

“I will respect your wisdom,” I said to my brother and his wife. “You decide. But I am agreement with what I have heard today. I will honor the original proposal, if you say that is best.”

A month later, Bimla and I became husband and wife. A few days after our marriage, we received news that the other bridegroom had been released from police custody. All charges against him had been dismissed.

Today, decades later, as Bimla and I look back on the unusual events surrounding our marriage, we can’t help but marvel at how, in the brief span of one hour,

God made a way for us where there had seemed to be no way.

On May 25, 2020, Bimla and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. It was indeed a golden jubilee! God has blessed our commitment to Him and to each other in more ways than we ever could have imagined. We now make our home near Detroit, in Southgate, Michigan. I trained as a medical technologist and Bimla as a nurse and educator. Together we served as pioneer workers at the Melton Memorial Hospital in Hapur, India. In addition to our work as medical missionaries, we have enjoyed many opportunities to serve our God, His children, and our denomination in numerous hospitals, schools and churches. We have been blessed with three daughters and two grandchildren.

Bimla and I remain fully committed to following God’s leading—both when the way seems clear and when it seems less than clear. We have learned to wait patiently upon the Lord, knowing that His timing is best. We frequently remind one another of a favorite pledge recorded in the gospels: *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours* (Mark 11:24 NIV).

As we look back over our years together, we do so in the firm belief that Heaven’s blessing rested upon our arranged marriage all along. Our wedding just required some Divine rearranging before it could take place!

Dewan and Bimla Singh are members of the Taylor Oakwood Church. Edited by Beverly Matiko, PhD, professor emerita, Andrews University Department of English.





By Danni Thaw

BEHIND BARS

But Not Beyond Grace

It was a bright sunny day on May 26, 2021, as Gilbert Poole Jr. walked through the doors of a Jackson, Michigan, prison and threw his hands in the air, signaling he was no longer chained but free.

Flanked by a lawyer on each side, Gilbert made his way to a celebration at a nearby park. He was greeted by cheers and hugs from a dozen lawyers and interns from the Western Michigan University Cooley Law School Innocence Project, Michigan's attorney general, and media eager to hear about his 32-year fight behind bars to overturn his wrongful conviction. Among the group that day was someone he describes as his spiritual advisor, Rod Dunneback, a Lansing Church prison ministry member whose team provided clothing, including the basic black shirt, khaki pants and brown shoes Gilbert wore as he made his reentry into society.

At the park, Gilbert soaked up the attention. When it was his turn to speak, he told the small crowd gathered about the God he served Who had worked on his behalf. "I spent decades learning, reading, studying law, but none of that worked for

me. It wasn't until I surrendered to a Higher Power that God stepped in and sent me a band of angels."

Rod, a 75-year-old General Motors retiree, had been visiting Gilbert and the other Adventist inmates for the last four years. Before that, he visited prisoners when he was attending the Coldwater Church, and while he didn't expect to get hooked, he says it's service he came to enjoy, seeing how God can use him to reach those in desperate need. "These men have hit rock bottom and are searching. They are helpless and it's just so rewarding that you can turn on the light of Jesus for them."

In the past year, prison ministry in the Lake Union has been thrust into the spotlight with two high profile cases. One involves Gilbert, whose case made headlines as the first exoneration of the newly opened state-run Conviction Integrity Unit. The other case pertains to the capital punishment of



Jason Lounds

Brandon Bernard, a Seventh-day Adventist who was executed in Indiana last December for his role in a dual murder of a pastoral couple, Todd and Stacie Bagley in Fort Hood, Texas.

Today, the United States is the world's leader in incarceration with more than two million people in the nation's prisons and jails. According to the North American Division Prison Ministry coordinator, Cleveland Houser, PhD, this population is ripe for ministry. Houser goes on to explain the significance of prison ministry, which was the last ministerial function performed by Jesus before His death.

"The call to the church in Matthew 25 is for the church to assume an aggressive posture to reach into the lives of correctional residents and

returning citizens to teach them how to live positive Christian lives," says Houser.

FROM DARKNESS TO MARVELOUS LIGHT

Gilbert, now 56, was just 22 years old when he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder of Robert Mejia who had been stabbed to death and found near a running path in Pontiac, Michigan, in 1988. For the next three decades Gilbert fought to overturn the conviction on the grounds that it was based on an inconsistent witness statement and unreliable expert testimony.

Seven years ago, in 2014, he says, he gave up fighting, left everything to God and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church by then

Jackson church pastor, Moise Ratsara. In 2016, lawyers at the Innocence Project were able to prove that Gilbert's DNA did not match evidence at the crime scene. Then, in 2019, the Michigan governor's office opened the Conviction Integrity Unit which put more muscle behind his case. Gilbert said that these pieces falling into place were no accident. "A non-believer would say the stars aligned, but Who aligned those stars?"

Dennis Page, former inmate turned Michigan Conference pastor, says that inmates such as Gilbert are an underserved population for ministry. Many have been abused or neglected as children and are searching for meaning and purpose.

"I grew up in a dysfunctional home," Dennis explains. "It's not an excuse for my decisions, but I wasn't raised to know God or understand what true love was like. I was raised to survive in the streets."

At just 13 years old and searching for a sense of belonging with the wrong crowd, Dennis couldn't anticipate that his life story would include burglary, heavy drug use and distribution, FBI investigation and his eventual incarceration.

After his release, sharing the message of God's love through prison ministry with Christmas Behind Bars (*more in following story*) helped Dennis stay close to God. Only later in life did he grow to understand that, despite where his own choices landed him, God was always patiently waiting on him to answer His call.

▼ Rod Dunneback (left), a 75-year-old General Motors retiree, visited Gilbert Poole and other inmates. "These men have hit rock bottom and are searching," says Rod. "They are helpless and it's just so rewarding that you can turn on the light of Jesus for them."

Similar to Dennis, former inmate Michael Angelo Barrera experienced a bumpy childhood. He was raised in a family consumed by violence and drugs, and first heard the Seventh-day Adventist message in 2017 when he encountered Adventist inmates.

"One day in prison, some fellow Christians had asked me to play cards," he says, "and it had been on a Saturday. I said, 'Not today; it's the Sabbath and I worship the Lord today.' The Christian brother said, 'Oh, yeah! Me, too! I'm a Seventh-day Adventist.' I asked what that was because I had never heard of them before. He introduced me to other Adventist members, and I asked them for some reading material about their church. I read it and it all lined up with Scripture."

After consuming a steady diet of 3ABN programming and attending church service in a Jackson prison, Michael Angelo eventually wrote to the pastor of the Summit Church, Daniel Carmona. Before long, the Lake Region pastor was visiting Barrera in a Jackson prison, but those visits would end when the COVID lockdowns began. Upon his April 2021 release, Michael Angelo was baptized by Pastor Carmona.

"I am extremely grateful to be a part of the Lord's kingdom and chosen people," says Michael Angelo, "I am here to serve, and I give all glory and honor to King Jesus. All I do know is I want everyone to know this love of Christ and His healing power."

All three men—Gilbert, Dennis and Michael Angelo, agree that prison ministry and the message of the Seventh-day Adventist church make a life-saving difference through communicating the gospel that says God can forgive, cleanse, empower, save and restore anyone to His image.

'I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME'

In reflecting on his decades in a penitentiary, Gilbert believes that visits were crucial to his connecting with God. He says many inmates come to Bible study for the novelty of meeting volunteers but stay because they experience the life-changing power of the gospel. "It might not seem like much to volunteers, but it's so important to us on the inside. Every week we look forward to seeing what they have to say; we're craving that connection."



Jason Lounds

During his 32 years behind bars, Gilbert lost everyone he had known, including his grandparents, mother and father.

“When you’re separated from anyone you’ve ever known and you just want to give them — or anyone — a hug,” recalls Gilbert, “the loneliness and separation are unimaginable. But God stepped in and sent me a band of angels through prison ministry.”

When it became clear his release was imminent, he reached out to Rod knowing that he would need every bit of guidance to navigate the strange new world on the outside.

“Mr. Dunneback was standing outside, waiting for me. It was such a powerful experience. Somebody I didn’t know—beyond his visits once a week for 45 minutes—took time to help me,” marveled Gilbert who had spent more time in prison than out.

