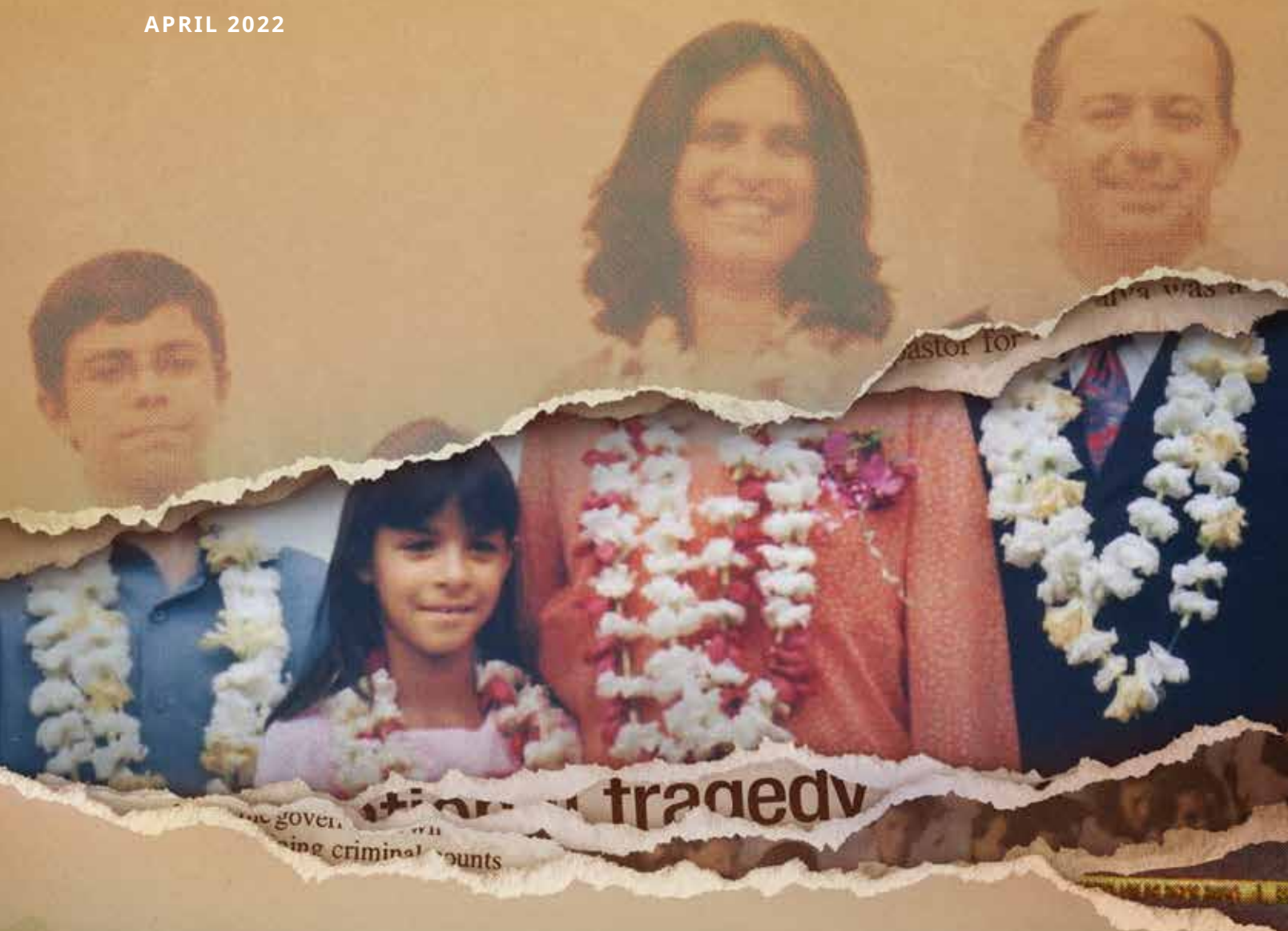


SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

# HERALD

APRIL 2022



## RETURN TO PALAU

THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF SURVIVAL, FAITH AND FORGIVENESS

CAMP MEETING AND SUMMER CAMP DETAILS INSIDE

ILLINOIS MEMBERS  
ILLINOIS FOCUS  
INSIDE



Jean-Irès Michel

# A Word of Thanks

his issue marks one year as editor of the *Herald* and, no doubt, I'm grateful for God's provisions along the way.

Thank you! Thank you! . . . for sharing your stories, for letting your light so shine that others may see God at work and glorify our Father in Heaven.

Thank you for providing feedback so we may know how this publication, which celebrates 114 years in November, can continue its mission as a source of inspiration and information. (By the way, if we count the *Herald's* predecessor, *The West Michigan Herald*, we're looking at commemorating our 119th year!)

You ask, how can you, too, make your voice heard?

Well, you're invited to fill out a short survey on page 48, and when you do, you're entered into a drawing for one of two \$50 Amazon gift cards. Thank you in advance.

Now, as we gear up for a summer of refreshing and renewal at camp meetings across our great Union, it is my prayer that these opportunities for heartwarming fellowship, mingled with the love of Christ, keeps binding us closer and closer together until His soon return. ■

Debbie

Debbie Michel  
Editor, *Lake Union Herald*



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**COVER COLLAGE:** Matt Hamel

**ON THIS PAGE:** Michigan Camp Meeting

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# Gather Together

Someone once said, “Jesus died to redeem us as individuals but also to re-establish community.” I think he was talking about reconciliation—between God and mankind and also among those who follow Jesus.



▲ Ken Denslow

We are not meant to be solitary Christians. We are to thrive in community with each other. But I will confess, there are times when I have been so disenchanted with “community” that I have wanted to throw in the towel and move to some isolated place in Montana or Wyoming where I wouldn’t have to see anyone or interact with anyone. Maybe I would go into town once a month for supplies. Have you ever felt this way? Reality is, though, that after a couple of weeks, most of us would be ready to re-enter society.

The Psalmist writes: *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity* (Psalm 133:1 NKJV). We NEED community in order for our characters to grow. Paul writes in Galatians about the fruit of the Spirit growing in the followers of Jesus. Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. All of these characteristics demand community in order to be exercised. It isn’t hard to be patient with others if we never interact with them. It’s rather easy to be kind from a distance. But it is only in fellowship that we truly have the opportunity to

mature into the likeness of Christ and to see the fruit of the Spirit grow.

As we pray together, as we encourage each other in faith, and even as we hold each other accountable before God, we are growing the fruit of the Spirit. We are being the body of Christ.

All of this leads me to the theme of this article which is the emphasis for this month’s *Lake Union Herald*—summer camps and camp meetings. The five conferences of the Lake Union invest heavily in these gatherings. Some might ask if it is worth all the time, money and effort. I would say that it is *essential* that we gather as the community of faith.

