

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

# HERALD

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022



**“I will go!”**

**Living Out Our Faith  
Wholeheartedly**

**ILLINOIS MEMBERS  
ILLINOIS FOCUS  
INSIDE**



▲ **Lake Union Herald team:** *Debbie, Felicia and Katie (not pictured Robert Mason, Susan Slikkers)*

We frequently hear the stories of people who are called to minister for God. Oftentimes, those stories are of preachers and missionaries, pastors and seminarians—not the sort of thing that touches the lives of so-called “ordinary” Christians.

But we are reminded that the call of God is on every life and a quick search of Scripture reveals this. The Apostle Paul wrote in the New Testament book of Thessalonians, “*He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (2 Thess. 2:14).

Here at the Lake Union, our Savior has strengthened our faith through the mission of the *Herald* to tell the stories of what He is doing in the lives of His people. It is our prayer that as you read these accounts of “ordinary” people stepping out of their comfort zones to march forth boldly for Christ that you, too, will sense His purpose and call on your life in 2022. ■

Debbie Michel  
*Editor, Lake Union Herald*

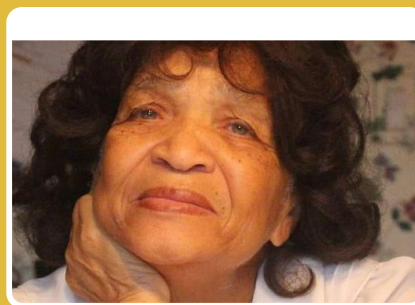
Felicia Tonga  
*Assistant director of Communication*

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*Assistant Communication specialist*



# ONLINE NEWS

**Former educational superintendent for the Wisconsin and Indiana conferences, Herb Wrate passed away on Nov. 15, 2021, at age 83.** Wrate served 10 years as a teacher and 30 years as an educational superintendent for the Northern New England, Indiana, Iowa–Missouri and Wisconsin conferences.



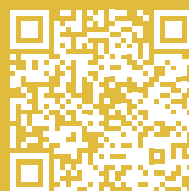
**For nearly 30 years, Alice Strawbridge was a beloved music teacher at Peterson–Warren Academy near Detroit.** She was known for her knack in developing her students’ musical skills and instrumental in providing opportunities for them to minister on tour in several U.S. cities. Strawbridge passed peacefully in her sleep on November 6 at age 92.



**The Andrews University School of Business Administration Shores Consulting team won first place in the inaugural Loma Linda University School of Public Health Undergraduate Healthcare Business Case Competition, held virtually on Sunday, Oct. 31.** The judges commended them for their original solution to the case study which has the potential to address current healthcare challenges.



**From September 25 to October 2, Illinois Conference and other Hispanic churches met for a week of evangelism.** The title of this evangelistic effort was “Victoria frente al temo” (“Victory Over Fear”). At the conclusion of the week-long series, 50 people were baptized and another 150 people joined a small group or Bible study.



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

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**ON THE COVER:** Dollie Williams  
Alina Alexandra, photographer

**ON THIS PAGE:** Angela Coppock  
P. 46, One Voice

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# What Has God Called You To Do?

Several years ago, as part of my duties at the North American Division, I had the opportunity to visit the island of Bermuda for the first time. I did the usual round of meetings and visits, but the highlight for me was when I got to meet Johnny Barnes. Johnny was a member of one of the Seventh-day Adventist churches in Bermuda. He also was an elder and a Sabbath School teacher. But that isn't what he was best known for.




▲ Ken Denslow

If you don't know about Johnny, let me give you a little background. This old man had for decades gotten up at four o'clock in the morning and made his way to a busy street corner in Hamilton, Bermuda. There he would wave at the cars and scooters that drove by and shout out to them: "I love you and God loves you." All this while blowing kisses to the people. In earlier years, this was all done before he would head off to his job. I asked him why he went out there so early. His answer was simple, "I want to be in place when the tourists head to the airport or to the cruise ships."

Now you may think that this was all a bit outlandish, but that isn't how the citizens of Bermuda saw it. They looked forward to their daily reminder that there was someone who cared about them. The day that I

visited Johnny on his street corner, I had to wait in line behind tourists from Boston. A woman told me that whenever she visited Bermuda, she made it a point to stop and see Johnny. With tears in her eyes, she said, "If I had a choice between spending a few minutes with Johnny or with any celebrity out there, I would pick Johnny. I always feel better after being around him."

Several years later, it was my privilege to represent the North American Division at Johnny Barnes' funeral. Top government officials were in attendance. The accolades were many. As the funeral procession made its way from the services at the Bermuda Institute to the cemetery where he was to be buried, the streets were lined with admirers and mourners there to pay tribute to this interesting fellow. In one open lot



## “I LOVE YOU AND GOD LOVES YOU.”

that we passed, a trumpeter stood alone, playing a musical tribute to the man who had touched his life and the lives of so many others over the many years.

On that first visit when I met Johnny, I asked him, “How could you do this same simple act, for so many years?” His answer has stuck with me: “God has something for everyone to do. This is what I do for Him.” We are not all called to stand on a street corner like Johnny, but he was right—God does have something for each of us to do.

This issue of the *Lake Union Herald* focuses on stories of ordinary people like Johnny Barnes who have heard and answered the call of God to go and serve. It reminds me of that phrase: “Together in Mission: I Will Go.” What has God called you to do? ■

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*Ken Denslow is president of the Lake Union Conference.*

# Religion's Impact on Parenting

God has called parents to disciple their children. Although many people play a role in disciplining children, parents have the largest influence in shaping a child's religiosity.



▲ Alina Baltazar

A recent article explored the effect of religion on parenting by examining multiple research studies.<sup>1</sup>

Religion impacts parenting from the very beginning. Parents' religiosity influences the behaviors and beliefs that they model and then expect from their children. A study that examined Seventh-day Adventist parenting practices found parents followed a certain lifestyle that was then expected to be followed by their children.<sup>2</sup>

Religion also has a positive impact on the parent/child bond. A study found that religious families have stronger cohesion, especially as it relates to the encouragement of father involvement as the spiritual head of the home.

There are benefits to families in being part of a religious community as children develop. A moral community reinforces the beliefs being taught at home, which increases the chance of children accepting those beliefs. These religious communities also provide emotional, spiritual and sometimes physical support to these families which gives children a positive view of religion.

As children develop into teenagers there are additional benefits. Adolescence is a time of identity development. Religion helps to shape values that then guides the teen into who he/she will become as an adult. Although friends have a greater influence than parents during the teen years, being part of a religious community increases access to religious peers.

During the young adult years, parents become more important than peers. Parents' religious beliefs have an influence on young adults' approach to parenting and life choices. In studies conducted on an Adventist college campus, students report that if there is a close bond with parents, they don't want to disappoint them with choices made.<sup>3</sup>

Religion can have negative impacts on parenting as well. If families are living a lifestyle which is discouraged by their religious community, it can be confusing for children. This can cause emotional distress. In addition, very religious parents tend to be strict with their children which can lead to some harm during the teen years, although this will vary depending on community expectations.

In summary, religion sets standards for parenting behaviors that inspires positive role modeling for their children. Religion encourages close family bonds that then impacts a child's behavior into adulthood. Although there can be some resistance to religion supported by parents during the teen years, it still aids in identity development. Being part of a religious community gives teens access to peers that may reinforce values being taught at home. The goal is to find a balance between how these values are lived in the home within the context of the community in which the family resides. ■

1 Petro, M.R., Rich, E.G., Erasmus, C., & Roman N.V. (2017). *The effect of religion on parenting in order to guide parents in the way they parent: A systematic review*. *Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19349637.2017.1341823>.

2 Godina, L. (2014). *Religion and parenting: Ignored relationship?* *Child and Family Social Work*, 19(4), 381-390.

3 Baltazar, A.M., McBride, D., Ames, B., & Martell, D. (2014, November). *Influence of parents and religiosity on alcohol use in a population of Christian college students attending a prohibitionist university: A mixed method approach*. Workshop presented at National Council on Family Relations, Baltimore, MD.

Alina Baltazar, PhD, MSW, LMSW, CFLE; professor of Social Work and co-associate director of the Institute for the Prevention of Addiction, Andrews University.

# Think and Shrink

## REFLECTIONS ON LOSING 50 POUNDS

When my mother, Judy Aitken, passed away in December of 2018, I knew myself well enough to know that I would turn to food for comfort.

This wouldn't be the first time I would do something like this. In fact, I had gained 25 pounds after my father's death six years prior. So, I resolved to make a change. The first couple weeks were a success. I then began to travel and, in my busyness, lost sight of my dieting goals and gave up.

In August 2019, I went on a trip to Ethiopia and Cambodia with a group from the Andrews University Social Work Department and ASAP Ministries. Among the group were two Andrews University professors, Alina Baltazar and Ingrid Slikkers.

On the plane, I believe my angel orchestrated for me to sit by Alina and I shared my struggles with food. I had heard she had lost 50 pounds four years ago and kept it off. I wanted to know the secret to her success. She offered, "Can I be your health coach?" I was thrilled!

Before long, we were incorporating principles on how to lose weight and keep it off through cognitive behavioral therapy techniques. The program guides you to implement incremental changes each day for 40 days, which helps build healthy habits.

One step put forth was to stop eating while standing up. It shocked me how many calories I had consumed on the run or when cooking. Alina, Ingrid and I met weekly to pray together and share our successes and struggles. While doing so, I experienced God working through these two amazing friends to encourage and hold me accountable. Accountability is a big key to success.

As I followed the plan, implementing the Word of God and learning to rely on Christ and His promises instead of my feelings, He taught me, little by little, *how* to have the mind of Christ. Soon I realized I had new scripts in my mind that replaced the wrong thoughts that would sabotage my health.

Let me give you an example of what this looks like for me. I come home from work after a stressful day and think, "*Something sweet and cold would be so soothing to my soul right now, like ice cream!*" I catch that thought and say to myself, "*No, what would really satisfy my soul right now is going for a walk in nature and singing along to some inspirational music because I believe what it says in Psalm 63:5, 'You, [Jesus], satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy.'*" (NLT)

That thought turns into an action. At the end of the day, I think about those small yet powerful positive choices and give myself credit for them while thanking Jesus. Those choices helped create an abundant, healthy life.

If you are struggling with your weight or are finding it a challenge to maintain a healthy lifestyle, please know you are not alone. I accept that it's a lifetime challenge for me; it may be for you, too. But I also believe that you, too, can find the victory you so desire in Christ. Prayer is a key component to your success as it was—and is—for me. ■

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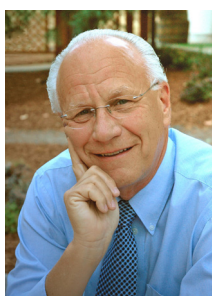
*Julia O'Carey is executive director of ASAP Ministries. She actively helps others with their health journeys. You may friend her on Facebook and ask to join the Think & Shrink group to receive regular inspiration and support.*



▲ Before (top, in August 2019) and after (bottom, in August 2020) losing 50 pounds. The milk cartons represent the amount of weight lost.

# The Rise of Adventist Elementary Schools — 2

*I have singled [Abraham] out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the Lord and do what is right and just. Gen. 18:19, NLT*



▲ George R. Knight

Education for the faith has a long history in the Judeo/Christian realm. In fact, God chose or singled out Abraham, the father of the faithful, because of his willingness to educate his family in the ways and teachings of the Lord.

But old though the command to educate one's children in the faith may have been in the Bible, it was a latecomer in Seventh-day Adventism. The denomination would be more than 50 years past the Great Disappointment of 1844 before it began to develop an elementary education system.

The stimulus, as we saw (last time), came from Ellen White's summons in far-off Australia to form local church schools even if a congregation had but six to attend.

Such individuals in America as Edward Alexander Sutherland and Percy T. Magan, the reform leaders who would move Battle Creek College into the country in 1901, took that admonition to heart. Years later

Sutherland recalled with some exaggeration, "Magan, Miss DeGraw, and myself practically at the end of every week would pick up a teacher and go out and establish three schools before Monday morning."

Exaggeration or not, the statistics on Adventist elementary education shot practically straight up beginning in the second half of the 1890s. Watch the curve: In 1880, the denomination had one elementary school with one teacher and 15 students; in 1885, it had three schools with five teachers and 125 students; in 1890, seven schools with 15 teachers and 350 students; in 1895, 18 schools with 35 teachers and 895 students; and in 1900, 220 schools with 250 teachers and 5,000 students. And the growth didn't stop there. By 1910, the numbers had swollen to 594 schools with 758 teachers and 13,357 students. In 2006, the figures stood at 5,362 schools, 36,880 teachers, and 861,745 students.

The elementary school movement also stimulated expansion in the church's secondary and higher education. In part, that growth came about because of the increased need for Adventist elementary teachers. But, more importantly, the elementary movement gave publicity to the belief that every Adventist young person should have a Christian education.

*Thank you, Lord, for our school system. Help me to do my part to help every young person in my congregation to have an education that will fit each for eternity. ■*

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George R. Knight is a retired professor of Church History at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. This article is from his book, *Lest We Forget*, a daily devotional, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, page 309. Reprinted with permission.

BY 1910, THE NUMBERS HAD SWOLLEN TO 594 SCHOOLS WITH 758 TEACHERS AND 13,357 STUDENTS. IN 2006, THE FIGURES STOOD AT 5,362 SCHOOLS, 36,880 TEACHERS, AND 861,745 STUDENTS.



# Unidos En Amor

*Lo más importante de todo es que se amen unos a otros porque el amor es lo que los mantiene perfectamente unidos.*

## Colosenses 3:14

El 19 de noviembre 2021 fue un día inolvidable para mí y para los miembros de la Iglesia Hispana de Berrien Springs, cuando se llevó a cabo un “Servicio de Consolación y Esperanza” para quienes conocían y amaban a Arnaldo Contreras. Sus amigos lo conocían como “El Brother”. Arnaldo había fallecido inesperadamente dos semanas después de haber sido dado de alta del hospital, habiéndose supuestamente recuperado de COVID-19.