“I had never even touched a smartphone. I had no job, housing or even clothing. I had nowhere to go and no means to navigate the world. What would I have done without support?”

Along with other volunteers, Rod supported Gilbert’s transition by adopting him into their Lansing church family, serving as a surrogate for the family Gilbert had lost.

Rod emphasizes that Gilbert’s situation demonstrates the call for volunteers to help support the emotional and physical needs in addition to spiritual guidance, a concept reflected in the Bible.

James 2:15-16 says, “Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?”

When we caught up with Gilbert in early September, he was visiting a Missouri inmate seeking to have his conviction overturned. “God has been there for me,” he was quick to express. “I can’t forget that and don’t want to leave other prisoners behind.”

WHAT CAN PRISON MINISTRY LOOK LIKE?

A May 2018 United States Department of Justice report on state prisoner recidivism followed a sample of over 400,000 prisoners released by

Matthew Lucio

► Diana Pittenger, a prison ministry leader at Peoria (Ill.) Church, says “These people want the change they know only God can do.”

► Michael Angelo Barrera was baptized in April and now attends the Summit Church in Jackson, Mich. “I am extremely grateful to be a part of the Lord’s Kingdom and chosen people.”

Jason Lounds

30 states in 2005—about 77 percent of all state prisoners released that year. Almost 68 percent were arrested within three years, 79 percent within six and 83 percent in nine years.

These figures stand in stark contrast to a study done in the 1990s by Dr. Houser, which finds that only .008 percent of Adventist inmates recidivate, demonstrating that when inmates are actively involved in the church, the likelihood that they return to prison exponentially decreases.

Dr. Houser wants to remind church members that ministry to the incarcerated can take various forms, “Prison ministry is not confined to going behind those walls. In fact, most prison ministry is done outside of the prison through supporting transitional housing efforts, providing clothing, supporting families of correctional residents, serving as pen pals and more. Every single church member can engage in prison ministry. Retention and stabilization are tantamount in helping ex-offenders to reintegrate back into society.”

So how can every single member participate in prison ministry? One example is Pioneer Memorial Church member Marilyn Butler, an 80-year-old retiree, who for the last six years corresponds via mail with prisoners each week.

Butler began when a friend in prison told her about the opportunity to communicate with

prisoners by marking their Bible study lessons. She also receives prayer requests from inmates and considers it her privilege to help and pray.

“We have to love people, no matter what they have done,” says Marilyn. “God loves and forgives them. And so should we.”

Diana Pittenger began leading out in prison ministry in her Peoria Church shortly after the opening of the Pekin Federal facility in 1995. A band of committed members—disparate in ages representing surrogate grandparents, parents, siblings—began making the 30-mile trip most Sabbath afternoons to offer support to the men and women at the medium security prison. Volunteers would share their musical talents, pray and mingle with the inmates who were often eager to greet them.

“It was awesome to see men and women’s lives changed,” says Diana, who managed the church’s prison ministry for more than 25 years until her recent retirement. “They had nothing but time on their hands and a lot wanted Bible study.”

Over the years she has estimated that the team has distributed more than 5,000 Bibles to inmates in the facility and beyond. Even though it’s largely a self-supporting ministry, they go out of their way to make the inmates feel special by purchasing quality Bibles they can feel proud to carry and share.

Diana acknowledges that although there are background checks and legal hoops to jump through before being allowed into the prisons, serving is worth the effort because of the joy she gets by introducing the inmates to Christ. “Their prayer requests would change from: ‘Get me out of here. Change the mind of the judge’ to ‘pray for my family.’”

When they find God, their hearts, minds and perspectives change. Prisoners start to pray for strength to avoid arguments and for their cellmates.

“These people want the change they know only God can do,” says Diana.

CHALLENGES

COVID-19 has impacted but not halted the ministry at Peoria Church. The work continues through

▼ Dennis Page, prisoner-turned-pastor of the Village Church in Berrien Springs, says that as Christians, we should see every human being as Christ sees them. “It doesn’t matter if you’ve never been an actual prisoner because we were all born into the chains of sin and have made the wrong choice at some point in our lives.”



Courtesy Berrien Springs Village Church

the prison ministry secretary who collects prayer requests from an inmate by mail and forwards them to the church's prayer team. The church continues to send cards, reminding inmates, "We miss you; we are praying for you."

When released prisoners visit churches, there is an opportunity to minister to them through treating them as Christ would.

"In my experience, when churches know someone is guilty of a felon, there's often a stigma," shares Diana. "I encourage church members to invite these folks to lunch and learn who they are—as people."

Despite Diana's full schedule running a physical therapy practice and serving as a church elder, she says this ministry is rewarding. She recalls explaining to an inmate who asked how much they were paid to visit, "I can't tell you how much we're paid. It's priceless. You're our family."

Dennis, prisoner-turned-pastor of the Village Church in Berrien Springs, says that as Christians, we should see every human being as Christ sees them. "It doesn't matter if you've never been an actual prisoner because we were all born into the chains of sin and have made the wrong choice at some point in our lives. These prisoners just need someone brave enough to answer the call to share the message that God's grace is sufficient for all of us."

Danni Thaw is a freelance writer and alumna of Andrews University.



Christina Rogers

▲ Pioneer Memorial Church member Marilyn Butler, an 80-year-old retiree, has corresponded with prisoners for the last six years.

Prison Statistics for Lake Union

INDIANA

Prison Population 38,331

Prisons 19

Jails 92

ILLINOIS

Prison Population 38,259

Prisons 40

Jails 92

MICHIGAN

Prison Population 38,053

Prisons 31

Jails 83

WISCONSIN

Prison Population 22,039

Prisons 37

Jails 74

Note that there are more than 136,000 inmates throughout the Lake Union. What if each of our almost 90,000 members adopted one or two inmates to whom to send a card of hope and encouragement?

JAIL VS. PRISON – WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, jail and prison are often used interchangeably as places of confinement. If you want to be specific jail can be used to describe a place for those awaiting trial or held for minor crimes, whereas prison describes a place for convicted criminals of serious crimes.

RESOURCES

Who do you contact if you're interested in starting a jail ministry? Not all of our conferences have assigned a coordinator for Prison Ministry, but here are some people who are willing to help get you started.

INDIANA

Lemuel Vega, *ministry partner*
(see following pages for more on his story)

contact@christmasbehindbars.com

ILLINOIS

Diana Pittenger, *Peoria Church*
sparkynan@frontier.com

Vicki Funk, *Joliet Church*
vicki@bmisurgery.org

LAKE REGION

Dolby Knott, *Prison Ministry*
coordinator
prison@lrscda.com

MICHIGAN

Kameron DeVasher, *Personal*
Ministry/Sabbath School director
kdevasher@misda.org

WISCONSIN

Prison Ministry coordinator,
Green Bay Church. Call to leave a
message (920-494-5245) or send an
email (gbsdasec@gmail.com).

ADVENT SOURCE published a booklet, *Quick Start Guide for the Prison Ministries Coordinator*, for help in starting a ministry. The booklet is available at: <https://bit.ly/3tL6DAi>.

THE LEGACY OF PRISONER #21303

The work of Lemuel Vega teaches that when you sow seeds for Christ, you don't always know how things will unfold.

The following photos are from the 3ABN program taping of "Unshackled Purpose" at the Boone County Jail in Lebanon, Indiana.

Photo Essay

Text by **Danni Thaw**

Photography by **Brad Walker for 3ABN**



As a former inmate, Lemuel acknowledges that he, too, was a recipient of the gospel brought by volunteers who wanted to bring good news to the hopeless.

He was 18 years old in an Indiana jail, facing up to two decades behind bars, when a half-dozen volunteers visited the jail one day to sing hymns to the inmates. It was then the germ of an idea stuck in the back of Vega's mind. When he was freed and became clean and right with his Savior, the ministry that would become Christmas Behind Bars was born. Now 16 years later, he seeks to do the same with God's help.

Year 'round, they make gift packages for every single prisoner in each prison that it visits. These packages contain donated Bibles, devotionals, literature and other gifts and letters for inmates.