Summer camps have lots of fun activities for our young people and for our families. But they are so much more—they offer the opportunity to develop community as we gather together in those natural settings to worship God and praise our Savior. The spiritual fellowship at “camp” leads many children and youth to give their hearts to Christ and His Church every summer. The memories from camp will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Camp meetings, too, provide us with excellent times of fellowship. They are not just about listening to powerful sermons and attending informative seminars. They also are about sitting in lawnchairs under the shade trees, remembering shared history, and bringing our friends up to speed on what Jesus

is doing in our lives today. In short, camp meeting is about community.

Camp Meetings and Summer Camps. Let's support them with our voice and our presence, and may we all be blessed by being part of the community of faith. ■

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



# The Making of Spiritual Giants

Many of us have been taught that correct thinking and the ability to analyze Scripture is the most important aspect of the Christian life. If we know the 28 fundamental beliefs and can teach them to others, we are then considered good Seventh-day Adventist Christians.



▲ David Sedlacek

There certainly is no doubt that what we believe is important as well as our ability to teach it. Paul says, *Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching* (2 Tim. 4:2). We might believe that correct thinking leads to goodness (correct behavior) and that beauty flows as the result. I would suggest, however, that the overemphasis on our thinking has robbed us of a much-needed balance in our approach to the spiritual life of a disciple.

In the book of Genesis, God took what was *without form and void* (1:2) and created order and beauty. He created the heavenly planets, water, continents, our ecosystem with plants, fish, animal, and human life. We humans were created in His very own image as male and female. Before sin, all was beauty! There was no cycle of the seasons. Life was lived in its fullest with one revelation of beauty after another bursting onto the senses of our first parents. The wonders of nature still exist, although in a diminished state.

Jesus chose to come into this world, damaged and diminished by sin, to begin the process of restoration of beauty. Through His death, He plunged into darkness, but through His resurrection, He guaranteed the possibility of Edenic restoration in the earth made new to all who would receive it. Yes, beauty will be restored! But how does this relate to life on earth in the present?

Love creates and builds, but fear and hatred destroy and disintegrate. When, as parents, we know our children well enough that we see them and

respond to their needs with love and care, we are creating beauty in them. When they are hurt and we respond with soothing comfort, we reflect the God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3). When we provide a safe environment in which they can grow, we are creating secure attachment in them with us and, subsequently, with God as their heavenly parent. In this process of their being seen, soothed, safe and secure, neural networks are being created in the brain that allows that child to grow into a loving, well-differentiated person who does not live fearfully, anxious about what others think of him/her. They have no need to control what others think because they are grounded in what God thinks and says about them (e.g., Isaiah 43:4, Psalms 139, Ephesians 1 and 2).

John's first epistle begins by proclaiming Jesus, the One *Whom we have heard and seen. We saw Him with our own eyes and touched Him with our hands* (1 John 1:2). They experienced the beauty of Jesus with their senses and were changed by Him (2 Cor. 3:18). The Gospel is still being written today in the lives of God's children as they love sacrificially, investing in the lives of others. Embracing these realities integrates both our thinking brain and our creative feeling brain, thus building mature disciples of Jesus who follow Him wherever He leads, not as a duty, but as a love response to the beauty of His creative presence in them. ■

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*David Sedlacek is professor of Family Ministry and Discipleship at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.*

# Get the Sleep You Need

When most people think about lifestyle modifications, many consider how they will change their diet or exercise more, both of which are very important. However, many are unaware of the impact of sleep on health.

Inadequate sleep can increase risk for conditions such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, anxiety and depression. Have you ever driven tired? Would you want to have surgery if you knew the surgeon had not slept the night before? What would be the impact if the Pastor fell asleep during the sermon?

Often, I have found myself falling asleep with my computer still open, trying to get that last task completed. But recently, I was forced to rest and rediscover the healing benefits of sleep.

## Melatonin's Role in the Body

At night, the brain releases a natural hormone called melatonin (a/k/a the “sleep hormone”). Increases in melatonin levels result in fatigue and sleepiness. Other properties of melatonin include blood pressure regulation, immune regulation, detoxification of free radicals, and antioxidant activities. Melatonin not only prepares the body for sleep but also helps to protect our bodies from infection and disease.

## What Happens During Sleep

During deep stages of sleep, the body is involved in regulatory processes that include repair and regrowth, bone and muscle remodeling and rebuilding, and immune system strengthening.

During sleep, the body produces anti-inflammatory cytokines, which target infection and inflammation, producing an effective immune response. Reduced sleep decreases the production of these important immune regulating cells, increasing the body's susceptibility to infection and inflammation.

All these sleep processes work together to restore and rebuild, and prevent illness and disease.

## Ways to Improve Sleep

1. Eat a plant-based diet but avoid eating a large meal before bed. Tryptophan is found in foods such as tofu, pumpkin seeds, gluten flour, almonds and black walnuts, and is necessary for the construction of hormones, including serotonin and melatonin, both which help with sleep and mood regulation. Eating a large meal before bed results in poor-quality sleep (less deep sleep and more nighttime awakenings).
2. Regular exercise helps to improve the quality of sleep. Aim to get 150 to 300 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week with 2 to 3 days of strength training.
3. Go to bed early (before midnight) and get up early.
4. Sleep 7 to 8 hours per night.
5. Put down the phone. Blue light emitted by cell phones suppresses the production of melatonin.
5. Avoid sleep-depriving substances such as alcohol, caffeine and nicotine.
6. Sleep in the dark to optimize melatonin levels.
7. Pray before sleep and commit your worries to God.  
*Psalm 4:8: I will lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.*

Commit to renewing your body every night with the restorative power of sleep! ■

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REFERENCE: Tordjman, Sylvie et al. “Melatonin: Pharmacology, Functions and Therapeutic Benefits.” *Current Neuropharmacology* Vol. 15, 3 (2017): 434-443. doi:10.2174/1570159X14666161228122115

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Christina Wells, MD, is Lake Region Conference's health director.



▲ Christina Wells

# Turning Education on Its Head

*If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all.*

Mark 9:35



▲ George R. Knight

“Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come” (*Education*, p. 13).

Thus read the opening words of the book, *Education*, one of Ellen White’s most important contributions to Adventism. It is no accident that the book came off the press in 1903. After a decade of thinking and writing on the topic of education, she was ready in the early years of the new century to develop a book that would give direction to one of the denomination’s most important sectors. *Education* provides the Adventist school system with its philosophical marching orders. And in the process, it sets forth ideals of education quite at odds with traditional programs.

Whereas traditional education aimed at preparing people for a successful life here on earth, *Education*, while not denying that important function, claimed that such a preparation was not enough. More vital yet was preparing students to live with God for eternity.

Whereas traditional education tended to focus on developing the mental aspects of its students, *Education* called for the improvement of the whole person.