Al leer los comentarios acerca de Arnaldo en los medios sociales noté que su muerte había afectado a muchas personas. Aunque éramos amigos a través de la red social Facebook, no lo conocía personalmente. Pero al ver lo que otros decían de él pude conocerlo mejor. Además, al asistir al servicio ese día y ver los rostros de los presentes en la iglesia comprendí que su vida había tocado a muchos.

Lo que más me impactó durante las cuatro horas de ese servicio fue el ver y sentir una unidad extraordinariamente inusual en una congregación. Las lágrimas, los abrazos y los saludos de gratitud demostraban que esa unidad no estaba basada en discusiones teológicas sino en el amor mutuo. También me llamó la atención que el pastor Edwin Hernández, basándose en el amor desinteresado que “El Brother” había manifestado durante su vida, tituló su homilía: “Seamos lo que más amamos de él”.

La vida de Arnaldo y la demostración de amor que percibí ese día me hicieron pensar en la iglesia en general. La realidad es que vivimos en un mundo dividido, y desafortunadamente nuestras iglesias caen con frecuencia en esa misma condición. Se oyen polémicas acerca de la música, la vacuna, el uso de la mascarilla,

la ordenación de la mujer, las señales del fin, el decaimiento de “las normas” de la iglesia en los medios sociales. Sin embargo, no se oye a la gente expresar con la misma intensidad su agradecimiento a Dios por su gran amor.

Nuestro Dios merece que lo alabemos y le agradezcamos por sus muchas bondades. En el libro de Apocalipsis, capítulo 7, se nos dice que un día se levantará una incontable multitud que no deja de alabar a Dios. No habrá crítica o división en ese grupo. Lo que sí habrá es mucho amor.

En su oración intercesora Cristo oró al Padre pidiendo que el pueblo de Dios fuese uno. La pregunta es: ¿Cómo podremos lograr esa unidad? Hebreos 12:2 lo explica bien: “*Mantengamos fija la mirada en Jesús, pues de él viene nuestra fe y él es quien la perfecciona. Él, por el gozo que le esperaba, soportó la cruz y no le dio importancia a la vergüenza que eso significaba, y ahora está sentado a la derecha del trono de Dios*”.

Deseo que como pueblo fijemos nuestra mirada en Jesús y oremos para que “seamos lo que más amamos de Él”. ■

*Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago*



▲ Carmelo Mercado



*Scan for English version of this story*



▲ La Iglesia Hispana de Berrien Springs celebra la vida de Arnaldo Contreras.

# Waves of Grace

PODCAST LISTENER BECOMES CHURCH MEMBER

By Laura Lucio



**“HI, PASTOR MATTHEW,” THE WOMAN’S EMAIL BEGAN.**

“After listening to a few of your podcasts, I decided to Google you . . .” Matthew Lucio, who hosts the *Adventist History Podcast* alongside pastoring a church, laughs and says it’s always dangerous when someone wants to Google you.

Google led Iris Miranda to the Peoria Church’s weekly “Sabbath Stream” livestream. Iris and her husband, Herminio Irizarry, weren’t able to find a local church home during the pandemic, so they began joining the Peoria Church each week: “I am seriously hesitating going back to my church here in Virginia,” Iris wrote, “because I don’t want to stop watching Peoria’s services.”

Iris and Herminio didn’t stop.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Iris and Herminio met while working for the federal government. They were never able to find the right church in their area. After the pandemic made in-person worship difficult, they, like many other Adventists, began looking online at the other options. They enjoyed the Kahoot! game with which Pastor Matthew kicks off the Sabbath Stream and even got to know the Sabbath School teachers by name. “Oh, and who can forget Bernie Sanders with his mittens sitting in church. . . . You guys are really awesome!”

“That’s an inside joke,” Pastor Matthew explains. “What excited me the most about this email was that Iris and Herminio were getting to know the other members of the church. It always makes me nervous when people attach exclusively to the preaching or to the pastor, because pastors move. We’ve made it a point to put our members’ names on the screen so that our online audience can form ties with them. Our Sabbath School teachers began to recognize our frequent fliers online and began greeting them as if they were sitting in our church.”

By July, Iris and Herminio were determined to visit Peoria sometime in the fall. They wanted to meet these church members they saw each week. But they had an ulterior motive: Herminio wanted to be baptized and cast his lot with a congregation 800 miles from his home.

On October 16, Iris and Herminio came to the Peoria Church for the first time in person. “The church looks bigger in person than on camera,” Iris said. Herminio was suddenly a part of the same livestream he had once watched from home. “We’re basically telling Jesus, ‘I’ll die for you. I’ll give up who I was, including the parts of myself that I loved. I give it all to you,’” Pastor Matthew told him. Standing in the baptistery, Herminio thanked his wife for her love and read one of his favorite Bible verses: *Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground* (Psalm 143:10).

Matthew is still amazed at the privilege of baptizing someone who simply started listening to a podcast about Adventist history and then found a church livestream. “We’re a small church in the middle of Illinois, so I cannot help but conclude that God did this. It just goes to show that the old mindset of local churches belonging to local cities is outdated. Our city is important to us, but our field is the world. We believe that now more than ever around here.” ■

---

*Laura Lucio is a psychology enthusiast, wife to a formidable husband, mother of two feral children, Enneagram 1, ENTJ. She’s also a Christ-centered theist and a social advocate. Find her at @llaumarta on all major platforms.*



▲ Herminio Irizarry discovered the *Adventist History Podcast* and began listening from his home in Virginia. He was baptized on Sabbath, Oct. 16, by podcast host and Peoria (Illinois) Church pastor, Matthew Lucio.

# Out of the Blue Blessings

## LESSONS IN SEEING AND SERVING

By Cyndi Woods

**AS ANOTHER NEW YEAR APPROACHED, I COULDN'T HELP BUT SMILE.** I liked the sound of this one. 2020. A number signifying perfect vision. Perfect vision is something I lost decades ago, however. Now I am blind. Still, I clung to the hopefulness that “2020” suggested. I prayed that the new year would bring greater clarity, optimism and opportunities—not just for my loved ones and me, but for everyone.

Instead, the new year brought COVID-19. Now I not only had to wear a mask and limit my contact with others, I also had to learn to navigate while trying not to touch other objects or people. But touch is a blind person's way of seeing. How would I be able to manage without touching? Little by little, by trial and error, I somehow adapted and survived that difficult year.

Again, I found myself breathing a sigh of relief as another new year approached. “Certainly 2021 will be better,” I assured myself. As travel restrictions began to ease, my husband and I booked a trip to Florida. We began counting down the days to our flight and our long-overdue date with sunshine, rest and rejuvenation.

A week before our scheduled departure, I was sitting in my doctor's office for one of my regular medical appointments. As it drew to a close, my doctor paused. He then posed two questions he had never asked before: “Is there anything else you want to talk about? Do you have something on your mind?”

I hadn't planned on bringing up any new concerns, but just then it occurred to me that maybe I should. I explained to my doctor that the night before, while getting ready for bed, I had found a lump in my breast. I wasn't alarmed, though, because two years earlier I had made a similar discovery. Subsequent tests had revealed nothing more than dense tissue. I felt confident that this new lump was just more of the same.

My doctor immediately scheduled a mammo-gram, ultrasound and biopsy. In the days following, I dutifully met all of these appointments. While initially I hadn't been worried about another small lump, as we waited for the results, I began to acknowledge that this time the report could be different.

I became increasingly fearful, anxious and confused. I found myself lying awake in the dark after one particularly taxing day. In those predawn hours, I asked God, “*If the news is bad, how am I supposed to deal with it?*” My answer came in the form of a gently whispered question. I both felt it and heard it. “*Are you willing to carry this for Me?*”

“*I am willing, Lord,*” I whispered back.

Within the week, my worst fears were confirmed. I had cancer. My doctor urged my husband and me to take our planned Florida vacation. We needed something positive to focus on, he explained. Change would do us good. Treatment could begin when we returned.

The trip to Florida proved to be a gift. The change of weather and location, and the reprieve from the ordeals awaiting us at home were therapeutic. My husband and I made new memories while cherishing our time together. Upon our return home, however, we learned that the road ahead would be even rockier than either of us had imagined. My cancer had the highest level of aggressiveness. Surgery, radiation and chemotherapy—all would be necessary.

As I tried to comprehend all the new details, I replayed my earlier nighttime conversation with God. “*Are you sure you have the right girl?*” I asked Him. I began to question my ability to carry this burden. I knew it wasn't God's will that any of us suffer, but I also knew that none of us escapes suffering in this world.

Yet, how could I possibly carry this burden? My daughter was about to be married. I wanted to share



with her all the happiness that comes with a wedding. My adult son was adjusting to life on his own. He still looked to me for cleaning tips and cooking lessons. And my husband was just forty-eight years old. The possibility of him being widowed so early seemed more than either of us could bear. Once again, I turned to God. This time I heard, “I asked you

*to carry this burden for Me, not to die from it for Me.”*

Day by day, the meaning of those words is becoming clearer. No matter what I am facing, I am still called to follow Jesus, to *live* for Him with whatever days, months or years I may be given.

I find myself now on a journey I call my Cancer Excavation. In addition to treatment and the steep learning curve it brings, I am unearthing so much about myself, my priorities, my God. I am learning to listen to God’s promptings. He spoke to me through my physician’s unexpected questions, leading me to share vital information I had been tempted to dismiss. Undoubtedly, my condition would be even worse now, had I not listened to Divine promptings that day.

I am learning, too, that grieving is essential and unavoidable. One day, while showering, I leaned my head against the wet tile and let my tears flow with the shower stream. I could not ignore the possibility that I may not survive this cancer. Eventually, after many more tears, God helped me to see that, even in the darkness, there are glimmers of light. At our lowest, it is easy to forget that there are still opportunities to do good, to serve and be a witness.

As I continued to work through my grief, I felt impressed to begin a new ministry. I would make tied fleece prayer blankets. I resolved to turn my hands to this task and give a blanket to a fellow patient each time I went in for therapy. A friend and I prayed over this plan. Together, we came up with the name “Out of the Blue Blessings.” We liked how the name evoked both surprise and Heaven. At first, I was apprehensive about approaching strangers with a handmade gift and the offer of prayer. My fretting proved unfounded. My gesture elicited overwhelmingly positive responses. I discovered, too, that the blessings aren’t confined to the recipients of the blankets. As a giver, I also am blessed.

As my Cancer Excavation continues, so does God’s leading. He has shown me that whatever our circumstances, we still can be of service to Him. My struggles introduce me to people I never would have met otherwise. I have gained levels of empathy and understanding far beyond any that I have experienced before. I see now that if we truly want to be the hands and feet of Jesus, we need not wait for a new day, a new season, or a new year. We can serve wherever we are, with whatever measure of strength we have, with whatever days we have, with whatever trials we may be enduring.

Yes, cancer and all illnesses are thieves and destroyers which certainly do not come from God. With my spiritual vision, I vividly see that God is a Redeemer and Restorer of all things. He can help us deal with even the worst challenges. Through it all, He can lead us to opportunities for blessings and even joy. His promise still holds true: “*And lo, I am with you always*” (Matthew 28:20).

None of us can ever fully understand all that happens to us on our earthly journey. But even in our most trying times, we have a Savior who will stay with us—and even surprise us—with out of the blue blessings. ■

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*Cyndi Woods lives in Flint, Michigan. Since submitting this piece, she has received the excellent news that her cancer is in remission.*

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*Edited by Beverly Matiko.*

**...EVEN IN OUR MOST TRYING TIMES, WE HAVE A SAVIOR WHO WILL STAY WITH US—AND EVEN SURPRISE US—WITH OUT OF THE BLUE BLESSINGS.**



# A CALL TO KOREA

**S**ahmyook University in Korea traces its history back to 1906 and Uimyeong School, a humble place of learning dedicated to training Seventh-day Adventist ministers. Today that modest forerunner has blossomed into a thriving university, rightly proud of its wide-ranging programs, its highly qualified faculty and its impressive student body, now numbering about six thousand.

BY BEVERLY MATIKO

Two current Michigan residents who contributed significantly to the development of Seventh-day Adventist higher education in Korea are Robert and Madeline Johnston. At the request of Sahmyook University, the Johnstons recently completed a joint memoir of their eleven years of missionary work in South Korea (1958–1969). Most of their time there was spent teaching at Korean Union Training School. It later became Korean Union College, then Sahmyook University.

Speaking of their call to mission service, Madeline recently mused, “It would be easier if God used skywriting, but that’s not how He usually decides to work. Being sure we were led by God was a process that Bob and I each worked through in our own way.” Excerpts from their memoir testify of their listening for God’s direction, and finding the courage and commitment to follow His leading.

As a young married couple, the Johnstons were supportive of missions but never envisioned overseas service for themselves. They felt better suited for service in North America. While teaching at the academy in Fresno, California, Robert received a letter from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He recalls, “The letter explained that, from time to time, there was need for people with my qualifications in the mission field, and the secretariat wanted to have my name in their files in case they needed me. I did not think it was likely that they would call me, but I felt that I should fill out the enclosed form and send it back, lest I be blocking the will of God.”

Madeline remembers looking over that blank form and saying to her husband, “We know we want to do God’s will. If we fill out this form and it is not His will for us to go, then He will block the way. But if by some chance it is His will for us to go, and we do not fill out the form, then we are blocking His will. Maybe we should fill it out, but just tell the General Conference honestly that we aren’t eager to go.”