"We only have one life to live, one candle to burn," says Lemuel. "For us at Christmas Behind Bars, it's a beautiful opportunity to share that light in these dark places. These men and women are seeking hope and change, and Christ calls us to help them as He helps us."

What started with less than 350 gift bags has now blossomed into a ministry that distributes between 60,000 to 70,000 gift bags, and thousands of new and used Bibles as they can, making it one of the largest Adventist prison ministry in North America today.

Lemuel has partnered with Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) to produce a program called "Unshackled Purpose," which premieres this October. "God uses Lemuel in amazing ways," says its general manager, Jill Morikone, "and we are privileged to partner with him in helping to take the gospel to those who need it most!"

3ABN has its own thriving ministry to prisoners. Before COVID, their team mailed out over 1,000 study Bibles per month, along with literature and answers to the inmates' questions. Although today that number has dropped to about 650 Bibles per month, Jill says, "it is thrilling to read the prisoners letters and see the revival and conversions that are taking place as a result of this ministry."

For more information and to find out how you can donate Bibles and/or help sponsor gift bags, visit www.christmasbehindbars.org and www.3ABN.





“We only have one life to live,
one candle to burn.”



▲ AdventHealth leaders engaging in a Q&A discussion during the organization's virtual Conference on Mission 2021.

Health equity highlighted as top priority

The World Health Organization has, since its inception in 1948, endorsed health as a fundamental right for all, regardless of race, religion, political belief, economic status or social condition. Falling short on this foundational concept results in health inequity, where unjust health outcomes negatively impact certain people groups. AdventHealth's Conference on Mission 2021, therefore, provided an avenue for discussions around the state of health equity within the organization, as the topic remains one of the key pillars underpinning AdventHealth's mission of "Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ."

"Today, we will embark on a journey of self-reflection and removal of our own unconscious bias," said AdventHealth president/CEO Terry Shaw in his opening remarks. "We will address critical areas of

health equity through exploring examples like social determinants of health, statistics, actionable next steps and what we can do to promote health equity in our communities. We want to explore the complexity and discomfort in solving problems that will raise awareness of experiences and stories that do not look like our own."

The two-day virtual conference, held Aug. 27 and 28, convened more than 300 people comprised of AdventHealth board members, executives, health equity experts, mission and ministry leaders, as well as Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders across the country.

The inspiration for the conference theme, "Healing Together," was drawn from Apostle Paul's words in Galatians 3:28: We are all one in Christ Jesus, which depicts Christ's expectation of relating with one another beyond our differences.

Joseph Betancourt, M.D., the keynote speaker on the first day of the conference, shared his

top three lessons from leading health equity efforts in a conversation with Shaw. First, he emphasized that leadership buy-in is essential. He also mentioned that analyzing data is paramount to achieving health equity and added that a strategic plan is always necessary to move aspiration into execution.

Commenting on the state of health equity within AdventHealth, Alric Simmonds, M.D., chief health equity officer for AdventHealth, revealed that everyday discrimination among minority groups causes chronic stress, which in turn has a physiological impact on life expectancy. Based on available and daunting statistics, Dr. Simmonds called on health care providers to join the cause of making it easy for underserved populations to access care at AdventHealth.

Julie Zaiback, executive director of Community Advocacy and Health Equity for AdventHealth, noted that the disparities index, a technical indicator used to identify and measure the impact of health care disparities within communities, was helping AdventHealth to take action on issues arising within the communities it serves.

For the first time at Conference on Mission, the Sabbath requiem featured the AdventHealth Orchestra which performed Samuel Barber's "The Adagio" in honor of those we've lost to COVID-19. The musical group, the first of its kind at AdventHealth, is made up solely of AdventHealth team members.

"Talking about others who are different from us isn't an easy conversation to have," said Ted Hamilton, M.D., senior vice president and chief mission integration officer for AdventHealth. "This year's conference has brought attention to the significant work we still need to do in the health equity space as we strive to emulate Christ's healing ministry." ■

Ama Akoto-Boateng, corporate communications intern at AdventHealth

Andrews University partners with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

Andrews University has partnered with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, under the new initiatives of the Title III grant by the U.S. Department of Education, to improve Native American student outcomes.

In Michigan, only 14.2 percent of Native Americans or Alaska Natives who are 25 years of age or older have received a bachelor's degree, compared to the statewide average of 28.1 percent. The goal of the Pokagon Band is to have at least 60 percent of its workforce obtain the necessary knowledge, skills and credentials demanded within the Pokagon Band economy by 2025. The Pokagon Band Enrollment Office reports the Pokagon Band population is more than 5,900 citizens with 2,509 residing in the Restoration Act service area of Michiana. The largest concentrations of Pokagon Citizens reside in Dowagiac, Hartford and Benton Harbor, Michigan, and South Bend/Mishawaka area of Indiana.

Andrews University offers two scholarships for Pokagon citizens and members of citizen households. The Andrews University–Native American Higher Education Scholarship is available to all enrolled Pokagon Band students and their family members, both immediate native and non-native. The Enhanced Andrews University–Native American Higher Education Scholarship offers 100 percent

free tuition to two eligible students. Native Americans enrolled in other tribes may also qualify for the scholarships, although priority will be given to Pokagon Band students.

Scholarship applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Confirmed U.S. SAT or ACT scores *and/or*
- Confirmed U.S. cumulative GPA (2.5 and above) or equivalent (following the conclusion of the sixth semester for academy or high school)

As part of this initiative, Andrews University will offer three college-level courses — Math, English and Stress Management — in a year-long cohort education model, beginning in the fall of 2021, on the Pokagon Band campus or remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions as requested by Pokagon Band.

Students also may opt to register to attend the Andrews University main campus directly for fall 2021 and beyond. When students are enrolled on the Andrews main campus for their coursework, they are required to meet both academic and co-curricular requirements.

In developing the initiatives of the Title III grant, Andrews University and the Pokagon Band aim to increase the number of Native American students enrolled at Andrews from 8 to 20 each year for five years and beyond. Within the increase in enrollment, Andrews and the Pokagon



▲ Andrews University and the Pokagon Band are working to improve Native American student outcomes.

Band would like to grow the number of Native American students participating in STEM disciplines as well.

Andrews and the Pokagon Band also hope to improve career readiness in 10 percent of Native American students by providing a cohesive, demand-driven job skills training and career development system that focuses on client-centered career pathways. In addition, this partnership plans to provide job training to at least 15 Native American adults each year within the Pokagon Band community and increase skill levels of Pokagon citizens, spouses and custodial parents in order to meet the needs of the community partners.

For more information on opportunities at Andrews University for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, please contact Joseph Avance, Title III student success recruiter and advisor, at avance@andrews.edu and Padma P. Tadi Uppala, Title III project director and chair of the School of Population Health, Nutrition & Wellness, at padma@andrews.edu.

Compiled by Padma T. Uppala, Title III project director and chair of the School of Population Health, Nutrition & Wellness, and Gillian Panigot, Communication manager and FOCUS editor

Bradley Family funds innovation center at Andrews University

BERRIEN SPRINGS, Mich.—The family of Dr. Fay Bradley, Pittsburg State law school graduate, physician and philanthropist, has given a \$2.8 million legacy gift to develop a new Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

The donation will play a vital role in ensuring that one important component of the University's strategic plan becomes an immediate reality. "The donation will help us build a physical innovation space with both specialized and open areas," says Andrea Luxton, president. "It also will aid in the appointment of a director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship and the development of industry and community partnerships."

Bradley passed away in January of 2021. "During his lifetime, Dr. Bradley helped many students gain an education which allowed them to become productive citizens," Luxton explains. "It was as a result of his generosity helping students attend Andrews University that [he] was contacted by the Andrews University Office of Development. Now, the Bradley family has helped facilitate this gift to make Dr. Bradley's wishes of an Innovation & Entrepreneurship program a reality."

Ideas for the creation of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship began circulating during the 2017–2018 academic year when the president and provost commissioned a group to begin thinking about innovation efforts on campus. The group was inspired by the need for all students, regardless of their majors, to have a place to develop new ideas. The first step toward this goal was to launch the interdisciplinary Innovation & Entrepreneurship Certificate; however, the vision for the program is larger. "We need a place where students can find an atmosphere of creativity and

entrepreneurship. Engineering majors, business majors, dietetics majors, theology majors — any major can benefit by having mentorship, guidance and space to develop new and exciting ideas," says Ralph Trecartin, associate provost and dean of the School of Business Administration. "We envision new product developments, new businesses launched, new ministries created and new social innovations that benefit an array of organizations."