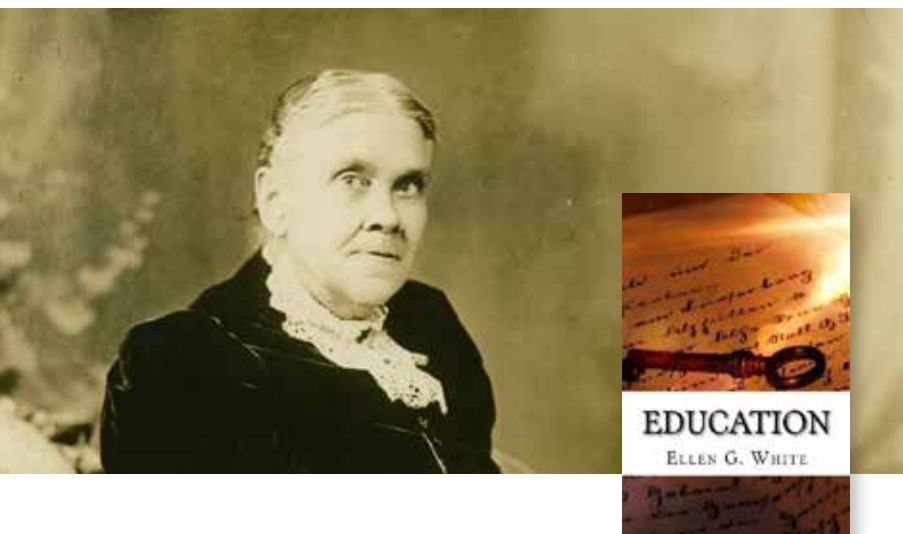
And whereas traditional education prepared people to position themselves advantageously for getting ahead in the world, *Education* argued for the goal of service to God and others. The service theme brackets the book. On its last page, we read that “in our life here, earthly, sin-restricted though it is, the greatest joy and the highest education are in service. And in the future state, untrammelled by the limitations of sinful humanity, it is in service that our greatest joy and our highest education will be found . . .” (*ibid.*, 309).

The book *Education* turned traditional education on its head. And in the process, it put forth a philosophy of education and life that we need both to understand and to live. It is a philosophy that puts into practice the values of the One who said, *If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.* ■

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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 311. Reprinted with permission.

<https://women.adventist.org/>





# Nuevo Pastor Comienza su Ministerio en Nuestra Unión

Todo pastor empleado por la Iglesia Adventista sabe bien que ocurren cambios en el ministerio. En nuestra denominación los pastores no son empleados por la iglesia local sino por la asociación.

La asociación local tiene la responsabilidad de conseguir el mejor candidato para cada iglesia. Cuando surge una vacante pastoral la asociación hace primero una evaluación de la iglesia para descubrir cuáles son sus necesidades. Luego entrevista a candidatos que deseen ser considerados para un llamado. Al concluir las entrevistas la asociación hace su evaluación y da su recomendación para que la iglesia lo considere para ser su pastor. En muchas ocasiones la iglesia invita a dicho candidato para que predique. Se sirve una comida estilo *potluck* y los miembros de iglesia tienen la oportunidad de entrevistar al pastor. Los administradores de la asociación observan, escuchan el proceso y evalúan la reacción de la iglesia y de manera especial la de sus líderes. Finalmente, si la asociación ve que la iglesia ha respondido de manera positiva, hace entonces el llamado en forma oficial para que sea no solo el pastor de la iglesia sino también que forme parte del equipo pastoral de la asociación.

El pastor Edgar Jahaziel Rosas ha aceptado recientemente el llamado para ser el nuevo pastor de las congregaciones hispanas de South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart y Fort Wayne en el estado de Indiana. El pastor Rosas viene de México donde estudió en la Universidad de Montemorelos. Fue allí donde sintió el llamado de prepararse para servir en el ministerio. Trabajó en la Unión Central de México por más de diez años y su labor fue muy bendecida. Allí organizó cinco grupos que llegaron a ser iglesias. Una de éstas está ubicada en Polanco, uno de los distritos más prestigiosos y adinerados de la Ciudad de México. Plantó también tres nuevas congregaciones. Se interesó mucho en las personas de origen

judío en Polanco, y para estar mejor preparado estudió y obtuvo una maestría en estudios hebraicos.

Estando en la ciudad de México desarrolló un servicio multilingüe en el cual se predicaba en varios idiomas.

La pasión del pastor Rosas es evangelismo y discipulado, de manera que en México daba regularmente estudios bíblicos y ofrecía entrenamiento en crecimiento de iglesia y mayordomía. En su último distrito en la Asociación del Bajío pasó dos años como pastor de diecisiete congregaciones, dos de las cuales había plantado él mismo. Con la bendición de Dios llegó a bautizar aproximadamente cien personas.

El pastor Rosas está casado con Yazmín desde el año 2014. Ella es dietista y se especializa en dar clases de nutrición. Además, ha hecho presentaciones sobre nutrición por medio de la radio. Los esposos Rosas tienen tres niños: Ashley, Karolin y Jahaziel.

Agradecemos a Dios por la familia Rosas que ha aceptado el llamado de venir a nuestra Unión para servir al Señor. Invito a la hermandad a orar por ellos y en forma especial a favor de las iglesias que servirán para que muchas almas puedan ser salvas para el reino que el Señor pronto establecerá. ■

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



▲ Carmelo Mercado



◀ El pastor Edgar Jahaziel Rosas es el nuevo pastor de las congregaciones hispanas de South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart y Fort Wayne en el estado de Indiana. Los esposos Rosas tienen tres niños: Ashley, Karolin y Jahaziel.

# All I Ever Needed

As she read one of the poems from her book, Patricia Pierce, member of the Rhinelander Church in Wisconsin, paused to reflect on God's goodness and mercy during her almost 80 years of life.

Raised in a very dysfunctional situation by two aunts who considered her a burden, Pierce says the only love she received was from her great-grandmother. "We would often talk together about the Bible," she recalls. "We'd read and discuss what we read, pray and sing songs together, songs I still sing today."

As Pierce began her own family, she vowed to show her seven children the love she was given by her great-grandmother. When her oldest daughter, Susie, was 14 years old, Pierce somehow ended up with a pamphlet discussing apocalyptic imagery in Revelation. "We prayed and asked the Lord to explain this puzzling interpretation of Revelation." The next day they saw a billboard for a Revelation Seminar in Racine. Attending together, they double-checked in the Bible what

they had heard when they got home.

"We were blown away by the truth," Pierce says. Both baptized after the Seminar, she and Susie began to follow the Bible's guidance, including keeping the Sabbath, which was much easier said than done. Today, Pierce and several of her daughters are church members, and they pray daily for the rest of the family to accept Christ.