Robert and Madeline prayed, filled out the form, and returned it. Robert suspected that the form might be filed away somewhere and that would be the end of it. “Nothing may come of this,” he told Madeline.

About two months after the arrival of that first “feeler letter,” the Johnstons received a call to Korea. Although initially very surprised by this invitation, the Johnstons

began to consider it. Madeline had certain stipulations regarding suitable places for them to serve. She and her husband had an infant son and wanted more children. Because of complications with her first pregnancy, Madeline felt any subsequent pregnancies would require a modern medical facility and doctor.

As he began to consider the possibility of serving outside of North America, Robert envisioned postings more aligned with his linguistic skills. “Because I knew some Spanish and was, in fact, currently teaching the language, I felt that any call surely would be to Latin America.”

When they later raised the “Why Korea?” question regarding this particular call, the Johnstons were told, “We figured if Bob could learn the languages he already knew, he would be able to learn Korean, too.” The Johnstons also were reassured that, unlike other countries with unfilled positions, Korea offered nearby medical facilities with missionary doctors.

As Robert and Madeline continued to ponder the call to teach Bible in Korea, Robert did what any diligent scholar and researcher would do. He bought a book about the country. “We read it,” he recalls, “but we were still not sure that we should go there. For several weeks we held the letter, prayed, talked to friends, and tried to decide.”

Initially, Madeline didn’t see herself as “missionary material.” The mission stories that she had heard in childhood often stressed “primitive living conditions—and snakes.” Madeline explains, “I had grown up in



Jean-Fres Michel

the big city of Los Angeles, a physician's daughter, not living in luxury but certainly not in poverty either. I had never met a snake around our house, and I had no desire to meet one. Nor did I know how to bake my own bread or live in the countryside. Surely God must have other plans for us."

# "I'LL GO WHERE YOU WANT ME TO GO, DEAR LORD."

The Johnstons shared their concerns in writing with the man in the General Conference Secretariat who had sent the call. He addressed many of their concerns. He also advised them to take two months to think and pray about the call.

During this time, there was a Sabbath School lesson on Jonah. Also, the Johnstons attended a youth rally

one Sabbath which significantly impacted their thinking about Korea. Elder E.L. Minchin ended his Sabbath sermon at the youth rally with a three-part appeal, first for baptism or rededication, then for openness to gospel ministry and, finally, for willingness to undertake foreign mission service, should the Lord call. Robert vividly remembers, "That appeal struck me like a lightning bolt because I already had just such a call in my pocket! I stood." Madeline stood as well.

Still, some reservations remained about whether or not God was truly calling them to uproot their young family. Madeline shares, "We wondered: How could this be God's will when Bob was already teaching Spanish at the academy and could have easily taught in a South American country? Was this really the voice of God, or was it just some human committee that made a mistake?"

Madeline also was concerned about the practice of missionaries sending their young children far away to boarding school. She had seen the negative effects such prolonged separations had had on some missionary families. She recalls thinking, "We don't want to do that to our son and any additional children."

Madeline and Robert prayed earnestly during those two months, with Madeline realizing, "Our work could not be effective without a love of the place and the people." Eventually, she and Robert began to see that standing in commitment during that memorable youth rally had meant something different to each of them. Madeline explains: "To Bob, it meant he had the call in his pocket, God was asking him to go, and he was saying yes. To me, it meant that yes, I would be willing to go if God called me, but I still was not totally convinced that the call was from God."

An important signpost appeared for the couple during a particular church service where Bob had been asked to sing a solo. Madeline recalls, "He chose the hymn, 'I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go.' I accompanied him on the piano. For both of us, that hymn took on a special, personal meaning."

In addition to their own prayer and soul-searching, Robert and Madeline sought counsel from trusted individuals. The resulting advice proved to be very wide-ranging. One person claimed that Korea would be a bad career move. "You'll be forgotten if you go



overseas,” he cautioned, “and you’ll never advance to the GC.” As that career trajectory had never been among Robert and Madeline’s aspirations, they fought to contain their shock at this advice.

Others shared more helpful counsel. Earlier, while serving as a dean in the women’s dormitory at Lodi Academy in California, Madeline had met and worked alongside Mrs. Theodora Wangerin, a retired missionary. Madeline and Robert decided to visit her who, with her husband and family, had served in Korea for more than 40 years. Madeline recalled spending evenings in the dormitory viewing pictures and hearing stories of the Wangerins’ experiences in Korea. Even though their mission service had included heartbreaking personal losses, Mrs. Wangerin had steadfastly remained committed to the work she and her husband had begun together and which she later continued. Robert and Madeline knew that this perspective could be very helpful to them.

During their visit, Mrs. Wangerin said to Madeline and Robert, “Be very sure that you are called by God, and then no matter what difficulties you may face, you will have the assurance that you are where God wants you and He will help you.”

Later, when the Johnstons’ call to serve in Korea had progressed to the medical clearance stage, an American-trained Chinese doctor who examined Madeline urged, “You go to Korea and do a good job. I cannot go back to China. You go and take my place.”

The Johnstons ultimately followed this and other wise counsel. Madeline remembers asking God to “give me the desire to go.” That prayer was answered as they boarded the plane to Korea. What they couldn’t have foreseen, however, is that their 11-year term of overseas mission service would expand into a more than 60-year relationship with Korea!

Upon returning home to the United States, Robert continued to enjoy teaching many Korean students in the seminary at Andrews University. He often preached and held seminars in many of the Korean churches throughout the United States. He even returned to Korea several times for shorter teaching assignments. Now, in his 65th year as a denominational worker, Robert looks back on their Korean years as the peak experience of his career as a church worker.



# 삼육대학교

## SAHMYOOK UNIVERSITY



Robert and Madeline Johnston have no doubt that God witnessed and blessed their standing commitment that day at the youth rally, just as He heard each word and note of their musical pledge, “I’ll go where you want me to go, dear Lord.” The Johnstons readily admit that while teaching in Korea, they also were taught. Perhaps no lesson has been more lasting than this important one: Some decisions require a leap of faith; others are made faithful step by faithful step. ■

*Beverly Matiko, English professor emerita, Andrews University*

# TUNED TO GOD'S CALL

By Betty Kossick

One of the most respected professions a human can achieve is that of physician. Other humans depend on a physician's knowledge, often for their very life. It's hard work, and output of great expense and sacrifice, to attain that station in life. So when Mark Ringwelski received an invitation to audition for the beloved King's Herald's quartet, it came as a total surprise. Yet he felt the Holy Spirit's nudging to accept the audition and, in response, he changed careers.



Sophia Imagery

Now, however, Mark's music career is expanding into an extended calling to enter the arena of solo vocal ministry. Herein is his story of career change—and yet more change—with the hope of being an encouragement to others who may be reading his story of faith to answer God's call.

Mark returns to the time of his youth to explain his interest in music, giving credit to Violet Krueger, a family friend and member of the Merrill (Wisconsin) Church who encouraged his interest in developing his voice, and he started singing for church and special programs. At Wisconsin Academy he sang in the choir, ensembles, “and in my first quartet,” all under Louise Larmon, another mentor he appreciates for her encouragement.

“I loved singing, but at that time I didn't consider it a practical vocation choice,” he admits. Attending Andrews University, he participated in the Men's Chorale, the University Singers, and a gospel touring group, Preparation.

While in graduate studies, Mark and his wife, Susan, sang with a group who sang high church and classical music; during medical school, he continued with solos and special musics. Then he sang with His Way, a quartet in Michigan. When they moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin, another quartet was formed at the Green Bay Church: 4 His Glory. In 2008, he began his annual participation in Doctors in Recital, a benefit concert, by making gospel music his song choice in an otherwise secular program.

That same year, the latter quartet sang along with the King's Heralds when they were invited to the Green Bay Church, marking Mark's first interactions with the quartet. His path crossed again with the King's Heralds in 2013. Five years later, the unexpected happened: a call to audition for them, and he accepted the invitation to join. Yet he adds, “I really didn't aspire to sing professionally, either secular or religious. It wasn't even on my bucket list.”

Then COVID-19 arrived with frustration and disruption for all, which ultimately led him and Susan to the decision to leave the quartet and go solo with His Call Ministries.

It seems that all aspects of Mark's life have made their contribution to his present status as a solo vocalist, including his medical experience. “My work as a medical

director for occupational health as well as having opportunity to function as a physician leader, leading teams and being a member of the health system board, gave me good experience with presenting and interacting with people.” He also makes note that powers of observation are developed in medical practice that, along with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, instill in him a sense for song choices that will reach the hearts of an audience.

Mark stresses that music is a powerful medium in any genre. “It seems to be able to move through and past barriers in the listener. The message in gospel music therefore can bring comfort and healing, while the message of some other genres can be deceiving and destructive.” He says he wants the music he shares to bless and uplift those who listen. “It is our privilege to share God's love through music by singing His praises.”

He is wise to consider the effect music provides to the hearers for we know from Bible accounts how David's harp soothed the disturbed King Saul, and the teenage virgin Mary who sang and danced before God for her privilege to be carrying God's Son within her. And with the current scourge of COVID still raging throughout the world, all humans need to be comforted.

“One of our goals in this ministry is to be able to partner with all types of outreach to use music to help open hearts to better hear God's Word and the message the Holy Spirit is speaking to them. To that end, knowing God is in charge of every aspect of this ministry—from the invitations to the dollars and cents of it, we've decided to make our ministry available at no cost to any outreach, large or small. If an individual, audience or organization would like to contribute to our expenses, take up an offering, or donate to this ministry, we welcome it and will gladly put those funds to work to sing more. But if that doesn't happen, we will continue our efforts to share God's message through music.”

Both he and Susan say there was no defining moment when they determined how their ministry might take place, but rather it's been a culmination of many factors. However, all this background reveals that the Holy Spirit was grooming both him and Susan, the ministry coordinator, for his solo vocal ministry. He notes that they have always worked as a team, with her work as a writer/editor and endowed with multi-faceted organizational skills.

Susan shares that Scripture and prayer are the glue that prepare them to plan each concert or participate at a venue, even if the audience is just one person. She notes, “Psalm 47:6 entreats us to sing praises; the psalms are replete with this admonition.” Another verse Susan urges attention to is 1 Timothy 1:12, “*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, Who hath enabled me for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.*” Thus, she says, “In the light of Scripture, we believe God uses the vehicle of music to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work.”

Reflecting back to Mark’s singing with Doctors in Recital in 2008, Susan also shares, “That specific opportunity—and decision—proved to be a turning point in Mark’s life to use his voice to only sing songs about God and His love. It was a specific moment in time, and I am humbled every time I remember it.”

An infectious enthusiasm fills almost every word that Mark and Susan utter about their ministry and, although he speaks these following words, she reiterates them as well, “It truly is an honor to share God’s love through music. I believe He blesses every one of us as we work for Him to serve others. The primary mission of our ministry is to help finish the Lord’s work in these last days of earth’s history.

“Susan and I believe that Jesus is coming very soon. The window of opportunity to spread the gospel is narrowing quickly and will soon close. It is our prayer that our music will lead others to a saving relationship with Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

“We use as our commission the fitting verse in Mark 16:15, *He said unto them, ‘Go...’* No mention of distance, destination, or specifically determined design, just, ‘Go.’ We choose to take the command literally, whenever He calls and wherever He leads.” ■

*For more information: email Mark and Susan at [HisCallMins@gmail.com](mailto:HisCallMins@gmail.com) or visit their website at [www.hiscallministries.org](http://www.hiscallministries.org).*

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*With 50-plus years as a professional freelance writer, journalist and poet, Betty Kossick, newly widowed, remains faithful to her calling. Email her at [onwingsofthedove@gmail.com](mailto:onwingsofthedove@gmail.com).*



**“SUSAN AND I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS COMING VERY SOON. THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL IS NARROWING QUICKLY AND WILL SOON CLOSE. IT IS OUR PRAYER THAT OUR MUSIC WILL LEAD OTHERS TO A SAVING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR.”**

# Called to Reach the Forsaken

BY ELIJAH HORTON  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALINA ALEXANDRA





A few days before Thanksgiving Dollie Williams received a phone call from a school social worker with an urgent request to prepare a Thanksgiving meal for an indigent family.

The unexpected plea could not be ignored. Although Dollie is no longer in charge of community services at Chicago's New Life Church, she immediately started rounding up a sisterhood of cooks to help rescue the family's holiday.

At 85, Dollie, a vibrant grandmother with a throaty laugh, has not slowed down. In June 2021, after 66 years serving in one capacity or another, she officially retired from leading the church's Adventist Community Services (ACS). Yet, months later, as she bustles around her home filled with photos of the people and memories she cherishes most, you can't help but wonder how she finds the energy to keep going.

Her life represents one of heeding Jesus' marching orders to "go"—and as she went, she became a living embodiment of the verse, “. . . *let your light shine before people so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.*” (Matt. 5:16)

### **HARDSCRABBLE BEGINNINGS**

The call to go and serve the poor started very early in Dollie's life. The first of nine children she was born June 7, 1936, in Belzoni, Mississippi, living on a plantation surrounded by cotton fields, cornfields, and dirt roads. Raised in the Jim Crow Era, a time when African Americans were relegated to second-class status, she remembers the indignities such as the expectation of addressing White children as “sir” and “ma'am.”

Thus, the twin experiences of growing up poor and enduring the shattering wounds of racism are what pushed Dollie to help those in need.

Her mother's dream for her daughter to receive a proper education came true when Dollie went to Huntsville, Alabama, to attend Oakwood Academy.

After graduation, Dollie took the opportunity to earn scholarship money and attend Oakwood University by selling *Message* magazine subscriptions. While in college, she continued a life of service by joining its prison ministry.

After a year in college (1954–1955), Dollie's Oakwood experience ended abruptly. Her mother fell ill so Dollie was needed at home. Later, with her mother's health restored, Dollie wanted to return to Oakwood, but there was no work on campus for her to pay for her tuition.