Bradley aided in the development of an innovation center in his own community. "He supported his local community college in the establishment of an innovation lab that enabled students, as well as members of the community, to explore ideas and projects that could be patented and/or manufactured," Luxton says. "He knew that Andrews University did not have such a program, but that it was part of the strategic plan to establish one."

The Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Andrews University will provide a place for students to actively pursue projects and research. "[The Center] will enable students to enrich their curriculum and research projects, find a space to explore self-start projects and interface with business and industries that could offer work opportunities and/or internships," says Luxton. "Additionally, it will provide opportunities for students to learn design thinking and methodologies of creating new ideas in all discipline areas. It will encourage students to not stop at knowledge accumulation or analysis, but to add to this action and implementation."

These goals have become especially important in light of the pandemic. Professionals across fields have had to think flexibly and quickly to respond to the emerging needs of their businesses. "The world needs individuals who can build on solid traditions in new ways that are responsive to the needs of 2021 and beyond," explains Luxton. "My dream



Darren Heslop

▲ Students at Andrews University explore innovations in VR technology.

is that employers will be increasingly excited to hire an Andrews University graduate, because amongst their value, knowledge and skill mix is the capacity to dig deeply, reflect robustly and then create solutions and pathways that will bring increased quality and meaning to the world."

Any future gifts to the development of the innovation program will help in gathering further resources to support the needs of students. "We need successful innovators and entrepreneurs to give us help and advice as we mentor students and faculty members through the launch process," says Trecartin. Additionally, the gifts will be used for creating a capital fund to invest in innovations, providing new equipment and potentially building expansion. ■

Moriah McDonald, University Communication student writer



▲ Dan Weber

Former Division Communication director joins Andrews University faculty

Daniel Weber, who has served as the North American Division (NAD) Communication director since 2014, is joining the Andrews University communication program. He will teach photography, film and general communication classes.

"Andrews is fortunate to have a professional of Dan Weber's caliber in the classroom. He brings 30 years of diverse, professional experience to our visual art classes," says T. Lynn Caldwell, chair of the Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design (VACD).

At the NAD, Weber managed public relations, media relations, corporate communications, video production and editorial services. He also was the executive director of the Society of Adventist Communicators, and gave numerous trainings for organizations such as Adventist Community Services, the Global Adventist Internet Network (GAIN), various NAD Union communication advisories, and many others.

Prior to being the director, Weber was the associate director of NAD Communication, and also has been video producer in the General Conference Office of Adventist Mission, senior producer with the Hope Channel. In that role, he traveled to more

than 100 countries to capture hundreds of short-form video stories. Before working for the denomination, Weber was a senior digital producer in the corporate sector, and started his career as a freelance photographer for seven years.

This breadth of experience is a critical strength Weber will bring to the classroom. "I have worked for 30 years at different levels in this industry. I bring that experience to the table as I'm training students," Weber shares. "Andrews has visual arts and communication in the same department, and I have experience in both worlds — experience working in photo and video but also experience in corporate communication."

Weber is committed to training well-rounded communicators with a diverse skill set, which he says is important in today's job market. "A good communication person needs to understand a number of elements — photography, film, design, social media. You can specialize in one area, but you need to have a broad understanding. If we can graduate students who are really good at writing, public relations, the visual arts, but then can focus on one or two things, you're creating really hireable people."

Cross-training is especially important between film and photography. In the past, the Andrews University film program focused on the specific area of documentary production; now the focus will be on video and photography skills that can be used in a variety of settings. Weber explains, "If you're a photography major, you need to understand how video works because the cameras these days do everything. There's a crossover between the mediums now; you have to know both."

Weber's transition to Andrews University is a coming-home story. Weber first moved to the area at age 2, and he has now been away for roughly 30 years. The return was prompted by one of his first mentors — David Sherwin, who began teaching photography at Andrews in Weber's sophomore

year. Especially during his first few years after graduation in 1991, Weber would call Sherwin to discuss projects. Then in April of this year, Weber relates that Sherwin called him, encouraging him to consider teaching. "I protested, but I thought about how I wanted to be a mentor and how I called Dave all those times early on when I needed help; now he was calling me," Weber reveals.

Although he had hoped to transition to a more focused mentor role closer to the end of his career, Weber became convinced that now was the time to pursue this more fully. "I'm excited even though this is sooner in my career than I thought it would be, but we follow God's timing, not our own," he says. His wife, Heidi, whom he met while a student missionary in Iceland, agrees. "We felt led to this," he shares candidly.

Weber is excited to be returning to the Andrews campus. He sees it as an opportunity to "give back to a community that was important to me when I was younger." He is especially looking forward to teaching with his communication colleagues in the Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design. "I'm very excited about the team I'm joining. You have a broad group of experiences and academic levels. You have people who worked in the industry and people who have worked at the highest level of academia," he shared. But most of all, Weber is looking forward to his students. "I'm excited to work with these professors as we educate and inspire the next generation of communicators."

The Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design offers undergraduate degrees in Communication, Public Relations, Photography, Graphic Design and Fine Arts. The department also offers a Master of Arts in Communication. Ten faculty members take an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to training the 21st-century communicator. ■

Jeff Boyd, University Communication, Media Relations manager, Andrews University

Prolific writer rejoins Andrews University

Heather Thompson Day is returning to Andrews University as an associate professor in the Department of Visual Arts, Communication & Design (VACD). Thompson Day, who recently published her seventh book, *“It’s Not Your Turn,”* will teach graduate and undergraduate communication courses, including Ethics and Interpersonal Communication. “We are very excited to once again share the classroom with Heather. She is an outstanding professor and writer who cares deeply for students,” says T. Lynn Caldwell, chair of VACD.

Since leaving Andrews two years ago, Thompson Day has been teaching at Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, Colo. In addition to teaching, she also has been busy writing for the Barna Group, contributing to the blog, *“I’m That Wife”* (imthatwife.com), and developing a podcast for Christianity Today — *Viral Jesus* — that will launch in late July.

Thompson Day chose to rejoin the Andrews learning community for a number of reasons. She will be closer to her family, and looks forward to being back in a diverse campus environment. Furthermore, Thompson Day believes it is important to serve one’s roots. She explains, “When you get to where you’re going, go back to where you came from and help people who are there.” Thompson Day is a graduate of Andrews University, and describes herself as a “home-grown Andrews’ student.” “If I can go back and mentor kids just like me, what an honor,” she says. “Serving in my denomination is a unique experience, so I’m excited about that; just to be with young people and help them dream and reach whatever goals they have for when they leave the university. That’s how I approach my teaching; it’s really through mentorship.”

Courtesy of Heather Thompson Day



▲ Heather Thompson Day

Providing opportunities for students to grow both professionally and spiritually is important to Thompson Day. For example, she recently helped a student secure a fellowship at Newsweek, and she hopes to include students in the production of her new podcast. She shares further, “My calling from God is to stand in the gaps for our young people. Not just for our university students, but within the church, to stand in the gap for them and provide a path so they feel like there’s a place for them here.”

Thompson Day has published seven books, including *“How to Feed the Mediavore”* (2013), *“Cracked Glasses”* (2013), *“The God Myth and Other Lies”* (2014), and now, *“It’s Not Your Turn: What to Do While You’re Waiting for Your Breakthrough”* (InterVarsity Press, 2021), which is currently fifth on Amazon’s list of best-selling new releases in the category of Christian Inspirational. The book is

about “showing up to our lives with intentionality and purpose even when it’s not our turn,” she says. Thompson Day continues, “Who we are when it’s not our turn is actually more important than who we will be when it is.” In a recent interview with the Detroit affiliate of Fox network, she described the challenge and importance of cheering for others when we are still waiting for our own big break.

The Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design offers undergraduate degrees in Communication, Public Relations, Photography, Graphic Design and Fine Arts. The department also offers a Master of Arts in Communication. Ten faculty members take an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to training the 21st-century communicator. ■

Jeff Boyd, University Communication, Media Relations manager



Michigan teacher retires after 36 years

As communities nationwide gear up for the 2021–2022 school year, Northview Adventist School in Cadillac, Mich., has finalized a major leadership change.

Brenda Mejeur, principal and head teacher at NAS, retired from her decades-long teaching career at the beginning of August.

Her desire to teach began innocently enough. "It all started because, as a child, I wanted to write on the chalkboard," Mejeur recalls.

After she graduated from Cedar Lake Academy in 1974, Mejeur received formal education at Andrews University. She graduated in 1982 with a master's degree in Arts and Teaching. Mejeur has taught in many institutions across the Great Lakes region, including Cedar Lake Adventist School in Michigan, Battle Creek Academy, and several other schools in Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. Later, Mejeur served at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy for 27 years as the

music teacher, as well as a teacher for various grades. In 2017, she applied for and was accepted as principal and head teacher at Northview. Combined, her career has spanned over 36 years, four states, and several hundred students.

During her time as principal at NAS, she reinvented the music curriculum by starting a band, led a major investment in classroom technology, including new Chromebooks and integration with Google Classroom, and added seasoned perspective to the school's operations. Students will remember Mejeur for her energy, fun ideas and her many learning techniques.

During her retirement celebration, Sally Smith, associate superintendent of schools for the Michigan Conference remarked, "She is the epitome of Adventist education!"

Mejeur says she looks forward to spending more time with her husband, Tom, sons, daughters-in-law, and growing number of grandchildren. She also hopes to expand her horizons by assisting her husband with his garden-greenhouse business.

New Principal Selected

In May, Northview's Board of Education voted to select Idania Mendoza as Mejeur's replacement. Mendoza has a master's degree in Religion with a concentration in Biblical Languages from Andrews University, and a bachelor's degree with a focus on English and Spanish from William Carry University.

She began her teaching career at Bass Christian Elementary School in Lumberton, Miss., and in 2011 became the Spanish and assistant teacher at Northview. Later, she became an adjunct professor at Baker Collage in Cadillac. In 2016, Mendoza left Northview and returned to Lumberton where she became a high school Spanish teacher at Bass Memorial Academy. She says she is



excited to return to Northern Michigan with her daughter, Alathia, and her mother.

Northview's first day of school was on August 16. Please continue to keep Adventist education in your prayers. If you would like to find out more about NAS, please visit their website, northviewsdaschool.org. ■

Samuel Given, assistant Communications secretary, Cadillac Church



Pathfinder Club reaches thousands sharing Bible stories on TikTok

A young girl sits alone and finds her world crushing down around her with belittlement, bullying, body-shaming and the ever-pressing feeling of being alone surrounding her. But suddenly a hand falls on her shoulder and the world around her starts to become a little brighter as she starts to find hope in God with people who care and value her. This describes the scene from a TikTok video of one Indiana Pathfinder club that is making a difference in spreading God's love.

With COVID creating different challenges for ministries, the Jasper Church Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs were trying to find a way to reach more youth in their community and beyond. The Lake Region Conference club, Group180, in southern Indiana, found that TikTok was the key to sharing the gospel.

When the group began in March 2021, they had 55 followers. After posting a story called "The Widow's Gift," the video went viral with 85,000 views and more than 32,000 likes. They also host a live Bible trivia with up to 70 to 80 live viewers at a time. The club's media ministry now has 7,370 followers.

The group also posts to their YouTube channels because a number of people expressed interest in seeing their videos but aren't on TikTok. Accumulatively, the account has had 3,500 views and 85 hours of watch time on YouTube in the last 28 days.

The move to TikTok happened naturally. "All of the kids were on TikTok," says Sabra Johnson, Adventurer director. "My husband, Nick, and I looked into TikTok and found that it wasn't filled with good content. We were trying to figure out what to do with the kids, so I told Nick we should do Bible TikToks."

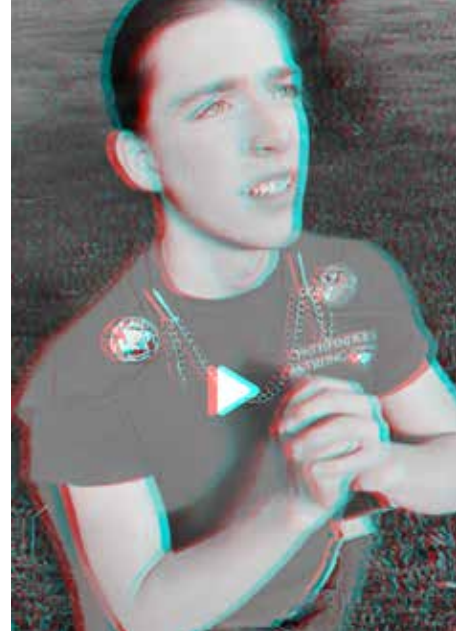


▲ The Lake Region Conference club, Group180, in southern Indiana, found that TikTok was a useful tool for sharing the gospel.

The wheels began turning in their heads and the idea stuck. The next weekend they created their first biblical TikTok with the goal of creating wholesome content on the social platform, "while teaching the kids the Bible stories, and showing them how to curate their TikTok feed to better content," says Sabra.

Sabra, who homeschools their three children, notes that the majority of the community kids do not know any of the stories in the Bible, "not even the popular ones like David and Goliath or Noah's ark," and this presents an easy entry point to sharing about Jesus. Yet, going on social media does have its drawbacks. "We have found that TikTok is frowned upon, especially amongst more conservative-minded," says Nick Johnson, Pathfinder director. "We were reluctant about allowing it but saw so many kids using it that we felt that we needed to be in this space ministering. In the process we have met some other great Christian content creators."

There's also criticism from people who don't know them personally and are quick to cast aspersions. One commenter called them 'phony and white supremacist, because the Gospel is only for one race,' due to a lack of ethnic diversity in their group. Their club happens to not have any AfricanAmerican members, but Sabra says, "it's not a good reason to call someone racist."



However, most commenters have expressed their delight in this new social media ministry.

"This is the kind of youth group I've always wanted," said one TikTok user.

Another said, "This is a wonderful ministry ... love all of your skits. Keep up the great work of spreading His Word."

A youth who visited the club excitedly posted on social media about her visit: "I went from having a terrible week at school to having an amazing weekend. I got things off my chest talking to Nick Johnson and his family. I met so many wonderful people. Learning about Jesus more is something I want to do for the rest of my life. Just in the short amount of time I was there, I could feel myself get closer to the Lord."

Nick says it is comments such as these and from other people who have asked how to join the club which makes it all worthwhile. "We have connected them with pathfinder clubs in their area. Not sure of the end results, but seeds for the ministry have been planted," says Nick.

Sabra concurs, adding, "No matter what blowback a Christian social media account gets, it should still move forward in its ministry, in what God called us to do, share the Gospel, *shake the dust off* and move forward in Christ (Acts 13:51)." ■

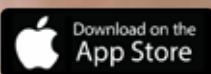
Katie Fellows, Lake Union Conference Communication assistant

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

OBITUARY

ANDERSON, James "Jim", age 90; born May 11, 1931, in Menomonie, Wis.; died June 24, 2011, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his wife, Patricia (Lafferty) Anderson; and daughter, Penny Smikle. Funeral services were held; interment.

BAKER, Francis Junior, age 87; born Dec. 29, 1933, in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; died May 12, 2021, in Granton, Wis. He was a member of the Marshfield Church in Marshfield, Wis. Survivors include his wife, Mary (Rothenbach Wolf) Baker; son, Todd Baker; stepsons, Lenny Wolf, Dan Wolf, Pat Wolf, and Mike Wolf; daughters, Donna (Baker) Schumacher, and Melody Baker; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Marco Vigil; inurnment was in Bethel Cemetery in Bethel, Wis.

BOGGESS, Alyce D. (Baxter), age 83; born March 15, 1938, in Amsterdam, Ohio; died June 20, 2021, in Casselberry, Fla. As a pastor's wife, she served in Michigan years ago. Survivors include her husband, Bob Boggess; sons, Bob (Joy) Boggess, Daive (Cindy) Boggess, and Tom (Alisha) Boggess; daughter, MariAnne (Cody) Burns; brothers, Jim Baxter; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Orlando Lopez; inurnment.