In 1999, Pierce, a certified nursing assistant, broke her hip and had to retire. She missed work terribly and, after several years, began looking for something to fill that gap in her life. Having always been interested in medical science, she enrolled in the Contemporary and Alternative Medicine program at Ashford University online, with the

goal of becoming a health coach or nutritionist.

Two years in, however, she began to notice changes to her health. "I was drooling, losing my balance, having regular headaches, and not sleeping well," Pierce remembers. Although as a nurse she recognized all the symptoms, that didn't make hearing the doctor's diagnosis any easier. It was Parkinson's disease.

Despite this setback, Pierce was determined to finish what she started and, in 2018, she graduated with a bachelor's degree at the age of 75.

Later that same year, she reached another milestone: she published a book. After a conversation with God about the title, she published, *At the Door*, under the pen name, Evangeline. This collection of poems and dream vignettes—short stories God gave Pierce in her dreams—started out as prayer journals she intended to leave for her family to read after her death.

"I want my kids to realize God is in charge and be grateful to have Him in their lives," Pierce explains.

"I was talking to Him the other day and He told me, 'Patricia, when you get to Heaven, you'll be surprised by how many people you have brought to the Lord,'" Pierce shares, her voice wavering as her eyes fill with tears. "I told Him I don't care about the number of stars in my crown; I just want to meet Him. He is first in my life, and I know I'm loved. That's all I've ever needed." ■



▲ The most recent family photo of Patricia Pierce and her children. Tina Williams, sitting next to her mom; back row, left to right: Cori Johnston, Debbie Nelson, Teri Sackett, Susie Hensel, Bobbi Jean Mueller.



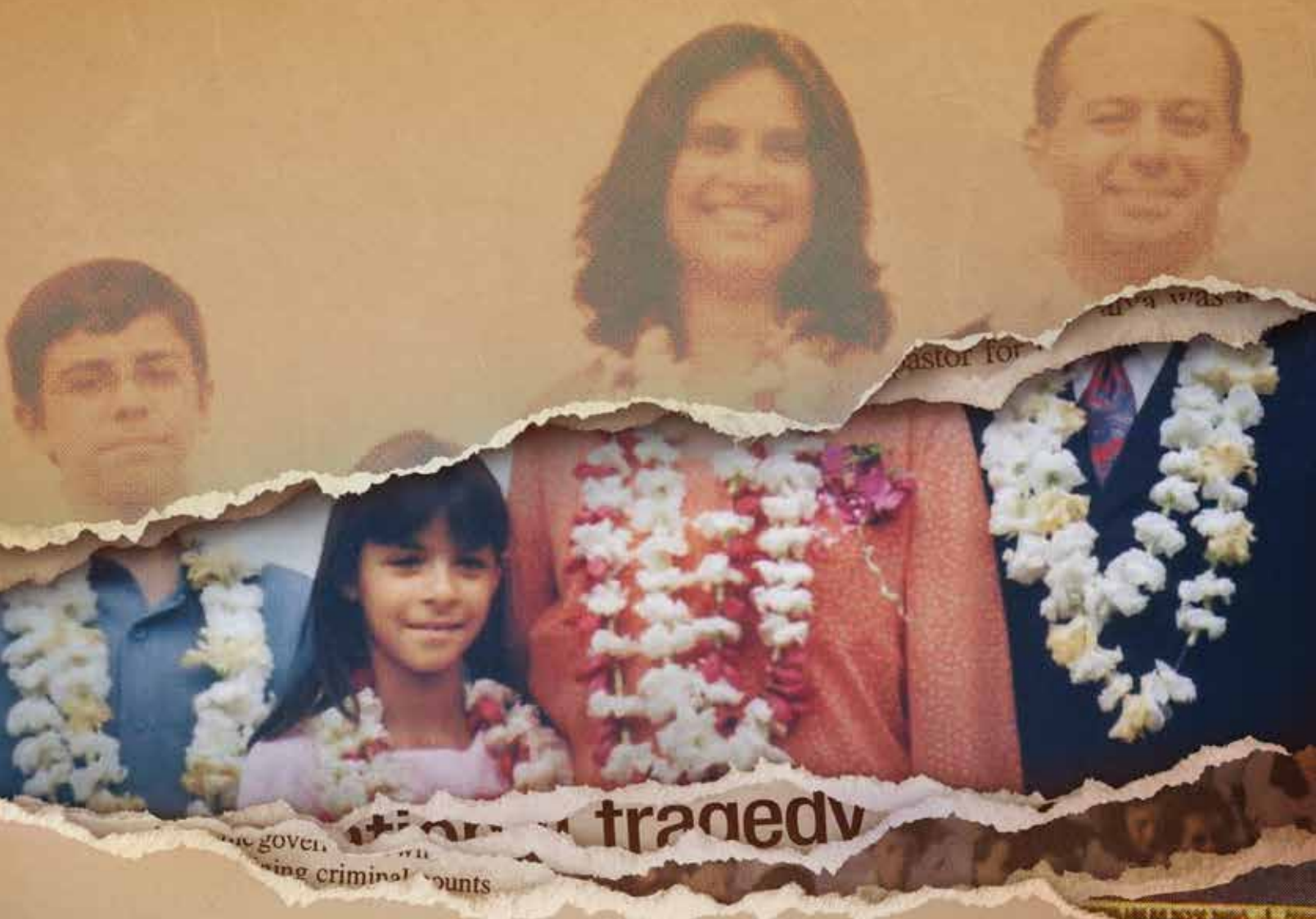
Becky St. Clair, freelance writer

**Editor's note:** As of this writing, Patricia is in hospice. We wanted to share the following poem, selected by her, in the hope it will encourage us in serving our Lord Jesus Christ at all times.

# Not Today

*Patricia Pierce*

One morning, I was praying on my knees.  
My heavenly Father came to me,  
Saying, "Today your sick neighbor down the street  
Needs a few meals made for her family."  
"Oh no, Lord, not today. I'm too busy the whole day through.  
I have much washing and cleaning to do."  
Again, as I was down on my knees in prayer,  
I could feel the sweet presence of my Lord with me there.  
He whispered in my ear,  
"Today, there is something I would like you to do.  
There are children in the hospital,  
Who need a few smiles, or a story or two."  
"Oh, Lord, not today!" I moaned, holding my head.  
"I have such a bad headache; I must stay in bed."  
Then, one night, brightness and glorious singing  
Filled the sky.  
"My Lord is coming!" my happy heart cried.  
I watched as Jesus, in garments of white,  
Gave all my neighbors the gift of flight.  
"Oh, Lord! Here I am, don't forget me," I cried.  
Jesus looked at me, with tear-filled eyes.  
"No, My child," He sadly did say,  
"You cannot come with me—  
Not today."



# RETURN <sup>TO</sup> PALAU

MELISSA DEPAIVA GIBSON MEETS THE MAN WHO KILLED HER FAMILY WHEN SHE WAS A 10-YEAR-OLD MISSIONARY GIRL.