*“I think about Christ. What He went through, no matter what, He kept going. He kept on it. That motivates me to say, ‘If Christ could do that for me. I can do this small stuff He wants me to do.’”*

### CHICAGO BOUND

In 1955, Dollie joined the six million Black Americans moving from the south to midwestern states to escape poor economic conditions and racial segregation, a time marked as the largest movement of people in American history. While living with an aunt in Chicago, the then-19-year-old quickly joined the nearby West Side Seventh-day Adventist Church, today known as Independence Blvd.

At the time, the Seventh-day Adventist Church conducted a community outreach program called the Dorcas Society (now known as Adventist Community Services), and Dollie found her niche when the leader, Irene Turner, suggested that she follow-up with the people who came to the church for help, visiting them in their homes to assess their needs.

What Dollie experienced on these home visits turned into the catalyst for a lifelong commitment to service. “I started seeing conditions that were a flashback for me of my [own] condition, growing up as a young child,” Dollie explains. “I thought I had it hard when I was growing up.

Even though I had to share my bed with my four sisters, we still had a bed. But when I went to houses—where they had no chairs to sit in, they had no stove to cook on, they had no refrigerator just to store anything and they were sleeping on floors (and when I say, ‘sleeping on floors,’ I mean, ‘sleeping on the floor, no cover, or anything’)—that did something to me. From that point on, I wanted to do something about it.”

Dollie enrolled at Malcolm X College, and later completed a bachelor’s degree in Sociology at the Daniel Hale Williams University. She set out on a career to help, “*the least of these.*” She stresses, “All my jobs have been human service type jobs, trying to help someone,” she notes.

Moved by the dismal conditions she witnessed, Dollie turned to church members for assistance. “We started doing Christmas baskets, and Thanksgiving baskets. That’s really the story of my life. I’ve always involved the church in whatever it was.”

Over the years, the ‘whatever it was,’ was a lot! Dollie served as the executive director of a facility for homeless





## FINISHING THE RACE

Dollie is what some might call a “titan of Industry.” Yet, throughout all of her accomplishments, it’s the souls that she’s helped lead to Christ that she cherishes most.

In 2013, Dollie was elected for one last term as ACS Federation president. She felt God placed a new mission on her heart to lead two evangelistic meetings.

The first was in Pembroke, Illinois—one of the poorest towns in the Midwest, located 70 miles from Chicago. She recalls: “We went down and [worked] the field, went door-to-door. We had what we call a ‘community day.’ We went to one of the schools and had a cookout. We gave out gifts, such as washing machines, brand new deep freezers, and microwaves.”

Partnering with the pastor, Lawrence Oladini, and the Pembroke Adventist Church, they held a three-week revival in the fall of 2015. Dr. Timothy Nixon was the speaker and, at the end of the three weeks, four people were baptized.

The following year, ACS Federation linked the Robbins Church (in Robbins, Illinois) with pastor Philip Willis, Sr. to host a revival series. “We did a parade. We had the fire department, the police, then we had a cookout when we got back to the church.

“Those two experiences I cherish the most; bringing [those] souls to Christ meant so much to me,” she says. “I feel I’m more rewarded than the people because I just feel so good inside when I have been able to make a difference.”

Dollie’s husband passed away three years ago, and she’s now caregiver to Carolyn Palmer, former Shiloh principal and Lake Region Education superintendent. She volunteers every first Sunday of the month at the community service center, dishing out hot meals and dispensing words of encouragement to the homeless in South Chicago.

“I think about Christ. What He went through, no matter what, He kept going. He kept on it. That motivates me to say, ‘If Christ could do that for me. I can do this small stuff He wants me to do.’” ■

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*Elijah Horton is a Chicago-based freelance writer.*

women; supported the efforts of Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. in what later came to be known as Operation PUSH; and was acknowledged by the *Lake Union Herald* for her work in Chicago during the wake of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the riots that resulted. She was the recipient of numerous humanitarian awards and, in the early 2000s, Dollie’s name was added to the Wall of Tolerance in Montgomery, Alabama, for her efforts during the Civil Rights Movement.

From 1984 to 1998, Dollie served as president of Chicagoland ACS Federation and, during this time, she helped coordinate several community service initiatives, formulate choirs and singing groups. In 1992, after Hurricane Andrew wreaked devastation on parts of Florida, Dollie worked with sister churches in the area and the Lake Region Conference Community Services to adopt families that were affected by the hurricane. In the weeks that followed, she and her team held a rally in Florida, handing out checks to the families.



COVID-19 vaccinations and helped patients establish a medical home for ongoing care; Access DuPage, a nonprofit that made specialty referrals and helped patients find a medical home and access Affordable Care Act insurance; and a network of 10 food pantries, including the Neighborhood Food Pantries, ICNA Relief Food Pantry, Glen Ellyn Food Pantry and the Northern Illinois Food Bank. More than 200 boxes of food were given to clinic participants, courtesy of the Northern Illinois Food Bank and the ICNA Relief Food Pantry.

De Ramos thanked all of the community partners involved in the event and expressed deep appreciation to the more than 100 AMITA associates and physicians who volunteered at the clinic. “Their selfless contributions and their commitment to AMITA’s mission were inspirational,” he said. ■

*Julie Busch, associate vice president, AMITA Health*

# Reaching Out to Those in Need

AMITA Health associates and physicians joined forces on June 19 to provide free medical care to more than 140 people at a Mission at Home clinic in Glendale Heights.

The day-long clinic offered medical evaluations across a variety of specialties, including primary care, orthopedics, podiatry, sports medicine, pediatrics, endocrinology, psychiatry, dermatology and physical therapy. The clinic for the first time also featured dental services.

Patients could receive free medications dispensed by AMITA pharmacists, and chaplains were on hand to guide and counsel patients. Other services included diabetic testing and mental health evaluations

and referrals. In addition, AMITA social workers connected patients with community resources to access ongoing medical care and address issues such as housing, food insecurity and domestic violence.

“The intent of Mission at Home is to provide medical care for people in need, which is in keeping with AMITA’s mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus,” said David de Ramos, DO, the clinic’s medical director, “but we also want to get these patients access to ongoing care. If we can do that, we impact them long-term, and that magnifies the impact of the event manyfold.”

Community partners at the event included VNA, a federally qualified health center whose representatives administered





▲ Ashley Elizabeth Ramos with students in Palau

# Student Missions

## A FOCUS ON FAITH INTEGRATION

The Student Missions program at Andrews University uniquely affirms its mission to “Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World.” Individuals who choose to participate as a student missionary have the opportunity to explore the globe, learn new things and change the lives of others.

Teela Ruehle, director of Student Missions & Service Projects, expresses, “The world would be a different place if each person started off their day asking, ‘God, who can I serve today?’ We are surrounded by a world of needs and each of us can make a difference by small acts of kindness.” She adds, “We often think that we have to be a huge world-changer with a massive impact, but the truth is, most world-changers are the people who are out there serving in any way they can, allowing God to use them however they are called.”

This year, although additional protocols are in place due to the COVID-19

pandemic, there are currently 28 students serving both around the world—in the Marshall Islands and Micronesia, Costa Rica, South Korea, Honduras, Lebanon, Canada—and more locally, in Michigan. They have found many ways to serve, with roles ranging from student engineers to taskforce deans, gymnastics coaches, architects, teachers, orphanage volunteers, graphic designers, and more.

Ashley Elizabeth Ramos, a junior Health Sciences and pre-PT major with a minor in Spanish, knew very early on that she wanted to take a year off to either study abroad or do mission work. She found friends at Andrews who were enthusiastic about student missions and made the choice to go abroad the same year as they, leading to her present position as a kindergarten teacher on the island of Palau.

“I thought it would be an amazing opportunity to serve,” Ashley says, explaining her thought process. “If I’m going to take a

year off, why not use it to help people and experience a new culture?” During her time of service, she hopes to cultivate patience with herself and others, and to “grow strong bonds with the missionaries and people on the island.”

Another student, Garrett Lee, a junior Architecture major, currently serves as a grades 7–12 math teacher on the island of Majuro in the Marshall Islands. Like Ashley, he knew he wanted to take a year off from school to travel, and eventually decided to pursue missionary work.

Although his job requires a challenging juggle between grading, teaching and planning, Garrett has been rewarded in seeing his students understand and learn. He notes, “I want to be able to find a way to make a lasting impact on the kids. I hope that, at the end of the year, I can see how this experience has changed me for the better.”

Both Ashley and Garrett encourage others to take the leap outside their comfort zones and participate in a student missions year. Ashley explains, “It’s truly an experience like no other because you get to experience a whole new place, a new purpose, new people, and a growing you.... It’ll be a year worth your time, effort and heart work.” ■

*Isabella Koh, University Communication student writer, Andrews University*



▲ Garrett Lee with a student in Majuro



▲ Flyers were circulated which highlighted 3ABN and the other channels available in the area

## County fair evangelism impacts thousands in Indiana

Many in the Lake Union probably have never heard of the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair, but for several members of the Indiana Conference, they experienced a week of witness like no other.

Alexander Media, Inc., a not-for-profit media entity in Auburn, Ind., participated in the county fair from September 27 to October 2. The fair draws well over 100,000 attendees annually, and this year was no exception.

After providing an insurance certificate for \$1 million dollars, a booth was assigned down the street from the county courthouse amid vendors selling cotton candy, elephant ears, caramel apples, donuts and grilled chicken. Occupying a 10'x20' space in one of the highest foot-traffic areas of the fair, the tent highlighted 1570 AM broadcasting 3ABN radio, and TV 26 broadcasting 3ABN (26.1), Esperanza TV (26.2), Hope TV (26.3), LLBN His Word (26.4); Smart Lifestyle TV (26.8), Amazing Facts (26.6) and Quo Vadis (26.7) networks.

WGLL 1570 AM and Channel 26 were on display in the booth so visitors could see the plethora of programs airing in the local area. In a landscape full of various methods for consuming video content, 1570 AM and TV 26 are in a unique position to reach a large number of viewers via conventional over-the-air means,

without requiring any subscriptions or specialized equipment. As people stopped by the booth and learned about the station's availability and programming, the reception was largely positive.

"They were excited to learn that there is a Christian television and radio station that's freely available in their local community," said Christopher Alexander, who oversees technical operations at the station's facilities. "We also found that there are a lot of people, especially parents of young children, who are looking for wholesome, family-oriented programming, and TV 26 fills that need quite well."

Flyers were circulated which highlighted 3ABN and the other channels available for the area — Comcast 287 serving the Fort Wayne area, Comcast 1677 serving most of Indiana and Michigan, WFWC-CD 45.1 serving Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio, and Mediacom 90 serving cities across the entire country, with an emphasis in the Midwest states of Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. Materials for distribution were provided by Remnant Publishing, 3ABN, Fort Wayne Church and the Body of Christ Church.

Rhona Alexander recruited and directed teams of volunteers from nearby Adventist churches (Angola, Wolcottville and Fort Wayne) to distribute literature and promote the station to fairgoers. Volunteers from these churches also were on hand to interact, share and pray with visitors on-site.

Drs. David and Sonja DeRose shared material on upcoming health seminars while his presentations aired on the television located in the booth. "His willingness to speak to individuals and interacting with young families was exemplary as he became the embodiment of the right arm of the message," noted Alexander.

John Treat, an elder at the Fort Wayne Church who shared material, enrolled Bible students, prayed for residents and shared Bible texts, was excited about the vast opportunities for sharing Christ.

"This is evangelism on steroids," Treat explained.

Dr. Jeff and Mary Squires, also of the Fort Wayne Church, were faithful witnesses, pressed into service donating and distributing thousands of pieces of literature on health, *Steps to Christ* and children's storybooks, even providing Bible study enrollment sheets. Over 100 people signed up for the Amazing Facts Bible Study course via mail, and others took the Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides that were available as an introduction to get them started.

"I considered it a lot of fun and very exciting to meet and interact with the people, and encouraged them to read the literature we were handing out," said Mary. "We really enjoyed helping people prepare for the soon return of Jesus."

Citizens, attorneys, firemen, city councilmen, the local sheriff, the county commissioner, Auburn Mayor Michael Ely and even the DeKalb County fair queen stopped by the booth and were impacted by Adventist Media and the volunteers' personal outreach.

*To support the continued broadcasting of Adventist radio and TV programming in Northeast Indiana, visit Alexander Media's website at <https://bit.ly/tv26now>.* ■

*Christopher Alexander, Alexander Media technical director*



▲ Over 100 people signed up for the Amazing Facts Bible Study course via mail, and others took the Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides that were available as an introduction to get them started.

## Hammond Church celebrates 100 years of ministry

On Sabbath, Oct. 2, Hammond Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated 100 years of spreading the Adventist message in Northwest Indiana. The official anniversary was on January 1, 2021; however, due to COVID-19, the services were postponed until later in the year.

Throughout the service, memories were shared of God's leading from the humble beginnings of five church leaders who met in members' homes. The church gradually grew through numerous evangelistic crusades held throughout the city of Hammond.

### TRAINING GROUND FOR PASTORS

Over the century, the church was blessed with almost 40 pastors. One of those in attendance was Lake Union general vice president, Carmelo Mercado. The Hammond Church, located in the City of Hammond, was a part of the first district he pastored after graduating from the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Mercado recalled how grateful he was for the members' patience at the time, noting "they were very instrumental in helping me learn how to pastor a church."

During his twelve-year tenure (1976–1988), Mercado "loved the adventurous spirit of the members." They continued in the church's rich soul-winning heritage throughout the city of Hammond, actively involved in vacation Bible school, cooking and stop-smoking classes and Revelation seminars.