COUNCIL-CROAK, Ellen A. (Widner), age 99; born May 7, 1922, in Dodge, N.D.; died May 15, 2021, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Funeral services were held; interment.

FIVASH, Matthew, age 96; born July 17, 1925, in Harrisburg, Ill.; died Aug. 8, 2021, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his son, Matthew J. (Wendy) Fivash Jr.; daughter, Terri L. (Keith) Calkins; sister, Mary Ann Johnson; and three grandchildren. Graveside services; interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs.

GRUPE, Mary Ann (Horton), age 81; born Jan. 7, 1935, in Minorca, Alas.; died Aug. 20, 2021, in St. Louis, Mo. She was a member of the Oakhill Church in Caseyville, Ill. Survivors include her sons, Dane Grupe, and Brian Grupe; daughters, Carol Fussell, and Bonnie Steinmetz; 12 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dale J. Barnhurst; inurnment was in Serenity Memorial Chapel Cemetery in Belleville, Ill.

GRUSS, Robert L. Sr., age 85; born July 29, 1935, in Benton Harbor, Mich.; died June 12, 2021, in Benton Harbor. He was a member of the Stevensville Church in Stevensville, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Bonnie (Hoadley) Gruss; son, Robert L. Gruss Jr.; daughter, Patricia Ann Gruss Keith; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Dave Gotshall; private inurnment.

HAMEL, Paul, age 101; born Aug. 8, 1919, in Kintyre, N.D.; died July 5, 2021, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his wife, Esther (Hensel) Hamel; Carl Hamel, Gary Hamel, Loren Hamel, and Lowell Hamel; brother, Lyle Hamel; 18 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held; interment.

HERFERTH, Elwyn G., age 92; born Dec. 28, 1929, in Wauwatosa, Wis.; died July 28, 2021, in Milwaukee, Wis. Survivors include her daughters, Donna Smith, Cindi (Ken) Wright, Lisa (Dave) Burrows, and Lori Herferth; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services were included by Pastor Steve Aust; interment was in Wisconsin Memorial Park Cemetery in Brookfield, Wis.

HOLMES, Mary Elaine (Lee), age 84; born May 4, 1936, in Washington, D.C.; died March 1, 2021, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Funeral services were held; interment.

HOOVER, James H., age 89; born June 14, 1931, in Berrien Springs, Mich.; died April 11, 2021, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the

Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his sons, Dennis Hoover, Mike Hoover, and Rick Hoover; sister, Ethel Glueckert; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held; interment.

JORDAN, James "Jim", age 73; born Jan. 21, 1948, in LaCrosse, Wis.; died May 31, 2021, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his wife, Carol (Nash) Jordan; his son, Michael; daughter, Asha; mother, Myrtle (Van Sickle) Jordan; brothers, John Jordan, and Richard Jordan; and twelve grandchildren. Funeral services were held; interment.

KULASEKERE, Sunimal, age 75; born Nov. 1, 1945; died May 9, 2021, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. He is survived by his wife. Funeral services were held; interment.

KUSZMAUL, Cathryn Marie (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, William D. Kuszmaul; daughters, Melissa Dick, and Judy Willis; father, Carl A. Dietz; mother, Buelah Belle (McCloskey) Dietz; sister, Diana Jo Beeler; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial services were conducted; inurnment was in Camden, Ind.

MANN, Beverly (Schmid), age 89; born Jan. 12, 1932, in Niagara Falls, N.Y.; died March 3, 2021, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Niles Westside Church in Niles, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Frederick James Mann; sons, Fredrick W. (Susan Doll) Mann; James H. (Lauretta Toney) Mann; and Roger L. (Melanie Firmeza) Mann; father, Heinrich Schmid; mother, Clara (Fischer) Schmid; sisters, Joni Schmid Brought, and Marjorie B. Schiffbauer; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Darrel leRoux and David Mann (grandson); interment was in Silverbrook Cemetery in Niles.

MEADER, Virginia Ruth (Stern), age 96; born Nov. 11, 1924, in New London, Wis.; died June 2, 2021, in Stevensville, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include her daughters, Marlene Rae Legg Rich, and Ellen Elizabeth Legg Larsen; brother, Richard Stern; sister, Carol Stern O'Day; four grandchildren; and

nine great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Jerry Arnold; private inurnment.

MOFFIT, Arthur G., age 81; born April 15, 1941, in Manton, Mich.; died Aug. 8, 2021, in Camano Island, Wash. He was a member of the Grand Haven Church in Grand Haven, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Carol Elaine (Oetman) Moffit; sons, Chad A. (Noelle Wilson) Moffit; and Seth A. (Shauna Neufeld) Moffit; daughter, Dawn C. Moffit; and four grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted; private inurnment.

MURRAY, Joseph L., age 78; born Jan. 26, 1943, in Spalding, Mich.; died June 28, 2021, in Iron Mountain, Mich. He was a member of the Wilson Church in Wilson, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Barbara (Arnold) Murray; sons, Brian (Geraldine) Murray, Joshua Murray, and Samuel (Sara) Murray; daughters, Chris (Norbert Strom) Hansen; Cathy Lenca, Jacky Sjöholm, Pauline (Rick) Leaveck, Maria (Erik) Coursey, and Esther (Richard) Schroeder; brothers, Don (Joan) Murray, Roger (Jan Lane) Murray, Bill (Sharron) Murray, and Ken (Connie) Murray; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Tony Ludwig and Tom Hubbard; interment was in Wilson, Mich.

STEELE, Bonnie, age 55; born April 19, 1966, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died Aug. 1, 2021, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include her brothers, Meredith Steele, and Donovan Steele; and sisters, Joyce Zacharias, and Jill Leary. Funeral services were held; interment.

WIGHTMAN, Roy, age 95; born Dec. 16, 1925, in Mission Ridge, S.D.; died June 25, 2021, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his sons, Allen Wightman, and Tim Wightman; and daughter, Wanda Poole-Ferguson. Funeral services were held; interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs.

WUTZKE, Sophie (Riess), age 83; born May 3, 1937, in Cacinci, Yugoslavia (Croatia); died Dec. 24, 2020, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include her son, David Wutzke; daughter, Esther Penn; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held; inurnment.

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>.

PLAN NOW TO JOIN US FOR THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE PRAYER RETREAT at Camp Akita, Oct. 1-3. Our guest speakers will be Jim and Ingrid Moon. This year's theme is: "Ebenezer, A Missional Prayer Journey." Save the date; registration information at www.ilcsda.org.

INDIANA ACADEMY'S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING will be Friday, Oct. 8, at 8:00 a.m. at the Tipton Golf Course. To register for this event, please visit iagolfclassic@gmail.com.

INVITING ALL ALUMNI FROM ADELPHIAN ACADEMY, CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY, GRAND LEDGE ACADEMY AND GREAT LAKE ADVENTIST ACADEMY to ALUMNI WEEKEND 2021, Oct. 8-9. Please call your classmates and start planning for this wonderful event. The honor classes would be 1961, '71, '81, '91, '96, 2001, '11. Please contact our office at 989-427-4444 or email bwallace@glaa.net or tmorgan@glaa.net for more information.

MILWAUKEE SEVENTH -DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL [formerly known as MJA] will be celebrating their 50th ANNIVERSARY, Oct. 8 - 9, at 10900W Mill Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53225. Please RSVP to anniversary@milwaukeesdaschool.org.

INDIANA ACADEMY IN-PERSON ALUMNI WEEKEND will be Oct. 8-9. To view details, please visit our Facebook page. Honor classes this year also will include honor classes from last year — 1955/1956, '60/'61, '65/'66, '70/'71, '75/'76, '80/'81, '85/'86, '90/'91, '95/'96, 2000/2001, '05/'06, '10/'11, '15/'16, '20, '21. To schedule a reunion location, please email Jimmy Arnett at jarnett34@gmail.com.