When Melissa was four years old, her family moved from Brazil to Berrien Springs, Michigan, where her father attended Andrews University. When Melissa was eight years old, her dad got a call to go to Palau as a pastor.

Melissa's parents, Ruimar and Margareth DePaiva, accepted the call to serve as missionaries in Palau, a small island nation in the western Pacific Ocean. The family adjusted quickly to their new life there; they made friends easily and became part of the local community.

The pastor's home was outside the city on the road leading to the Adventist academy. The only other house between the DePaiva's home and the academy was the principal's house. Because it was being remodeled at that time, no one was living in it. Each day, numerous construction workers passed by the DePaivas' home on their way to work on the principal's house.

Just before Christmas, a year-and-a-half after the family arrived in Palau, her father returned home after having been away for several days for meetings in Guam. Pastor DePaiva was an accomplished pianist and enjoyed playing the piano. After he and his family shared a meal together that evening, he filled their home with beautiful Christmas music. Melissa remembers the family playing a game of Life before she and her brother had to go to bed. The following day would be her parent's fifteenth wedding anniversary. Melissa smiles as she recalls telling her parents that she would sleep with them as an anniversary present. She fondly remembers her parents tucking her into *their* bed and her father singing her to sleep that night.

### **Attack at 3 a.m.**

As the family slept that night, an intruder entered their home through the kitchen window around 3 a.m. He was one of the construction workers who had been working on the principal's house. Melissa was awakened to find both parents out of bed and a terrible noise in the hallway.

Melissa was there as the man murdered both of her parents and her only brother. He then tied her up and put her in the trunk of his car. He told her that she was now his property and drove away with her. The following day, he left her alone in his house, telling her not to make any noise or he would do to her what he had done to her parents and her brother. He then went to work. Returning home that evening and beginning to fear discovery, he took her to a remote part of the island, strangled her, and threw her into a ravine. Later that night, Melissa regained consciousness and slowly climbed out of the ravine. Too weak to stand, a kind couple saw her lying by the side of the road and stopped to help her.



◀ *The DePaiva family moved from Brazil to Berrien Springs for Ruimar (front right) to attend Andrews University. They are pictured here in 2002 in front of the J.N. Andrews statue by Pioneer Memorial Church.*



▲ The family settled into missionary life in Palau and became part of the local community. Photo taken in 2003.

News of the event reverberated around the world. The murder of a missionary family. Three caskets. The people of Palau’s shame and remorse for what happened on their island. The President’s public apology. And Melissa’s survival. When the news reached the General Conference, I was asked to travel to Palau to provide care for Melissa. How would this little girl survive all that she had witnessed and experienced and become a whole and healthy adult? I prayed the whole way there that God would protect Melissa from the traumatic impact of all that she had witnessed and experienced.

### Life Back in the United States

Although Melissa loved her home and friends in Palau, she knew she would have to leave. Her grandparents, Drs. Itamar and Ruth DePaiva, understood the importance of giving her a sense of security and belonging so they brought her back to Berrien Springs, where she and her family had lived before going to Palau, a place where she still had friends and a sense of community. Her maternal grandparents, Pastor José and Marina Ottoni, came from Brazil, also providing Melissa with an additional sense of safety and security as she adjusted to her new life in Berrien Springs. Still, Melissa longed to one day return to Palau.

A year-and-a-half after arriving in Berrien Springs, the DePaivas moved to Texas, where Melissa would graduate from grade school, academy and, later, college. Melissa graduated with a nursing degree from Southwestern Adventist University. In July 2016, she married Michael

Gibson. Michael had graduated with a theology degree and would be attending the seminary at Andrews University. A few weeks after their wedding, they moved back to Berrien Springs.

### The Prison in Palau

A few months prior to Melissa and Michael’s wedding, I had the privilege of meeting Pastor Tiago Cunha and his wife, Claudia, in Thailand where they were attending a missionary training seminar. Originally from Portugal, Pastor Cunha was serving as the senior pastor of the Koror Church in Palau. Soon after beginning his ministry there, he had felt impressed to participate in the church’s prison ministry program, a program that had been started by Melissa’s father.

Not long after entering the prison, Pastor Cunha met Justin, the man who had murdered the DePaiva family. Justin was a hardened criminal, serving three life sentences without parole. Nonetheless, it was clear that God was working in his heart. Fifteen years earlier, Melissa’s grandmother, Ruth, had visited him in prison. After asking him why he did what he did, she told him, “You have a very sick mind, but if you give your heart to Jesus, He will heal you.” She went on to say, “I want you to know that we forgive you and I want to see you in heaven one day with my son, my daughter-in-law, and my grandson.” Ruth’s words played over and over in Justin’s mind over the years that he spent in prison, and the Holy Spirit used them



▲ **Top:** Melissa and Palau's Queen Bilung Gloria Salii.  
**Bottom:** Melissa and her husband, Michael

▲ *News of the murders reverberated around the world. Melissa had the support of her grandparents at the funeral.*

to penetrate his heart. Melissa's grandparents prayed for Justin through the years and provided him with Christian literature. He would read those books, and they would help change his life.

At the meetings in Thailand, Pastor Cunha told me that he had studied the Bible with Justin and heard his confession and repentance for what he had done that fateful night. "He'll be ready for baptism soon," he said. Later, when the baptism took place, I was able to personally convey the news to Melissa.

Knowing that Melissa wanted to return to Palau, in 2018 I arranged for Pastor Cunha and his family to travel to Michigan to meet Melissa and her husband and to begin to plan their trip. Pastor Cunha shared with Melissa that her return was important to the people of Palau. He said that Justin's baptism had awakened, in the hearts of many people, memories of what had taken place on their island. Melissa would return, not just as a visitor but as a missionary. She and her husband, Michael, would do a week of prayer at the church where Melissa's father had pastored.

### A Journey to Healing

The journey back to Palau took place in December of 2018.

Arriving in Palau, Melissa was met at the airport by people whom her family had grown to know and love during their time on the island. As they placed fresh flower leis around Melissa's neck, tears came to her eyes. Among those who had come to greet Melissa was Queen Bilung Gloria Salii. Back in 2003, she had provided Melissa with loving support and kindness at the time she needed it most.

“ JUSTIN, WE ARE ALL THE SAME IN GOD'S SIGHT. WE ARE NO BETTER THAN YOU ARE. WE ARE ALL IN NEED OF GOD'S SAVING GRACE IN OUR LIVES. I WANT TO SEE YOU IN HEAVEN ONE DAY WITH MY PARENTS AND MY BROTHER. ”



## Reconnecting with the Past

Queen Bilung and other close friends carefully planned meetings and events for Melissa to attend that would be meaningful to her. The Queen showed Melissa, her husband and her grandparents around the island and brought them to her home. She also took them to the place where Melissa had been strangled and thrown into a ravine. Back in 2003, the Queen had commemorated the miracle of Melissa's survival by planting two coconut trees to mark the spot where she had been found. Melissa said it was very meaningful to her to have the Queen take her there, to see the beautiful, tall, coconut trees that she had planted, and to share the experience with Michael.