In a partnership with the Woodmar shopping mall, they were able to provide two health screening opportunities for over 600 people. "The mall [administrators] were so impressed, that even though we didn't ask for money, they went ahead and paid for the expenses. If there was an opportunity for witnessing," said Mercado, "the church would grab hold of it and God would bless."



▲ Left to right: Indiana Conference president Vic Van Schaik, former Hammond pastor Allen Shepherd, Lake Union vice president Carmelo Mercado, current Hammond pastor Ovid Radulescu, and former Lake Region president Jerome Davis.

After a fire destroyed their building in 1984, it would not be until September 1, 1996, before the church would hold services in its newly constructed facility at 6910 Walnut Avenue, its present location.

Dr. Allen Shepherd was the second longest tenure pastor (2003–2015). During the 100th anniversary service, he shared his appreciation for the patience of the members as he, too, was serving in his first church and had to learn his way through his new role.

Under Shepherd's leadership, the Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs were reestablished and still thrive today with new families that have come into the church. He pastored for 12 years before retiring. "Whenever I come back," he said, "it's just like being with family ... and it's a very nice thing to be a part of the family of God."

### MISSION AT THE CORE

In 2018, a spark was ignited in Hammond unlike no other in the past 20 years. For the first time, members embraced incorporating the evangelism cycle in preparation for the fall Revelation evangelism series that ran from October to December, in which Indiana Conference evangelist Erik Freking was the speaker. Over 100 people came through the doors over the course of the series. Charles Wallen, along with his wife, Isabel, were among them.

The Wallens had visited the Hammond Church a few times prior to the series, but Charles was a bit skeptical based on past experiences at another church. "The series drew me, but it was the fellowship from the members that kept me," said Charles. He

sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit and allowed Him to take hold.

In 2019, Ovid Radulescu became the new pastor in the two-church district of Hammond and Northwest in Crown Point, Ind. With a true heart for evangelism, he was a perfect choice to move both churches forward in their outreach endeavors.

During the 100th anniversary, Radulescu shared a moving testimony of a Divine appointment at the entrance of Best Buy with a young mother. Three months prior to this meeting, she had suddenly stopped doing Bible studies. It turns out this encounter was an answer to her prayers. "God gave her a sign, an unmistakable sign," he said, "that her pastor and this church wants her here. This is the second time she asked for a sign and she got it."

Indiana Conference president Vic Van Schaik was the main speaker of the day; his message was titled, "The Master's Methods," based on Matthew 5:13–16. Van Schaik emphasized our mission. We come not to just be blessed, "but to be a blessing."

The Holy Spirit inspired a message to encourage the members to remain steadfast in the mission that was established back in 1996: to proclaim the Three Angels Message to every person within the reach of the members' voice and influence, to let their light shine by meeting the needs of the multi-cultural members, and to be a place of hope and healing where the love of Christ can be experienced. ■

*Doranita Tyler is an elder and Personal Ministries leader at Hammond Church.*



▲ Eleven members were baptized in the ocean in Maui.

## Marshallese group scattered worldwide joins Indiana congregation

The church is not an actual building. This was made clear at the start of COVID-19 when church doors were shut, and a group of Evansville First Church members began online church via Zoom to other Marshallese throughout the world.



▲ Two members were baptized in the ocean in Honolulu, pictured with Xerxes Maun (left) and pastor Jose Gonzales (right).

Elder Xerxes Maun, his wife, Japine, and the late Elson Lang were committed to doing the work of God, whether inside or outside an actual structure. Throughout the year they led over 70 worshipers weekly; together, they now have become an official group. They also have Sabbath School, women's ministries, vespers, prayer meeting, and do mission outreach back in the Marshall Islands.

During the end of summer, pastor Jose Gonzales (now retired) and Xerxes

and Japine Maun traveled to Washington State, and Maui and Honolulu, Hawaii. During this time, several weddings and baby dedications were performed, and 21 persons were baptized, who are now members of the Marshallese group of the Evansville First Church. ■

*Indiana Conference Communication Dept.*



▲ Julius R. Everett



▲ Yolanda Stonewall



▲ JeNean Lendor

## Lake Region Conference fills key roles

### Julius R. Everett voted LRC executive secretary

Everett has 34 years of senior pastoral leadership in the Lake Region Conference. Before this position, Everett was voted as assistant to the president, Garth Gabriel. He has served as area leader, member of the Lake Region Conference executive

committee, LRC finance and auditing committees, Lake Union executive committee, LUC investment committee, and the Andrews University Theological field training board.

Everett's educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Religion and an MDiv from Andrews University. He

is in the process of completing a DMin in Biblical Christian Counseling.

### Yolanda Stonewall is interim chief financial officer

Stonewall has a wide-ranging business background in accounting, audit, information security and risk management. Her corporate experience includes more than four years as a senior security consultant with Pondurance, over ten years progressing through the ranks to executive management with Ernst & Young and Price Waterhouse Coopers, and several years of self-employed consulting work.

Stonewall graduated from Indiana University with a BS in Business with concentrations in Accounting and Information Systems. She holds a Certified Public Accountant license and several other professional certifications.

## JeNean Lendor named Communication director

Lendor just completed service to the Northeastern Conference as Communication director, a role she held for nine years.

She has worked as a producer, director, event consultant and photographer for several corporations and ministries,

including The Sesame Workshop, Breath of Life Television Ministries with the late Dr. Walter L. Pearson Jr., General Conference Communications, North American Division Communications, Adventist Media Productions, Allegheny East Conference Media, Atlantic Union Adventist Media and Praizevision.

Lendor earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Public Relations from Oakwood University. She completed a Master of Arts degree in Television Production and Communication Arts from the New York Institute of Technology. ■



Darren Heslop

▲ Matías Soto

## Matías Soto named director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship

BERRIEN SPRINGS, Mich.—In August, Matías Soto, former teacher and experienced tech startup officer, was appointed as director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Andrews University. In this role, Soto will be responsible for overseeing innovation efforts at the Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship as well as supervising the certificate program.

“As director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, my main role will be to help create opportunities and provide resources for students and faculty interested in inventing and commercializing their ideas,” Soto shares. “As an engineer,

scientist and entrepreneur, I can relate to many of the ideas from faculty and students on campus, while at the same time help develop a plan for the idea to become a viable business.”

Prior to joining Andrews University, Soto’s career included numerous entrepreneurial experiences. Soto served as the director of Research and Development at a cutting tools company in Monterrey, Mexico, and began writing proposals for small-business innovation grants with the Mexican government. After earning his BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas, an MS in Manufacturing at Tecnológico de Monterrey and a PhD in Materials Science and Nanoengineering at Rice University, he continued to gain more experience as an entrepreneurship intern at an innovation studio before becoming chief technology officer of a startup in Houston developing materials and construction technology. Additionally, he began his own consulting company, Covalent Innovation, which focused on helping other startups and entrepreneurs develop their technology.

“Every time we bring someone new into the Andrews family, it gives us an opportunity to see things in new and exciting ways,” says Micheal Nixon, vice president of University Culture & Inclusion. “Not only is Matías well credentialed and experienced within the area of innovation, but he is a deeply committed man of God. While the contents of his résumé truly jump off the page, what makes Matías special is the human that he is and the way that he has allowed God to use him in new and

unconventional ways for the furtherance of His Kingdom.”

The Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship will create and provide resources and spaces — for example, an innovation lab — for students and faculty to actively pursue research and development projects, curriculum interests and self-start projects, and interact with businesses and industries who could offer internships and work opportunities. It will not only provide opportunities for students to discover design thinking and methodologies for creating new ideas in all discipline areas, but also will encourage action and implementation of those ideas.

Additionally, the Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship will host and manage innovation projects that go beyond the scope of a capstone or senior design course. Undergraduate and graduate students will participate in these projects as interns and fellows. They will conduct all of their activities using on-campus resources and spaces. These projects will be sponsored by industry partners or independent entrepreneurs. ■

*For more information on the Office for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and to join the email list for updates, visit the website at [andrews.edu/innovation](http://andrews.edu/innovation). Additionally, follow the Andrews University Innovation & Entrepreneurship Facebook page at [facebook.com/AUInnovation](https://www.facebook.com/AUInnovation) and on Instagram at [instagram.com/auinnovation](https://www.instagram.com/auinnovation).*

Moriah McDonald, University Communication student writer



▲ AdventHealth facilities include Adventist Medical Center Hinsdale, Adventist Medical Center Bolingbrook, Adventist Medical Center La Grange, and Adventist Medical Center GlenOaks.

## Ascension, AdventHealth to unwind AMITA Health partnership

October 21, 2021 (CHICAGO)—After working closely together for nearly seven years, AdventHealth and Ascension have decided

to unwind their AMITA Health partnership, the joint operating company serving the healthcare needs of residents of the greater Chicago area.

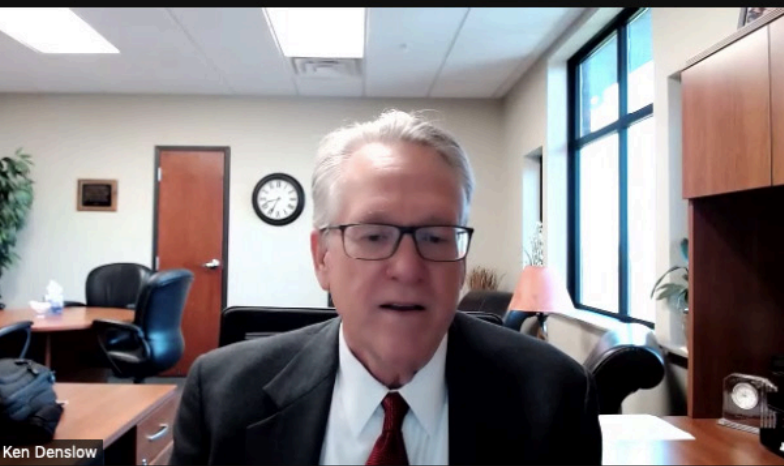
Leaders of both sponsoring organizations have determined that going forward separately is in their collective best interest in order to more nimbly meet the changing needs and expectations of

consumers in the rapidly evolving health-care environment.

Both organizations are committed to a smooth and expeditious transition. Following the transition, AdventHealth and Ascension will operate their individual hospitals and care sites in the Chicagoland area. There will be no disruption to patient care.

Ascension and AdventHealth will begin the process of unwinding the partnership in a way that best serves the needs of the community. AdventHealth and Ascension maintain a strong relationship and are united in ensuring the residents of Chicago have access to the best possible healthcare. ■

*AdventHealth*



Ken Denslow



Elden Ramirez

▲ Lake Union president Ken Denslow and executive secretary Elden Ramirez at the November 10 Lake Union executive committee meeting. The committee is a representative body made up of pastoral and lay representatives from the five Lake Union conferences -- Indiana, Illinois, Lake Region, Michigan and Wisconsin, and generally meets three times a year.

## Together in mission

LAKE UNION DISCUSSES HOSPITAL SYSTEM CHANGES, NURTURING CHURCH GROWTH, RECORD TITHE GAINS

On Wed., Nov. 10, the 38-member Lake Union executive committee met and heard reports of how mission is moving forward. This was the second year the meetings were

held virtually because of the pandemic. Highlights included:

### AMITA HEALTH

Thor Thodardson, chief operating officer of AMITA Health, provided updates on major changes coming to the health system. An amicable decision was made last month to dissolve the interfaith health network between Alexian Brothers Health System,

Presence Health and Adventist Midwest Health.

Thodardson explained that the Adventist hospitals (Adventist Medical Center Hinsdale, Adventist Medical Center Bolingbrook, Adventist Medical Center La Grange and Adventist Medical Center GlenOaks) weren't doing as well six years ago when the partnership was entered into but are "now doing much better" and they



are “carrying the larger financial burden of the other systems.”

This change means control of the Adventist hospitals revert to the parent company, AdventHealth. “We’re coming home, so to speak,” he said.

Thodarson accepted an invitation to serve as CEO of the Chicagoland hospitals and said the reverse merger playbook is now underway. It is expected that as of March 31, 2022, the transfer of all employees to AdventHealth will be complete. By April 1, the AdventHealth branding will go live.

“The feedback we are receiving from medical staff and the community has been very positive. It’s tremendous and we’re excited for what it means.”

### ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Andrew University president Andrea Luxton reported that after a tough year, they are doing better.

“This year, you can sense the energy,” she said. “You should listen to the stories from departments, how they’re continuing to connect with students and how they’re doing service in the community.”

Luxton said their vaccination rates are helping to mitigate campus disruptions, as they report a 75 to 78 percent vaccination rate on campus, and close to 90 percent among faculty.

She cautioned about continued pressures on higher education. “We see reports coming out of Adventist colleges: the impact of enrollment because of COVID-19; the question of whether higher education is important. We still have two to three challenging years ahead of us as we slowly move out of this environment.”

Despite the head winds, she is hopeful. “We still see so many parents who still value Adventist higher education.”

She reminded the committee Andrews is a Lake Union school and that “the church is stronger and better when our education system is strong.”

### LAKE UNION

Lake Union president Ken Denslow said we should renew our mission to the cities. Citing statistics of the 35 million people in the Lake Union, he noted 17 million are concentrated in our metro cities — Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis and Milwaukee. “It’s an amazing fact, in my mind, that we have so much people concentrated in a small number of locations.”

He continued, “Our job is not to just help fill in the gaps in churches, but until the message is sent to every man, woman, child in our area, our job is not complete. Our job is to cover the territory.”

He asked the question: “How do we go about it?” and quickly provided some thoughts. “I don’t have all the answers but we need to talk about it. It may take us joining forces with conferences and reaching these cities. Indianapolis is a good example where the GC, NAD, Union, Indiana and Lake Region conferences are working together. We should make it clear the specific plans belong to people on the ground in those areas.”