ANDREWS ACADEMY INVITES ALUMNI (those who attended/graduated, and/or worked at EMCA/AUA/AA) **to an in-person reunion Oct. 15-16** (subject to change, depending on COVID-19 restrictions). Honor Classes: 1941, '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, 2001, '06, '11, '16. The class of 1971 will celebrate its golden (50th) reunion. The class of 1996 will celebrate its silver (25th)

reunion. Alumni, please watch your email, our website (www.andrews.edu/aa/alumni/reunions), and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/andrewsacademyaa) for any updates. If you don't receive emails from us, please contact us at AAalumni@andrews.edu so we can add you to our list. You also can call us at 269-471-6140 for updates.

CICERO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL would like to invite you to celebrate with them on their 100th-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, Oct. 16, starting with Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m. and ending with potluck and an afternoon program. For more information regarding this event, please call the church office at 317-984-4860.

RETIREMENT VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE HISTORIC ADVENTIST VILLAGE in Battle Creek. We're looking to add volunteer power to assist in conducting tours, housekeeping, building repair, gift shop sales, etc. Contact Village director, Don Scherencel, at adventistvillage@tds.net or call 269-965-3000.

NEXT YEAR MARKS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE CREEK ACADEMY, JUNE 3-4, 2022! -- On June 3, 1872 Battle Creek Academy opened as the first Seventh-day Adventist denominationally sponsored school. We will be celebrating this amazing 150-year journey and are inviting you to place this event on your calendar so that you can be there, too. BCA Alumni weekend has traditionally been the last full weekend in April. Since we want as many as possible to be part of the anniversary celebration, we are combining the two events and the date will be changing from late April to June 3 and 4, 2022. Contact us at: 269-965-1278 or www.battlecreekacademy.com.

OCTOBER

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

GENERAL EVENTS

- Oct. 3-4: *October Preview Event*
- Oct. 21: *Celebration of Community Engagement*
- Oct. 27-30: *NAD College Fairs in the Lake Union*

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVENTS

For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, call 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or visit howard.andrews.edu.

- Oct. 9, 8 p.m.: *Howard Presents: Risus Quartet, Fischhoff Competition String Winners*
- Oct. 16, 8 p.m.: *Symphony Orchestra Fall Concert*
- Oct. 17, 4 p.m.: *Sunday Music Series: Southwestern Michigan Symphony Orchestra*
- Oct. 20, 7 p.m.: *Kingman Lecture on Science & Society: Eugenia Cheng*
- Oct. 23, 8 p.m.: *Wind Symphony Fall Concert*
- Oct. 24, 7 p.m.: *Howard Presents: Jukebox Saturday Night*
- Oct. 30, 8 p.m.: *University Choirs Fall Concert*

ILLINOIS

- Sept. 25-Oct. 2: *Conference-wide Hispanic Evangelism, multiple locations*
- Oct. 1-3: *Prayer Retreat, Camp Akita*
- Oct. 8-10: *Pathfinder Falls Skills Camporee, Camp Akita*
- Oct. 22-23: *One Day Youth Rally, Location TBA*

INDIANA

- Oct. 1-3: *Pathfinder Backpack Trip, Shades State Park West Road*
- Oct. 8-9: *Alumni Weekend, Indiana Academy*
- Oct. 8-10: *Hispanic Marriage Retreat, Location TBD*
- Oct. 22-24: *Public Campus Retreat, Timber Ridge Camp*

LAKE REGION

- Oct. 2: *Ministerio de la Mujer- Retiro*
- Oct. 3: *Ministerio Juvenil - Reunión Dir Clubes*
- Oct. 9: *Ministerio de Vida Familiar - Retiro Matrimonial*
- Oct. 16: *Health Ministries "Take Charge of Your Health," Virtual*
- Oct. 16: *Ministerio Juvenil - Congreso*
- Oct. 16-23: *Ministerio Multilingüe Hispano - Semana de Enfoque en la Historia Denominacional*
- Oct. 31: *Ministerio Juvenil - Reunion Dir Clubes*
- Oct. 31: *Día de la Reforma*

MICHIGAN

- Oct. 1-3: *Public Campus Ministry Retreat, Camp Sagola*
- Oct. 3-6: *Life Improvement For Teens (LIFT), Camp Au Sable. Open to all 7th- and 8th-graders.*
- Oct. 8-10: *Marriage Retreat, Camp Sagola*
- Oct. 8-10: *Mother-Daughter Retreat, Camp Au Sable*
- Oct. 22-24: *Adventist Community Services Retreat, Camp Au Sable*
- Oct. 29-31: *Sabbath School Workshop, Camp Au Sable*

WISCONSIN

- Oct. 1-3: *Women's Retreat, Wintergreen Conference Center*
- Oct. 4-6: *Life Improvement For Teens (LIFT) for 7th- to 10th-graders), Camp Wakonda*
- Oct. 8-9: *Milwaukee School 50th Anniversary Celebration*
- Oct. 8-10: *Pastors' Spouses Retreat, Camp Wakonda*
- Oct. 15-17: *Alumni Weekend, Wisconsin Academy*
- Oct. 15-17: *Pathfinder Leadership, Camp Wakonda*
- Oct. 22-24: *JAHWI Hispanic Youth Retreat, Camp Wakonda*
- Oct. 29-31: *Hispanic Men's Conference, Camp Wakonda*

LAKE UNION

- Oct. 2: *Hispanic Women Congress, Virtual*

OCTOBER

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

- Oct. 2 Local Church Budget
- Oct. 9 Union-designated
- Oct. 16 Local Church Budget
- Oct. 23 Local Conference Advance
- Oct. 30 Local Church Budget

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

FOCUS FOR THE MONTH – ADVENTIST HERITAGE

- Oct. 2 Children's Sabbath
- Oct. 9 Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath
- Oct. 9 Clergy Appreciation Sabbath
- Oct. 16 Pathfinder Sabbath



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>.

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TRAVEL

ISRAEL TOUR WITH PASTOR JIM GILLEY

AND FRIENDS — Nov. 17–25, \$3295. Includes air, breakfast and dinner buffets daily, all tips, taxes. From New York, Chicago or Los Angeles, Other departure cities available. Call Maranatha Tours at 602-788-8864.

FOR SALE

CASKETS FOR ADVENTISTS — Highest quality, twenty-gauge steel. Second Coming picture with 10 Commandments, I Thess.

4:13–18 below head panel, and Three Angels Message at foot of casket. See website: 1844CasketsforAdventist.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

NEW BOOK! — Ever wondered what day God wants us to worship on or if He really cares? *The Lost Thread of God's Love*, by Phyllis Gruesbeck, traces the Sabbath's history from Creation to the New Earth. Great for ministry and new members. Available now at <https://1ref.us/9456891>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CAMP KULAQUA

— Seeking a place to share your hands and heart in service to the Lord? Join the volunteer team at Camp Kulaqua, located in High Springs, Fla. Bring an RV and spend a season with us. For more information, call 386-454-1351 or email: volunteer@campkulaqua.com

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29
Berrien Springs, Mich.	7:25	7:13	7:02	6:52	6:42
Chicago, Ill.	6:30	6:19	6:07	5:57	5:47
Detroit, Mich.	7:12	7:00	6:49	6:38	6:28
Indianapolis, Ind.	7:25	7:14	7:04	6:54	6:45
La Crosse, Wis.	6:44	6:32	6:20	6:08	5:58
Lansing, Mich.	7:18	7:06	6:54	6:43	6:33
Madison, Wis.	6:37	6:25	6:13	6:02	5:52
Springfield, Ill.	6:39	6:28	6:18	6:08	5:59

Earth Angels

By Scott Moncrieff

Anyone who has attended Andrews University in the last thirty years has likely seen two particular ladies walking around campus. On a recent bright summer day, I had the privilege of joining them.

“I hope you don’t mind if I run into you, because I’m not good at walking straight,” says Beverly, who is dealing with macular degeneration, and we’re off on a sidewalk stroll around Andrews University.

Janet Olson, 79, and Beverly Pottle, 85, have been walking these sidewalks together for three decades. Their habit started well before retirement, back when they were working for the University—Beverly as an administrative assistant for the dean of the School of Technology, Janet as an administrative assistant in Plant Administration.

They usually do two to three miles a day, with time off for icy days in the winter. They walk and talk—and pick up litter.