Melissa's heart was moved as she reconnected with so many of the people and places that she had loved. But she also encountered people and places that brought back the tragic events of the past.

Melissa went back into the home where her family had lived. She was last there as a ten-year-old child. She entered the home now as a young woman with her husband by her side. Although there were tears, her heart was also filled with gratitude for all that God had done for her and the fact that she would see her parents and brother again one day.

## Meeting the Murderer

God's grace is a powerful force to heal and restore that which is lost and broken. It had been two years since Justin had given his heart to Jesus and been baptized when Melissa returned to Palau. Since then, he had shared his testimony freely with all those in the prison who would listen. He had been instrumental in leading two other prisoners into a saving relationship with Jesus and built the baptismal tank in the prison that was used for their baptisms.

Even though Justin wrote letters of apology to Melissa and her grandparents prior to his baptism, he hoped to be able to, one day, apologize to them in person and thank them for their books and prayers. Prior to arriving in Palau, Melissa didn't know if she wanted to visit Justin in prison. When she arrived, however, a desire began to grow in her heart to visit the man whom God had transformed. On our last Sabbath afternoon there on the island, a small group of us made our way to the prison.

Entering the room that had been set aside for our meeting with Justin was almost a surreal experience. The man who had murdered her family stood behind the table with his hands folded behind his back. He spoke first. He expressed his profound remorse for his actions.



He expressed his desire to see Ruimar, Margareth and Larisson in heaven and personally apologize to them for what he had done. He expressed his love for our Savior and his desire to live faithful to His calling in this life.

Melissa had not planned to speak but, after each of her grandparents spoke, she wanted to say something. With tears streaming down her face, she said, “Justin, we are all the same in God’s sight. We are no better than you are. We are all in need of God’s saving grace in our lives. I want to see you in heaven one day with my parents and my brother.”

Those of us in that room with Melissa and her family that day were witnesses to the power of the Holy Spirit to transform a life that the enemy of our souls had claimed as his own. Although Justin will spend the rest of his life in prison, he is a free man. And Melissa is healed, healed of the horrible tragedy that she had to endure. Theirs is truly a story of the gospel at work today to both heal and restore.

After our return from Palau, we felt that what we had experienced there, must be shared with the world. With the support of friends of the DePaiva family, we embarked on producing a documentary of what God has done in and through the lives of this family. We committed to premiering the film in Palau on March 16, 2022.

As of press time for this magazine, Palau’s President Surangel Whipps Jr. requested we do a four-day series of meetings when we show the film, and that Pastor Dwight Nelson preach for those meetings. A team of us, including

Melissa and Michael, will travel to Palau for this event. We then will show the film on April 8 in Keene, Texas, where Melissa and Michael are currently living. Michael is the young adult pastor of the Southwestern Adventist Church, and both he and Melissa are teaching at Southwestern Adventist University. Next, we will show the film in Berrien Springs at the Howard Performing Arts Center on the campus of Andrews University on Easter Sabbath, April 16, at 4:00 p.m. Melissa considers Berrien Springs her second home so she and Michael will be there for the event and Pastor Dwight will interview them after the film is shown.

This film is a story of the gospel at work today in the lives of real people. The family was willing to share their story if others could be drawn to Jesus through what they have experienced. We believe that God inspired it and has brought together the necessary elements to make it possible. It is His work and His story. ■

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*Adapted with permission from Ann Hamel's original story, "Return to Palau." To read the full version, visit [AdventistMission.org](http://AdventistMission.org).*

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L. Ann Hamel is a psychologist with the International Service Employee (missionary) Support Team of the General Conference. She has a PhD in Psychology and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Formational Counseling. Having served as a missionary and experienced personal traumatic loss, she has gained greater sensitivity and understanding in how to support missionaries in crisis. She and her husband, Loren, live in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



◀ Dr. Ann Hamel produced the film with videographer, Michelle Hamel.

# Following Jesus Faithfully

Illinois Conference Family Camp Meeting at Camp Akita is scheduled for July 27–30. The theme will be “Following Jesus Faithfully.” Following Jesus faithfully means we obey the words of Jesus and accept His invitation when He says, *Follow me and I will make you fishers of men* (Matt. 4:19).

My desire is that all of us will strive to follow Jesus faithfully and share with others our testimony and our discovery that life with God works out better than life without Him. Our theme this year follows up on last year’s theme, “Proclaiming Jesus Passionately.” To Proclaim Jesus passionately, we must be following Jesus faithfully. This will be our focus during our time together at beautiful Camp Akita.

Wednesday through Friday presentations will be by some of our own Illinois Conference pastors. Our speaker Friday night and Sabbath

morning and evening will be Elder Ken Denslow, Lake Union Conference president. Elder Denslow is no stranger to Illinois, having served the Illinois Conference for many years. Sabbath School will be led by Elder Glenn Hill. There will be seminars, classes, activities, and fun for all ages. Plan now to attend.

It is our prayer that Illinois Conference Family Camp Meeting will be a spiritual blessing to all and that we will experience Jesus and the joy of following Him faithfully. ■

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*Ron Aguilera is president of Illinois Conference.*



## WHEN + WHERE

**July 27–30**

Camp Akita  
1684 Knox Rd. 1200 N  
Gilson IL 61436  
[www.ilcsda.org](http://www.ilcsda.org)

**Note:** No Hispanic camp meeting this year because of the General Conference Session.

# ILLINOIS CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING



## PRESENTERS



*Kenneth Denslow*



*Ron Aguilera*

# 150 Years . . . Together IN Mission

Indiana Camp Meeting 2022 will be a celebration of our sesquicentennial—150 years of the Adventist movement in Indiana. We are mission-focused as the timetable of Christ’s return becomes closer.

Enjoy a week of family life enriched with inspiring messages of hope, health and Adventist history. Make it a priority to be a part of your Hoosier Adventist family this summer. Visit the Indiana Conference website to register. Updates and background information also will be posted on our website, [www.indysda.org](http://www.indysda.org).

Please note that camp meeting will begin on Monday evening, June 13, this year and will conclude as usual on Sabbath evening, June 18.

Friday evening, Sabbath morning and Saturday night will feature messages from Dr. Dwight K. Nelson, senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University.

Mike Tucker, host of the award-winning television program, *Lifestyle Magazine*, will provide the weekday 11:00 a.m. morning messages and will be our evening speaker Monday through Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Pam

Tucker, Pastor Mike’s wife, will bless us with special music before his evening presentations.