Denslow also pointed out that we have one remaining ABC left in our territory. “We want to join hands with Indiana and support what they’re doing. They’re resourcing camp meetings around the Union. We encourage you to buy books so we can physically have ABC in our field for as long as possible.”

### SECRETARIAT

In his first Lake Union executive committee meeting, Elden Ramirez outlined church growth figures which he hopes spurs further discussions. He emphasized that his report was based on information churches plugged into the eAdventist platform.

The figures, he cautioned, are “conversation starters” since they are gleaned from a very small statistical sampling and, as such, may be skewed. For example, in 2020, only 7.5 percent of churches reported figures.

In North America, Ramirez explained, they have categorized churches into four groups: multiplying, growing, plateauing, declining.

Multiplying churches were described as having 7 percent baptism, 7 percent increase over attendance and planted one church in seven years. Growing churches had a 2 percent baptism rate, 2 percent increase in attendance and had planted a church. A church which plateaued may have baptisms but, after transfers and deaths, the number is still the same. Meanwhile, a declining church had no baptisms and no membership increase.

“As a Union, it was only in 2019 we saw 1 percent of churches are multiplying.”

### TREASURY

Lake Union treasurer Glynn Scott provided financial updates which included the September year-to-date tithe performance of 11.38 percent increase over 2020 tithe.

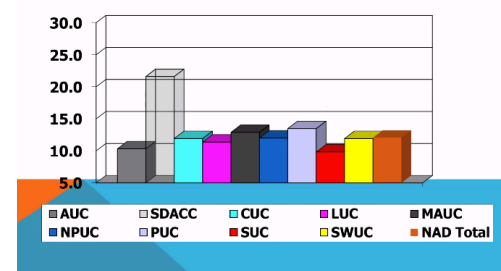
“This tithe increase truly highlights God’s blessing upon His church and the faithful stewardship of our members,” he said.

Across the nine Unions of the North American Division (NAD), year-to-date September 2021 tithe increases range from 9.83 to 13.47 percent with the NAD aggregate increase in 2021 tithe of 12.06 percent. The LUC tithe increases during 2021 have been the largest increase in the history of our union.

Scott said, “For this financial blessing and all other blessings, we give praise to our God.”

*Debbie Michel, Lake Union Herald editor and Katie Fellows, assistant Communication specialist*

**NAD TITHE % GAIN/LOSS  
YEAR-TO-DATE BY UNION**



## Ten Lake Union pastors ordained or commissioned in 2021

After extensive examination by church leadership and the pastors' congregations, the following were voted by the Lake Union executive committee, as confirmation of God's calling in these pastors' lives.



▲ David Kokiong

### ILLINOIS

**David Kokiong** served as pastor to the Hinsdale Fil-Am Church in Hinsdale, Ill., before leaving the area. He holds a bachelor's degree from Concordia University and a master of divinity degree from Andrews University.

During his pastoral service, he helped to revive his youth group, train and equip Pathfinder Teen Leaders in Training (TLTs) to give small group Bible studies to younger youth, established a young adult small group, and connected the Hinsdale Fil-Am Church with Ray Graham, a special needs center, to share parking, buildings and community help.



▲ Brinton McKenzie



▲ Nikolai X. Greaves



▲ Darlene Thomas

### LAKE REGION

**Brinton McKenzie** is the Lake Region pastor of East St. Louis New Jerusalem and Springfield Bible Chapel in Illinois and also currently serves as an adjunct professor of Psychology at Harris Stowe University.

In pursuit of the Lord's call to ministry, with no money or educational requirements, Brinton left his home in Jamaica to attend Northern Caribbean University and became the first student in history to become a director of a department.

In 2008, he joined the U.S. Army and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 and 2012.

Brinton earned a BA in Theology from Washington Adventist University, an MA in Psychology from North Central University, a PhD in Addiction Psychology from Capella University, and is currently completing his MEd in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at the University of Missouri.

Since 2017, **Nikolai X. Greaves** is pastoring the Champaign, Decatur and Peoria churches in Illinois. He holds a BA in Business Administration, an MA in Business Administration from Washington Adventist University, and an MDiv from the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

His pastoral achievements include restructuring the financial management of the church and identified areas need improvement, spearheading a large-scale, debt-free, church

renovation project, brought churches within the district into compliance with church policy, developed a vibrant children's and young adult ministry program, created innovative means of evangelism, developed an online presence by developing new church website and online services, conducted evangelistic meetings in Cuba, Barbados, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and across the U.S. and, during 2021, conducted a week of prayer at Andrews Academy in which 18 students made a decision for baptism.

**Darlene Thomas** has served the Chicago Beacon of Joy Church since August 2016. She has interned at Kettering Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, as a chaplain, received the NAD Ecclesiastical Chaplaincy Endorsement in 2011, conducted three Revelation Seminars, served as a volunteer Youth and Young Adult pastor for the Emmanuel Church in Chicago Heights, Ill., and conducted a small group Bible studies and discipleship training at Beacon of Joy Church.

Darlene earned a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Governors State University and her MDiv in Pastoral Care from Andrews University.

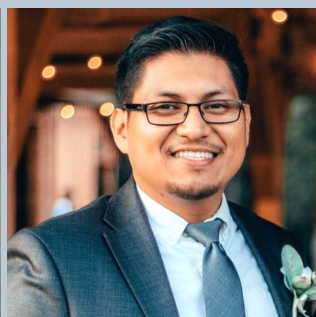
She founded Girls for Wisdom Mentoring Program, a nonprofit, to serve girls between the ages of 7 and 17, striving to empower them to make informed decisions and encourage them to establish healthy relationships while equipping them for service in their communities and helping them realize their aspirations and ambitions.



▲ Jermaine Gayle



▲ Jose Rodriguez



▲ Leroy Hernandez



▲ SB Luan Ngaih Cin

## MICHIGAN

**Jermaine Gayle** serves as pastor of East Lansing and Lansing Spanish churches. He holds a bachelor's degree in Theology from Hartland College. He previously served as assistant pastor at the East Lansing Church (2016–2020) and Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students (CAMPUS) assistant director (2019–2020).

**Jose Rodriguez** has served as pastor of Escanaba and Riverside churches since August 2017. He holds a bachelor's degree in General Studies from Andrews University and a bachelor's in Theology from Ouachita Hills College.

**Leeroy Hernandez** has served as program director and evangelist at Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students (CAMPUS) since September 2014. He holds a BA in Theology from Ouachita Hills College. Previously he has served as Literature Ministries assistant director (2014–2015), Grand Rapids Central and Lowel Riverside churches' assistant pastor (2015–2017), and the Grand Rapids Maranatha Spanish and Kentwood churches' senior pastor.

**SB Luan Ngaih Cin** has served as pastor of Grand Rapids Zomi Company and Battle Creek Zomi Group since 2018. He holds a BA in Religion and Education

from Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary and a MA in Education from Spicer Memorial College.

"My life and ministry objective are to be a humble under-shepherd akin to the Master Shepherd, being God's able servant teaching the Word of God and sharing the everlasting gospel to all people, and to empower Seventh-day Adventist members to hone and use their spiritual gifts to collaboratively work together for the salvation of all people," says Cin. "Following the footsteps of Christ, it is my utmost desire to bring His wandering, ailing and discouraged sheep with compassion and tender love to the Master Shepherd: the only source of healing and hope."

## WISCONSIN

**Jeanmark A'Kessler** has served as the Rhinelander district pastor in Wisconsin since September 2015. He holds a bachelor's degree in Theology, a bachelor's of science in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, and a MDiv from Andrews University.

"A'Kessler has shown himself to be proficient in church administration, vision casting, preaching, evangelism and soul winning. He continues to grow and is one of Wisconsin's bright young pastors," says Wisconsin Ministerial director, Adam Case.

**Kevin Moreno** is associate pastor to the Green Bay District in Wisconsin Conference since April 2015. He holds a BA in Theology and a MDiv from Andrews University. Moreno also has served as pastor to the Rhinelander District in Wisconsin Conference (2015–2017).

"Pastor Moreno has served us well in two districts where he has demonstrated his God-given gifts of relationship-building, community-building, and team-building," says Case. "He and his wife make an excellent ministry team and have pointed people



▲ Jeanmark A'Kessler



▲ Kevin Moreno

to Jesus successfully for years. We are excited to see what God will do through him in the future in our conference." ■



▲ Central Bank Center, Lexington

## Pastors and families to meet for training, recharging

Lake Union pastors are looking forward to the CALLED Pastors' Family Convention to be held in Lexington, Ken., June 19–22.

"I attended the CALLED convention in Austin, Texas. It was a wonderful experience, so I'm looking forward this time again to an amazing and practical training from some of the most innovative leaders around the country," says William Lee, who, until recently, was the pastor of the Shiloh Church in Chicago.

CALLED Pastors' Family Convention offers some of the best continuing education opportunities with six arena sessions and 120 seminars. Specific tracks will be offered for Spanish-speaking pastors, volunteer lay pastors, chaplains, ministry tech lab and spouses.

Pastor Lee is not alone in his positive memories of the 2015 convention in Austin where 97 percent of people felt the convention was effective in terms of its overall impact on them.

Pastor Sam Ngala, who also attended that convention, anticipates that one of the highlights in the 2022 convention will be connecting with classmates from college, seminary, or previous conferences.

"I would like to hear, see and experience how the Holy Spirit is leading in the lives of fellow pastors and their families, and then pray with them."

The word "Family" has been intentionally added to the convention title. Adam Case, Ministerial director of Wisconsin

Conference, affirms this decision.

"The focus on families is important. Because of the COVID pandemic, pastors need rest, recreation and intentional development, particularly the emphasis on family."

Wisconsin values the CALLED Pastors' Family Convention so highly that it shifted their camp meeting schedule to allow its pastors to attend.

Lee is "looking forward to some children's programming as well. I know it was outstanding last time, and it's going to be awesome once again."

"Go Fish" is the theme for kids, ages 3 to 12, who will be exploring their spiritual gifts. Sherri Uhrig, director of North American Division's (NAD) Children's Ministry, has a message for pastoral parents: "Mom and Dad! God has given your children special gifts! He has made them to be 'unique,' 'one of a kind.' There is no one quite like them! They are His

masterpiece!"

Preacher's Kids (PKs), in grades 7–12, are invited to the Pastors Kids' Congress. Vandeon Griffin, associate director of NAD Youth, anticipates that "This division-wide congress will create momentum that is sure to ignite, engage, and move PKs [forward] in their faith journey."

The PKs' congress includes energetic worship, dynamic speakers, biblical drama presentations, community outreach and excursions.

Evangelism is always featured at CALLED Pastors' Family Conventions. Churches are invited to submit their revolutionary evangelism plans to Shark Tank.

"Last time our church won \$5,000 at Shark Tank," reports Lee, "so I'm looking forward to gleaning some more amazing ideas from some of the most innovative thinkers across NAD."

Congregations may reap the greatest benefit from the CALLED Pastors' Family convention as their pastors return refreshed and equipped. More than anything else, Lee is looking for this time of reflection to "really just to be encouraged, motivated and inspired." ■

*Dave Gemmill, associate director, NAD Ministerial*



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 [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org). Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

## 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



**Edna Dodge** was born September 8, 1921, in Sparta, Wis., but moved to Spring Lake, Mich., at the age of one. . . . It was while attending the Fisher School on Moreland Avenue (for grades four through eight) that she met her husband-to-be, Kenneth Dodge. They were married July 3, 1940. She didn't attend high school but, once her five children were raised, she went to Spring Lake Adult Education and, although a challenge, received her high school diploma in 1975. She enjoyed seeing her children get married and now has 16 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren and 11 great-great grandchildren.

Edna has been a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 82 years. For 60 of those years, she played piano Sabbath School and church. She also worked in the children's department and served as treasurer for 38 years.

With her eyesight almost gone, it is hard for her to enjoy watching television or seeing to read, but she sure enjoyed celebrating her 100th birthday on September 5 with friends and family, followed by the special time with her immediate family on September 8 to mark the 100 years.

## OBITUARIES

**ANZURES, Lydia (Delgado)**, age 83; born Aug. 21, 1934, in Pontiac, Mich.; died Oct. 8, 2021, in Pontiac. She was a member of the Waterford Riverside Church in Waterford, Mich. Survivors include sons, Isaac Anzures, Daniel Anzures, and Andrew (Michelle) Anzures; daughters, Diana (Erich) Swoboda, Debbie Anzures, and Anita (Tom) Jezierski; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Todd Ervin; interment was at Perry Mount Park Cemetery in Pontiac.

**BEYER, Mary (Matacio)**, age 96; born Sept. 29, 1924, in West Allis, Wis.; died Sept. 21, 2021, in West Allis. She was a member of the Milwaukee Northwest Church in Milwaukee, Wis. Survivors include her son, Mark (Gail) Beyer; daughter, Jannine Beyer; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Russell Hurst; interment was at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee.

**BROCKETTE, David A.**, age 85; born Nov. 4, 1935, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Sept. 21, 2021, in Warren, Mich. He was a member of the Warren Church in Warren. Survivors include son, William A. Brockette; daughters, Barbara A. Brockette, and Brenda A. Brockette (Teutsch); two grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Curt Dewitt and Giancarlo De Miranda; inurnment was in Great Lakes National VA Cemetery in Holly, Mich.

**FALCONER, Alice L. (McFarland)**, age 95; born Sept. 10, 1926, in Greenville, Mich.; died Oct. 14, 2021, in Littleton, Colo. She was a member of the Kalamazoo Church in Kalamazoo, Mich. Survivors include son, David L. Falconer; sister, Evelyn (McFarland)

Kewley; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held; private inurnment was in Prairieville, Mich.