Janet recalls, “I was probably eight or nine, in the back seat of our car, and I just tossed something out the window. My dad slammed on the brakes. He turned around and he said to me that two-word thing: ‘Janet Marie, if I ever see you do that again, you’re in trouble. Get out of the car and go back and pick that up.’ And that was a life lesson.”

Beverly also abhors litter so they carry plastic sacks and pick up bottles, packaging, whatever people are throwing out their car windows or otherwise carelessly discarding. Lately they’ve picked up a lot of masks.

They talk about everything under the sun: their kids, books they are reading, political news, personal stories and trials, and they share Bible verses and even do some memorizing, reciting from the Psalms and other favorite places in Scripture. They

walk and talk and pray, for each other and for others. “Beverly was my strength when my husband was ill and when he died,” says Janet, “and now her husband is fighting some illness.”

According to Beverly, Janet is tender-hearted toward worms crossing the sidewalk. She helps them into the grass on the other side. Beverly identifies bird songs. Those are two of their “side jobs.” They freely admit to moving slower these days, but they keep going.

“If you read any kind of articles in magazines,” says Beverly, “they tell you walking is a good thing.”

“It’s cheap; it’s accessible,” says Janet. “And at our age, mobility is everything.”

They also get together to play games by the fireplace in winter. Rummikub is a favorite. “It’s got enough thinking involved in it that we don’t feel like we’re just completely wasting our time, and yet it’s fun,” says Janet.

We turn to climb some steep stairs, and I comment on the difficulty of the ascent. Janet says that she calls this the “Mount Everest” of their walk, and all three of us grab onto the handrail. Beverly tells me that in her younger days, when she and her husband were in Africa, she climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. When Janet was young and working in Oregon, she climbed on the slopes of Mount Shasta and Mount Rainier.

They tell me about books they have read, from Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* (a book with a lot of walking in it!) to Delia Owens’s *Where the Crawdads Sing*, to John Grisham’s *Sooley*, to *A World on Fire*, the recent



ACCORDING TO BEVERLY, JANET IS TENDER-HEARTED TOWARD WORMS CROSSING THE SIDEWALK. SHE HELPS THEM INTO THE GRASS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

▲ Janet Olson and Beverly Pottle have been walking the sidewalks together and picking up trash for three decades.

Scott Moncrieff

Adventist devotional by David Metzler about the spread of the gospel through the apostle Paul.

We return to the topic of getting older. “I just can’t seem to think of food to cook,” says Beverly. “When you’re younger, you invite people for lunch.”

“I don’t cook,” says Janet. “That’s my solution. I stand at my kitchen counter and eat sandwiches and cereal. I’ve lost all interest in cooking. Mealtime can be a very lonely time.”

I ask about getting a photo. Janet quips, “Anything but a close-up should work.”

As I take pictures of them walking, Janet says, “At this stage of our lives, there’s not much we can do, but

when we walk and pick up trash, I feel like we have the opportunity to leave our little corner of the world a little better. That’s a small legacy, but it’s a legacy.”

Beverly adds, “A number of people stop to thank us, but they usually don’t bend over and pick anything up.” She laughs.

It’s time for me to say goodbye, but the ladies still have a loop around the Garland Apartments to finish their walk. I watch them head off down the sidewalk, investing in their friendship, investing in their health, inspiring the next generation.

Scott Moncrieff, professor of English, Andrews University

Yes, I Can-vass!

By Ellie Butikofer

“MOBILE 1, DO YOU COPY?” This is Ellie, ready for pick-up!” I clutch my walkie-talkie in my one ungloved hand as I exit the driveway of the last house on the block, carrying a bag of books slightly lighter than it was an hour before. Soon Olivia Joyce (aka Mobile 1) appears in her car and I hop into the back seat, excited for my next “drop.” What was I doing, going house to house in Niles, Michigan’s snow-covered streets in mid-January? And why, despite having numb toes and freezing hands chapped to the point of bleeding, do I return two weeks later? The answer is simple. If I don’t go, who will?

As full-time Andrews University students during the 2021 spring semester, three friends and I pursued our goal of forming a club to unite people interested in literature evangelism work in the Berrien Springs, Michigan, area. The club is based on the University campus, with remote assistance from the Michigan Conference Youth Rush canvassing program.

What began as a handful of young people on a snowy January day has grown into a group of 12 participants canvassing every other Sunday in just the span of one semester. During each of our outings, the team spends most of the day together, meeting at 10 a.m. on a Sunday and not returning to campus until about 8 p.m. We begin the day with a worship message and prayer, followed by a short training to orientate new canvassers. Finally, at about 12:30 p.m., the team heads to the field to canvass nearby neighborhoods.

While canvassing, we carry a selection of Christian literature and videos: *The Great Controversy*, *Steps to Christ*, health books, Bible books for kids, etc. Each book or video is presented to the customer with a carefully crafted

memorized canvass describing the material’s content along with personal anecdotes.

While these young salespeople are allowed to keep a portion of the money they earn, participants are continually reminded that they are “evangelists first and salesmen second.” This attitude is evident as students return each evening excited to share stories of divine appointments, faith-building experiences and answered prayers. And what incredible stories they are!

On January 18, our first day canvassing, a woman stood on her porch in a t-shirt for 15 minutes in sub-freezing temperatures, holding our three-book devotional set as we attempted to complete the transaction. She explained that the recent passing of her mother had increased her interest in spiritual things. Holding up the books as she entered her house, she expressed that she was excited to read them all.

In a similarly inspiring story that occurred the last day of canvassing, a Methodist minister pressed a crisp \$100 bill into my hand. He excitedly chose eight books to add to his family’s library, including several spiritual books such as *The Great Controversy* and *Steps to Christ*.

These stories are just a few of many that demonstrate the incredible ways that God has used our canvassing club to help reach people hungry for spiritual truth. About 20

Bible study sign-ups and several hundred books accepted into the homes of local residents serve as a testament to the fact that the harvest surely is great. ■

Originally from Alaska, Ellie Butikofer is a Speech-Language Pathology graduate student at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She also canvassed a full summer with Michigan’s Youth Rush program in 2019.

Ellie 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.



► Ellie Butikofer

Changing the Equation

By Elijah Horton



▲ Dominique Kemp

LANSING, MICHIGAN NATIVE DOMINIQUE KEMP COULD BE CONSIDERED A TRAILBLAZER TODAY.

However, his academic path in public school started out rocky. “I wouldn’t care about my schoolwork. I would put together pranks. I had all sorts of behavioral issues.”

When his parents decided to homeschool him the following year, Dominique’s attitude towards his schoolwork didn’t change. It wasn’t until after that first year of homeschooling, at age 12, that things changed. “I had a pivotal moment, this stunning realization that I should care about my schoolwork.” It was around this same time that his father, keen on how his son spent his time, took his video games away.

Dominique gravitated more and more towards reading and pursuing knowledge. The Bible also took on a new level of depth. “It came from reading Psalms 107 and seeing the real-life application of what David was talking about in that Psalm. I couldn’t necessarily give you an exegesis on it, but it really hit me.”

Going from homeschooler to Stanford University freshman was quite an adjustment. “I was now competing with kids who were born, it seems, with the world at their fingertips. I mean, Steve Job’s son was a member of my incoming class.”

Seriously contemplating giving up on his math major his sophomore year, he posed the issue to the Lord — then, as an ultimatum. The response was an unexpected grant: a prestigious, two-year research fellowship from Stanford (Stanford STEM Fellowship). In 2015, after completing his bachelor’s in Mathematics at Stanford, Dominique was accepted into the PhD Math program at Indiana University.

It was providential that he was led to focus on a relatively new field of math, harmonic analysis. His interest in this area led to the offer of a postdoctoral position at Princeton University and the National Science Foundation Fellowship. Dominique completed his PhD in May 2021, the first African American to do so in Mathematics at the University of Indiana.

This fall, Dominique is at the University of Wisconsin–Madison to further his mathematical research. He is interested in engaging in outreach to students at both the high school and middle school levels, showing them real-world applications for mathematics.

“This past year carried its immense challenges,” the 29-year-old says, “but I would remember Romans 8:28 — there’s a sovereign God who will carry us through very trying years and I will continue to follow what He has put before me.”

Elijah Horton is a freelance writer based in Chicago.

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