Andrews University professor emeritus of History, Brian Strayer, will present a morning seminar titled: “The Trials and Triumphs of Adventist Pioneers.” Dr. Strayer has researched the history of the Seventh-day Adventist work in our conference and will be presenting this faith-building information during these morning presentations.

Three afternoon seminars, Tuesday through Friday, will be provided, which are as follows:

- Tom and Alane Waters of Restoration International will present valuable and timely information regarding parenting and family life.
- Dr. David DeRose, pastor of the Fort Wayne First Church and sought-after speaker, will share in the second afternoon seminar about “The Methuselah Factor,” highlighting many practical and life-changing insights into our physical, mental and spiritual health.
- In our third afternoon seminar, Dr. Brian Strayer will continue his morning theme of early Adventist pioneers.

## WHEN + WHERE

**JUNE 13–18**

Indiana Academy  
24815 SR 19  
Cicero IN 46034  
[www.indysda.org](http://www.indysda.org)

## HISPANIC CAMP MEETING

**Sept. 2–5** (Labor Day weekend)

Timber Ridge Camp  
1674 Timber Ridge Rd.  
Spencer IN 47460

# INDIANA CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING

Our special musical guest for Friday evening and all-day Sabbath is Neville Peter. Many of you are familiar with his music which has been featured on a number of television programs, such as 3ABN. You won't want to miss his afternoon concert on Sabbath.

For one day, on Sabbath, June 11, our Spanish brothers and sisters will conduct a fraternity day event, *Día de la Hermandad*, in

the IA gymnasium. Our guest speaker for this event is José Cortés Sr.

We are so pleased to be offering a full camp meeting experience with a variety of quality speakers and topics. Bring the family and plan for a blessed and fun week together! ■

*Vic Van Schaik is president of Indiana Conference.*

## PRESENTERS



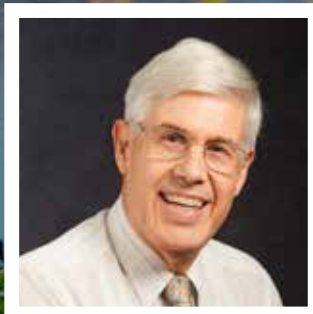
David DeRose



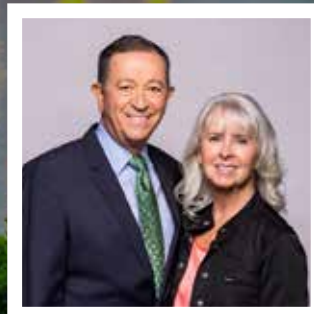
Dwight Nelson



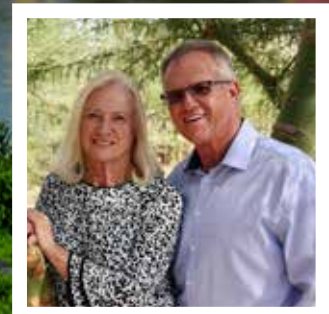
Neville Peter



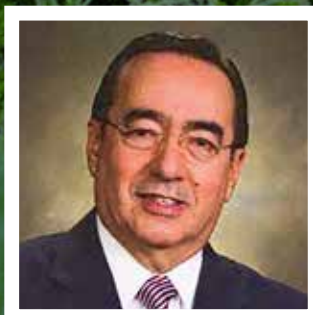
Brian Strayer



Mike & Pam Tucker



Tom & Alane Waters



José Cortés Sr.

150 years...  
**Together**  
**IN MISSION**  
MATTHEW 28:19-20

# Standing Together as One

As we emerge from the previous two years of “virtual camp meeting,” here within the Lake Region Conference (LRC) we are encouraged in “Standing Together as One,” our 2022 Camp Meeting theme.

This year, the Lake Region Conference will cautiously embark upon an in-person encampment, beginning Wednesday, June 29, through Saturday, July 2. Various services will include dynamic speakers from across the Lake Region Conference, culminating with Pastor Wintley Phipps as guest speaker on Sabbath, July 2. Pastor Phipps is an international, world-renowned vocal artist, having witnessed to countless audiences, including six United States Presidents. He is an education activist and founder of the U.S. Dream Academy.

Whether you are a Youth or Young Adult, or just young at heart, consider the LRC Youth Pavilion as the place to be on Sabbath, July 2. Pastor James Doggette Jr., currently shepherding the Riviera and Deerfield Beach congregations in South Florida, will engage our Youth and Young Adults during the Sabbath worship hour.

Enlisting our Hispanic Camp Meeting attendees will be Pastor Elden Ramirez, executive secretary for the Lake Union Conference. In-person Hispanic Camp Meeting will kick off on Friday, Sept. 2, through Sabbath, Sept. 4.

*Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Phil. 2:2 KJV*

Many have come to the realization that the building does not define nor make the church. It, that dreadful virus called COVID-19, has made us acutely aware of this fact as we were forced to act out our faith individually while feeling as though our existence was in silos, functioning independently and isolated from others.

Rising as we come forth, embracing the words used by Paul admonishing the Philippians (Phil. 2:2 KJV): *Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.* We at the Lake Region Conference are “Standing Together as One.” ■

**NOTE:** While the LRC encampment(s) are planned for in-person, all services will be simultaneously streamed on all Lake Region social media accounts.

*Garth Gabriel, Lake Region Conference president*

## WHEN + WHERE

### JUNE 29–JULY 2

Camp Wagner  
19088 Brownsville Street  
Cassopolis MI 49031  
**Phone:** (773) 846-2661  
**Fax:** (773) 442-0985  
[www.lrcsda.com](http://www.lrcsda.com)

### HISPANIC CAMP MEETING

#### SEPT. 2–4

Camp Wagner  
19088 Brownsville Street  
Cassopolis MI 49031  
**Fax:** (773) 442-0985

# LAKE REGION CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING

## PRESENTERS



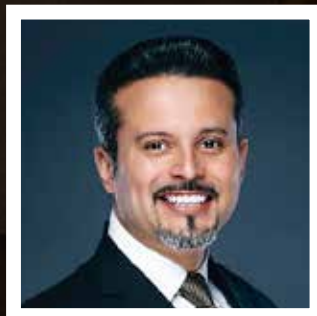
*James Doggette*



*Garth Gabriel*



*Wintley Phipps*



*Elden Ramirez*

# Knowing the Time

In Romans 13:11, the apostle Paul encourages us to awake out of sleep with the understanding that we are living at an hour when the salvation of the world is at stake.

He states, *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*

Our conference president, Jim Micheff, will open camp meeting with his message Friday evening. Our main speaker for the first Sabbath through Tuesday night will be John Bradshaw, president of *It Is Written*. Each morning of Camp Meeting will begin with an early morning worship by Adam Ramdin, the Personal Ministries and Evangelism director for the North

England Conference and host of the popular online Adventist history series, *Lineage Journey*.