**FLOOD, Joan B. (Moore)**, age 89; born Feb. 11, 1932, in Chicago; died Sept. 1, 2021, in Iron Mountain, Mich. She was a member of the Iron Mountain Community in Iron Mountain. Survivors include her husband, James W. Flood; sons, Bruce D. (Shari) Bellchambers, and James C. Flood; daughters, Jodi (Danny) Bellchambers Howell, and Kimberly (Peter) Flood Swanson; stepdaughter, Lori (Andy) Flood Piecuch; 22 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by children and grandchildren; private inurnment.

**FORD, Dwain**, age 93; born Dec. 21, 1927, in Nevada, Iowa.; died Nov. 7, 2021, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include son, David (Nancy Leland) Ford; daughter, Diane Ford; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Funeral services were held; interment in Union Cemetery, Berrien Center, Mich.

**GIVER, Joseph E.**, age 62; born Dec. 10, 1958, in Niles, Mich.; died Sept. 12, 2021, in Green Bay, Wis. He was a member of the Milwaukee Central Church in Milwaukee, Wis. Survivors include his wife, Darla L. (Buettner) Giver; brother, Johann; and sister, Joy. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Tom Hubbard; private inurnment.

**GRENTZ, Edmund**, age 91; born Feb. 10, 1929, in Constanta, Romania; died Feb. 26, 2020, in Delton, Mich. He was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Mich. Survivors include sons, Dietmar J. (Tracey) Grentz, and Daniel J. (Ruth) Grentz; daughters, Gudrun E. (Grentz) Mahrle, Gerhild K. (Thomas) Grentz Ulrich; brothers, Gerhard (Therese) Grentz, and Horst (Thersia) Grentz; and 12 grandchildren. A private graveside service was held; interment was at Lindsley Cemetery in Cheshire Center, Mich. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**HAMILTON, Euloy Gabrielle "Gabby" B.**, age 28; born May 20, 1993, in Berrien Springs, Mich.; died Sept. 29, 2021, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include her father, Lloyd Hamilton; mother, Eunice (Samuels) Hamilton; and sister, Lydian (Anthony) Mitchell; and grandmother, Dothilda ("Miss Dotty") Hamilton. Memorial services were conducted by Timothy Nixon; interment.

**HARRIS, Asa Michelle**, age 52; born July 21, 1969, in Detroit, Mich.; died Oct. 5, 2021, in Detroit. She was a member of the Detroit Northwest Church in Detroit. Survivors include sons, Derrick Poston, and Joseph Kinney; daughter, Aubony Marie Poston; brother, Robert Harris Jr.; and two grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Stephen Conway; interment was at West Lawn Cemetery in Wayne, Mich.

**HAYES, Martha Joanne (Lacy)**, age 84; born Nov. 27, 1936, in Kansas City, Mo.; died Sept. 29, 2021, in Anderson, Ind. She was a member of the Anderson Church in Anderson. Survivors include son, Steven; daughters, Becky, and Joan; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Anthony Nix with a private inurnment.

**HOYT, Deryl R. Sr.**, age 85; born Dec. 31, 1935, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died July 30, 2021, in Cedar Lake, Mich. He was a member of the Urbandale Church in Battle Creek, Mich. Survivors include son, Deryl Ronald Hoyt Jr.; daughters, Cheri (Jim) Roberts, Cari (David) Haus, and Carla (Ovid) McPherson; sister-in-law, Jane Liles King; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Ryan Counsell, Jarryn Schmidt and Jacob Gibbs; inurnment was in Bedford Cemetery in Bedford, Mich.

**HOYT, Marilyn Belle (Dirksen)**, age 88; born April 30, 1933, in Minneapolis, Minn.; died Oct. 11, 2021, in Ann Arbor, Mich. She was a member of the Hinsdale Church in Hinsdale, Ill. Survivors include sons, Scott Allen (Connie)

Hoyt, and Mark Raymond Hoyt; daughters, Robin Belle Marsh, and Candy Lynn (Louis) Hansen; sisters, Lavonne Engelkmeier, Melody (Terry) Deutsch, and Diane Boyd; sisters-in-law, Shirley (Ross) Fahling, and Sharon (Stanley) Hoyt; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Robert Bernardo; inurnment was in Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Mich.

**LACHICA, Romulo**, age 83; born Aug. 7, 1938, in Odiongan, Romblon, Philippines; died Aug. 29, 2021, in Hanford, Calif. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Norita (Vitangcol) Romulo; daughter, Arleen (Lenson) Wong; siblings, Rene, Ruth, Rolando, Rina, Reva, Rose, Rhodora, Rosalie, and Remy; and two grandchildren. Funeral services were held; interment.

**MANWARRING, Rick**, age 71; born Aug. 6, 1950, in Terre Haute, Ind.; died Sept. 21, 2021, in Terre Haute. He was a member of the Terre Haute Church in Terre Haute. Survivors include his wife, Susan Anderson; three daughters; and one grandchild. Funeral and interment were held at cemetery.

**MAURO, Patricia "Pat" Ann (Rodenberg)**, age 93; born Jan. 2, 1928, in Richmond, Ind.; died Aug. 18, 2021, in South Bend, Ind. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include son, Steve Mauro; daughter, Nancy; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held; interment.

**MESSER, Alverda (Ericks)**, age 86; born Dec. 6, 1934, in Bliss, Mich.; died Nov. 12, 2021, in Waterford, Mich. She was a member of the Waterford Riverside Church in Waterford. Survivors include sons, Emery (Karen) Messer, Michael (Victoria) Messer, and Christopher (Jen) Messer; daughters, Cheryl (Rick) Waldrup, Connie (Sherman) Thompson, and Karla (Kevin) Owens; 23 grandchildren; and 41 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held; private inurnment.

**MOBLEY, Carl**, age 85; born Aug. 10, 1936, in Union County, Ken.; died Oct. 27, 2021, in Evansville, Ind. He was a member of the Evansville Westside Church in Evansville. Survivors include his wife, Bobbie (Crowley) Mobley; son, Fred Bullock; daughters, Patricia Bullock, and Barbara Bigers; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Funeral services were conducted by Robert Lloyd; interment was at Fairmont Cemetery in Henderson, Ken.

**MYLES, Eddie Lee**, age 69; born Dec. 5, 1951, in Detroit, Mich.; died May 21, 2021, in Linden, Tenn. He was a member of the Detroit Northwest Church in Detroit. Survivors include his wife, Josephine (Hairston) Myles; sons, Omar Anderson, Abdul Anderson, Dion Myles, and Arib Myles; sisters, Louise Myles Gibson, and Minnie Lee Griffin; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Stephen Myles; private inurnment.

**NELSON, Sarah C. (Brown)**, age 101; born Dec. 30, 1919, in Sharpsburg, Iowa.; died Oct. 17, 2021, in Ft. Collins, Colo. She was a member of the Chikaming Church in Sawyer, Mich. Survivors include sons, Burrell E. Nelson, Darrell N. Nelson, and Herbert L. Nelson; daughter, Susan C. (Nelson) Sellers; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Funeral services were conducted; interment was at Resthaven Memory Garden Cemetery in Ft. Collins.

**NEPHEW, Jess Y.**, age 89; born June 10, 1931, in Rapid River, Mich.; died May 23, 2021, in Florence, Wis. He was a member of the Iron Mountain Community Church in Iron Mountain, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Virginia (Jaacks) Nephew; son, Jim (Jeanne) Nephew; daughters, Marcia (Dean) Minett, and Esther (David) Lorenson; sister-in-law, Helen Nephew; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild. A Celebration of Life was conducted by Elder Jim Micheff; inurnment.

**ROELOFF, Estelle**; age 88; born Dec. 6, 1933, in Chicago; died Oct. 3, 2021, in Traverse City, Mich. She was a member of the Traverse City

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Church in Traverse City. Survivors include sons, Dale (Sandy) Roeloff, Bob (Sharon) Roeloff, Greg Roeloff, Dave (Wendy) Roeloff, and Chris Roeloff; 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held; interment.

**RUSSELL, Charles "Bill" William**, age 80; born Feb. 18, 1941, in Weidman, Mich.; died July 3, 2021, in Rogers, Ark. He was a member of the Springtown SDA Church in Gentry, Ark. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Nancy (Verley) Russell; daughter, Pamela Satterlee; son-in-law, Mark; son, Richard "Rick" Russell; daughter-in-law, Cynthia Uzarraga; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Rick Mercer and Ron Ray.

**SCHMID, Doris C.**, age 95; born May 23, 1926, in Mt. Clemens, Mich.; died Sept. 16, 2021, in Waterford, Mich. She was a member of the Warren Church in Warren, Mich. Survivors include son, Walter (Helyn) Schmid Jr.; daughters, Tina (David) Bailey, Margie (Conrad) Tarnacki, Sandra Van Damme, and Paula (Steven) Pyles; sister, Grace Patterson; nine grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Todd Ervin; interment was held at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township, Mich.

**STILES, Michael K**, age 62; born March 18, 1959, in Niles, Mich.; died Sept. 2, 2021, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Gely (Cress) Stiles; son, Shadler; and daughter SariAnna. Funeral services were held; interment.

**SUTHERLAND, Bette Jo (Carron)**, age 85; born March 15, 1936, in Pontiac, Mich.; died Sept. 28, 2021, in Iron Mountain, Mich. She was a member of the Iron Mountain Community Church in Iron Mountain. Survivors include her sons, William B. (Anna Marie) Sutherland, and Lee (Elizabeth) Sutherland; daughter, Nonda (Todd) Henshaw; sister, Barb (Harold) Poupore; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Jim Nephew; interment at Gardens of Rest Cemetery in Escanaba, Mich.

**TARANGLE, Steven G.**, age 98; born Dec. 28, 1922, in Slava, Alberta, Can.; died Sept. 20, 2021, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his wife, Esther Tarangle; daughters, Stefanie (Bob) Hile, and Alana Gonzalez; son-in-law, Elvin Gonzalez; brother, Timothy Tarangle; sister, Dolly Revega; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. A private graveside service was held, and a memorial service will be livestreamed at a future date; interment.

**CORRECTION**

**Editor's Note**—Our apologies to the family for the error in this Milepost when it was first published (October 2021 issue). The information has been corrected and is as follows:

**ANDERSON, James "Jim,"** age 90; born May 11, 1931, in Menomonie, Wis.; died June 24, 2021, 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* website at <http://www.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>.

**ENTERPRISE/GREAT PLAINS ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, APRIL 1-2**, at Enterprise SDA Church, Enterprise, KS. Honor Classes: graduating years ending with '2s and '7s. For more information, send email to [ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com) or visit [ea.gpa-alumni.com](http://ea.gpa-alumni.com).

# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

|                        | Jan. 7 | Jan. 14 | Jan. 21 | Jan. 28 | Feb. 4 | Feb. 11 | Feb. 18 | Feb. 25 |
|------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Berrien Springs, Mich. | 5:32   | 5:39    | 5:47    | 5:56    | 6:05   | 6:14    | 6:23    | 6:32    |
| Chicago, Ill.          | 4:37   | 4:44    | 4:53    | 5:01    | 5:10   | 5:19    | 5:28    | 5:37    |
| Detroit, Mich.         | 5:17   | 5:25    | 5:33    | 5:42    | 5:51   | 6:00    | 6:09    | 6:18    |
| Indianapolis, Ind.     | 5:37   | 5:44    | 5:52    | 6:00    | 6:09   | 6:17    | 6:25    | 6:33    |
| La Crosse, Wis.        | 4:45   | 4:53    | 5:02    | 5:11    | 5:21   | 5:30    | 5:40    | 5:49    |
| Lansing, Mich.         | 5:22   | 5:30    | 5:38    | 5:47    | 5:56   | 6:06    | 6:15    | 6:24    |
| Madison, Wis.          | 4:40   | 4:48    | 4:57    | 5:06    | 5:15   | 5:24    | 5:34    | 5:43    |
| Springfield, Ill.      | 4:51   | 4:58    | 5:06    | 5:14    | 5:23   | 5:31    | 5:39    | 5:47    |

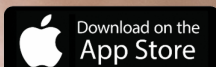


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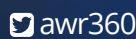
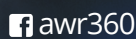
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# JAN/FEB

## ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

### GENERAL EVENTS

Jan. 26–29: *Newmyer Classic*

Feb. 17–19: *Worship, Word & Music Conference*

### 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](http://howard.andrews.edu).

Jan. 23, 4 p.m.: *Sunday Music Series: Eun-Jung Ahn, soprano, & Chi Yong Yun, pianist*

Jan. 29, 8 p.m.: *Andrews University Wind Symphony Winter Concert*

Jan. 30, 7 p.m.: *Howard Series Presents: Nicholas Marks*

Feb. 5, 8 p.m.: *Andrews University Symphony Orchestra & Young Artists Concert*

Feb. 12, 8 p.m.: *Andrews University Choirs: "Love is in the Air"*

Feb. 13, 7 p.m.: *Howard Series Presents: Anthony Brown & Group TherAPy*

Feb. 25, 7 p.m.: *Music & English Departments Vespers*

Feb. 27, 4 p.m.: *Sunday Music Series: Brian Lewis, violinist*

## INDIANA CONFERENCE

Jan. 14–16: *Hispanic Elders Retreat, Timber Ridge Camp*

Jan. 15: *Day of Prayer (statewide)*

Jan. 21–23: *Pathfinder Winter Campout, Timber Ridge Camp*

Feb. 25–26: *Conference Youth Rally, Indianapolis Junior Academy*

## MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Jan. 14–16: *Teen Snow Outing, Camp Au Sable*

Jan. 28–30: *Father & Son Man Camp, Camp Au Sable*

Feb. 4–6: *Adventurer District Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

Feb. 25–27: *Teen Bible Camp, Camp Au Sable*

## WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

Jan. 14–17: *Youth Winter Retreat, Camp Wakonda*

Feb. 11–13: *Pathfinder Winter Retreat, Camp Wakonda*

Feb. 25–27: *Public Campus Ministry Retreat, Camp Wakonda*

## LAKE UNION CONFERENCE

Feb. 11–13: *Youth Evangelism Congress, Shipshewana, Ind.*

Note— The Illinois and Lake Region conferences presently do not have any events listed for January/February

## CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS JANUARY

- Jan. 1 Local Church Budget
- Jan. 8 Religious Liberty (NAD)
- Jan. 15 Local Church Budget
- Jan. 22 Local Conference Advance
- Jan. 29 Local Church Budget

## FEBRUARY

- Feb. 5 Local Church Budget
- Feb. 12 Adventist Television Ministries Evangelism (NAD)
- Feb. 19 Local Church Budget
- Feb. 26 Local Conference Advance



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>.

SERVICES

**NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS: TEACH SERVICES** helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation. Visit [www.LNFBOOKS.com](http://www.LNFBOOKS.com) for used books and your local ABC or [www.TEACHServices.com](http://www.TEACHServices.com) for new book releases.

MISCELLANEOUS

**LIVE-IN COMPANION/CARE-GIVER** sought for an elderly SDA woman in her home, light

housework and keeping company with. The selected lady would have own bedroom and bath. Common areas would be shared. References. For further information, contact daughter, Pat, at 517-937-4219.

EMPLOYMENT

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY—MARKETING** to teach marketing and related courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. For more details and to apply, please visit [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_4](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_4)

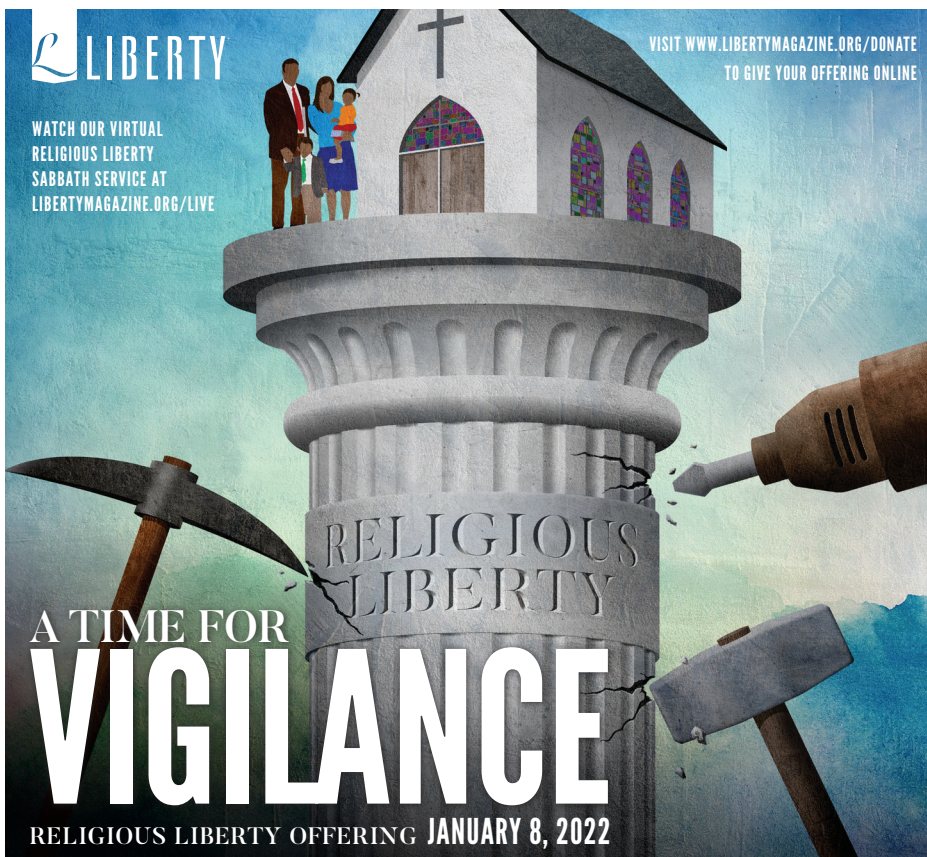
**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY —NURSING.** The Undergraduate Assistant/ Associate Professor/Professor of Nursing holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the School of Nursing. This individual demonstrates competence in program development/organization, didactic, clinical education, teaching and curriculum development at the undergraduate level. **For more details and to apply, please visit** [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_4](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_4).

**ASAP MINISTRIES IS HIRING A FULL-TIME TRAINING & OUTREACH ASSISTANT.** Job duties include general office tasks and coordination of day-to-day activities. Works closely with cross-cultural ministry training course called RWND (Reach the World Next Door), then follow up with registrants and interests. Required skills are to be an effective communicator, good organizational skills, attention to detail, marketing experience, including social media, and proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe InDesign/Photoshop; other duties as assigned. Nonprofit work experience preferred. Please contact Robert Benjamin at 269-471-3026 or email [robert.benjamin@asapministries.org](mailto:robert.benjamin@asapministries.org).

**OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY SEEKS FULL-TIME FACULTY FOR DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES.** Ideal candidates have earned a doctorate in Psychology or Sociology. Candidates would teach undergraduate courses, develop course materials, advise students academically, serve on University committees, and perform other duties expected of full-time faculty. For a full job description and desired qualifications, please visit [www2.oakwood.edu/human-resources/](http://www2.oakwood.edu/human-resources/).

TRAVEL

**ISRAEL TOUR WITH PASTOR JIM GILLEY AND FRIENDS.** March 27–April 4. \$3,599. 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.



# Next Stop is Heaven!

*“Let not your heart be troubled. . . . In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. . . I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”* John 14:1–3, KJV



▲ Paulette Taylor

Often people use this time of year to initiate some form of new beginning, a fresh start, and some even make resolutions, or something they can claim as a promise to themselves to get various things done. Truly we all are a work in progress but, one thing that stands the test of time, all time, is that God’s promises are true and sure, always.

Don’t give in to life situations or give up on yourself, or Him! God has brought us through the past years, and through these turbulent virus years. Although many saints are sleeping, awaiting His call, those of us who remain must persevere. The struggles have been too long and too hard, but our real joy has always been in Him. *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”* (Philippians 4:13).

Let’s stand tall, shake off the lies and deceit of the dark one, and put on the whole armor of God. The battle may be taxing, and sometimes overwhelming, but remember, *“He has already won the war!”* Now that, my brothers and sisters, is Divine Love! He loved us first and loves us best!

The fleeting joys of this life pale in comparison to the reality of the Heavenly realm. Thank God for the hope we have in Heaven. Prayerfully remember John’s vision of Heaven, the Tree of Life, the streets of gold, and the jeweled, golden wall surrounding that great city, the Holy Jerusalem (see Revelation 21 and 22).

“Throw the windows of the soul wide open, Heavenward, and let the sunshine of Christ’s righteousness in. Morning, noon, and night your heart may be filled with the bright rays of

Heaven’s light” (*The Review & Herald*, April 7, 1904, “Heavenly Places,” pp. 275–276, Ellen G. White).

The glory of the Lord will shine abundantly on that amazing, never-to-happen-again, day . . . when the Savior comes to this sin-filled earth, ready to retrieve those faithful souls. How long He has waited with open arms to welcome home His children, to put an end to sin, despair, illness, pain and hurt, once and for all. Yes, *all* things will be made right. We will be made spotless, cleansed and finally, finally, set forever free! Yet a little while, oh, just a little while longer, and we shall see the King! Praise God, every eye will see Him. So hold on . . . hold on . . . The next stop is Heaven! ■

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*Paulette Taylor is the Indiana Conference Prayer coordinator.*



# A Way of Life

On April 8, 2021, I was elected as an associate treasurer for the Lake Union Conference, serving as the managing director of the Lake Union Revolving Fund and director of Stewardship.

Throughout my career in various financial avenues for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I have been privileged to serve in positions that have allowed me to interact with the inner workings and functions of funds as they flow through every level of the church.

One of my passions is the ministry of stewardship. Over the years, the term “stewardship” has been associated with the notion of “giving” or “begging.” Unfortunately, this has created discouragement, especially within the Millennial and Gen Z communities. While giving is a part of stewardship, it is only one portion of a multifaceted ministry designed to contribute to the enhancement of one’s personal relationship with God.

I view stewardship as a wholistic approach to finances whether on an individual or collective basis. In this context, stewardship is a financial way of life. The ministry of stewardship is developed through the foundational relationship one has with God. This includes how we manage and care for the funds that we are blessed to receive from the true Giver of our financial resources.

In 1 Timothy 6:17–19, the apostle Paul charged Timothy with a task of being a good and faithful steward and to teach others as well. He states, “*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*” (NIV)

Each month, we will take a unique approach to the ministry of stewardship. We will discuss various topics on finances, including:

- Saving for the Rainy Day
- Practical Budgeting
- Financial Stress
- The Breakdown of Tithes and Offerings
- Financial Debt 101
- Planned Giving and Trust Services
- Funds for Retirement

Jesus states in Luke 16:10–11 that “. . . *whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So, if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?*” (NIV) Whether you have little or much, how are you handling the financial resources that are entrusted to you?

God has given us a roadmap of how to be a blessing and how to be blessed. In 2022, we will take a deeper dive into the ministry of stewardship and the tools that we have been given. Our goal is to grow our faith and reliance on the promises of God. ■

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*Jermaine Jackson is Lake Union Conference’s associate treasurer and director of Stewardship.*



▲ Jermaine Jackson

# The Joys of a Cessna 172

## WHERE DOES YOUR HAPPINESS COME FROM?

**THE SMALL CESSNA 172** may not have looked like much but, to me, she was a beauty. For my eighteenth birthday, I had purchased a Discovery Flight: a one-hour introductory flight lesson. The moment that plane sped down the runway, I started shaking with excitement. I had waited two years for this moment, and now I was about to fulfill my dream of flying a plane. As I soared into the air, I felt free—like I could go anywhere. Even months later, thinking about this moment makes me happy. But why did this flight bring me such happiness?

Throughout the documentary, “Happy,” directed by Academy Award nominee Roko Belic, psychologists hypothesized that fifty percent of happiness comes from a person’s personality and ten percent of happiness comes from life circumstances—like income, age and hardship.

Life circumstances only seem to affect people’s happiness when their basic needs are met. Horrible things can happen to a person but they can still be happy. I didn’t think this was possible until I experienced real hardship.

On January 15, 2020—a little over a year before my Discovery Flight, I fell on the back of my head during a gymnastics performance, resulting in nerve damage which affected my spinal and cranial nerves. This caused me to have trouble reading, walking, and many other actions. I lost the ability to do things that made me happy. Although it was difficult, I never gave up hope that I would fully recover and fulfill my dream of flying a plane.

When psychologists analyze people who remain happy even through hardship, they don’t say these people don’t react negatively to hardship. Instead, psychologists state that these people adapt quicker to hardship than others. What allows these people to adapt so quickly is the forty percent of happiness that comes from intentional activity.

According to the essay, “The Three Equations for a Happy Life, Even During a Pandemic” by Arthur C. Brooks, Harvard professor and social scientist, one of the best intentional activities for impacting your happiness is having faith. I didn’t truly understand this concept until my accident. There were days when there was no happiness in sight: the pain, darkness and misery seemed to close in around me. In those moments, my faith was the only thing keeping me going. I am a practicing Seventh-day Adventist, meaning my religion teaches that all things—good and bad—happen for a reason and that, no matter what the world throws at me, Jesus will carry and protect me. Faith allowed me to see that I wasn’t alone, and that gave me hope for the future.

Before my accident, I thought pain and trials shattered happiness. Now I see that pain and trials, when seen through a perspective of faith, can add value to happiness. My accident made me truly appreciate the experience I was having during that flight, making me feel normal and free—compared to being physically and mentally inhibited because of my injury. This one memory has permeated my whole being, helping me to be the happiest I have ever been in my life. ■

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*Angela Copock is an Andrews University freshman pursuing dual degrees in Pre-Med and Aviation.*

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*Angela received a \$100 scholarship for this article. If you’re a youth or young adult interested in submitting an article for consideration, please contact: [heraldlakeunion.org](mailto:heraldlakeunion.org).*

► *Angela Coppock*



Rayno Victor

# God Knows Best



Rayno Victor

▲ Samuel Howell

## I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A BABY

**SISTER.** I've been praying for three years now. I also want an iPhone 13, but I haven't gotten that yet either.

There are so many things I want that God hasn't given me yet.

So, I've been wondering why God is not answering my prayers. Didn't God say in the Bible that you should "ask and you shall receive," and to "pray without ceasing" which I have been doing?

I feel God should answer my prayers.

But I thought things over again. Then I asked myself, "Do I really need a baby sister when I already treat my younger brother like a baby and have fun playing with him? No. Do

*I really need an iPhone 13 when I have three computers I can type on? No."*

I reasoned within myself, "That's why God is not giving me everything I want . . . because He knows what's best for me. He knows what to give me and what not to give me."

So, whenever you think that God doesn't answer your prayers, just remember my story. Trust, believe, and have faith in Him.

I might get a baby sister soon. I might be able to save up enough money to get an iPhone 13. God might send someone to give me an iPhone 13. Or perhaps I might never get an iPhone because my mommy and daddy say that I am too young to have one. But, whatever the outcome, I have accepted that God knows what is best for me, and I choose to trust Him.

*And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith" (Matthew 21:21).*

*"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7: 14). ■*

Ruth Murdoch Elementary student Samuel Howell is eight years old and won the Grand Championship in Creative Writing at the Summer 2021 Berrien County Youth Fair.

Samuel received a \$100 scholarship for this article. If you're a youth or young adult interested in submitting an article for consideration, please contact: [heraldlakeunion.org](http://heraldlakeunion.org).

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