Our speaker for the mid-morning meeting will be Philip Samaan, professor emeritus of Applied Theology at Southern Adventist University. Neil Nedley, founder and director of the Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Programs and president of Weimar University, will be the main speaker from Wednesday evening through Sabbath evening to close out camp meeting.

Our prayer and desire are that Camp Meeting will be a spiritual blessing to each one. As we devote a few days to seek the Lord together, may the hearts of old and young be encouraged and strengthened in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: Our Hispanic Camp Meeting will take place at Camp Au Sable, May 27–29, and our Upper Peninsula Camp Meeting will take place at Camp Sagola, Sept. 9–11.

Please visit the Michigan Conference website for more information: [www.misda.org](http://www.misda.org). ■

*Justin Ringstaff, executive secretary, Michigan Conference*

## WHEN + WHERE

### LOWER PENINSULA CAMP MEETING — JUNE 10–18

Great Lakes Adventist Academy  
7477 M575, Cedar Lake MI 48812  
**Phone:** 517-316-1512

### UPPER PENINSULA CAMP MEETING — SEPT. 9–11

Camp Sagola  
Kania Rd.  
Crystal Falls MI 49920  
**Email:** [thubbard@misda.church](mailto:thubbard@misda.church)

### HISPANIC CAMP MEETING — MAY 27–29

Camp Au Sable  
2590 Camp Au Sable Rd.  
Grayling MI 49738  
**Email:** [ngarcia@misda.church](mailto:ngarcia@misda.church)



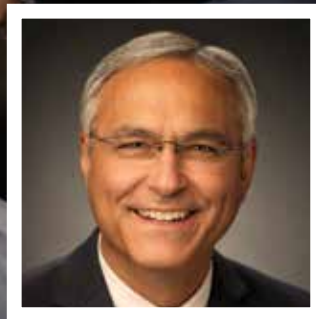


# MICHIGAN CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING

## PRESENTERS



*John Bradshaw*



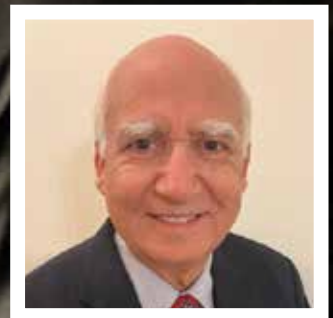
*Jim Micheff*



*Neil Nedley*



*Adam Ramdin*



*Philip Samaan*

# Do You Love Me?

It is our pleasure to invite you to attend the Wisconsin Conference Camp Meeting at Camp Wakonda on June 10–18. The theme for this year is: “Do You Love Me?”

After His resurrection, Jesus asked Peter if he really loved Him. Three times the disciple had to express his love and loyalty to his Master as a sign of a genuine conversion and qualification for ministry.

“The question that Christ had put to Peter was significant. He mentioned only one condition of discipleship and service. ‘Do you love Me?’ He asked. This is the essential qualification. Although Peter might possess every other qualification, yet without the love of Christ he could not be a faithful shepherd over the Lord’s flock. Knowledge, benevolence, eloquence, gratitude and zeal are all aids in the good work; but without the love of

Jesus in the heart, the work of the Christian minister is a failure” (DA 815,2).

With this focus in mind, our evening speakers include Dr. Joseph Kidder, professor of Pastoral Theology and Discipleship at Andrews University; Titus Naftanaila, Wisconsin Conference president; Peter Neri, senior pastor, Paradise Seventh-day Adventist Church in Las Vegas; and Dr. Benjamin Maxson, adjunct professor at Andrews University.

Other mid-week speakers include Dr. Mark Sandoval, the president of New Paradigm Ministries; Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, the Family Ministry directors for the North American Division; Jack Phillips, the associate evangelism coordinator of *It Is Written*, Lisa Isensee, Mission Advancement officer at ASAP Ministries; and Shawn Brummund, the Family Life pastor at Granite Bay Hilltop Church in California.

A concert by Martin Young, a baptismal ceremony, the annual Hallelujah Hustle, along with inspiring worship experiences and fellowship opportunities will create a special spiritual retreat for all participants. We look forward to seeing you at Wisconsin Camp Meeting 2022! ■

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*Titus Naftanaila is the Wisconsin Conference president.*

## WHEN + WHERE

### JUNE 10–18

Camp Wakonda  
W8368 County Rd. E  
Oxford WI 53952  
Campmeeting@wi.adventist.org  
**Phone:** 920-484-6554 x316

### HISPANIC CAMP MEETING — AUGUST 3–6

Camp Wakonda  
W8368 County Rd. E  
Oxford WI 53952  
**Phone:** 414-446-5964

### HMONG CAMP MEETING — AUGUST 26–28

Camp Wakonda  
W8368 County Rd. E  
Oxford WI 53952  
**Phone:** 414-690-0196  
**Email:** Chanchaikiatyanyong@gmail.com

# WISCONSIN CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING

## PRESENTERS



*Shawn Brummund*



*Lisa Isensee*



*Joseph Kidder*



*Ben Maxson*



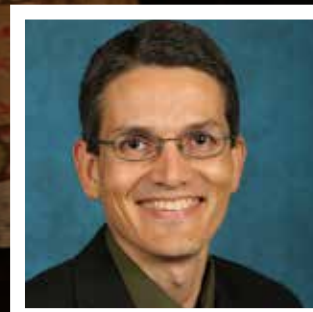
*Titus Naftanaila*



*Peter Neri*



*Jack Phillips*



*Mark Sandoval*



*Martin Young*



## ILLINOIS SUMMER CAMP

# Camp Akita



I am originally from Texas, but last summer I had the amazing opportunity to work at Camp Akita. Not only was it the best summer camp that I had ever been to—with amazing faculty, staff and campers, but I connected with God on a deeper level.

In my role as arts and crafts teacher, I experienced Jesus through every single camper I encountered. The atmosphere here is different than any other camp that I have ever been to or worked at; we truly are a family and love all of the kids like our own. Our camp director and his family became like our family, whether it was just for a week or for the whole summer.

Friday nights were always my favorite because it's the last night of the play and also the lantern lighting. Those nights were always so beautiful, and, on the lanterns, we would write our prayer requests before we would send them up into the starry night sky. While we wrote our requests, I would tell each of my campers how they impacted me that week; there was never a time when we didn't cry together and tell each other the things that made us who we are. On the very last

week with the teen campers, they actually flipped the script and told me how I impacted them, something I will never forget.

Every summer should be an adventure. Not only an adventure, but one filled with fun—and with God. That's exactly what you'll get at Camp Akita and you will have the Greatest Adventure! I had the most amazing summer, working with great people with whom I still talk regularly and am proud to call my friends. I am beyond excited to go back to Camp Akita this summer and begin another journey with Him in the greatest adventure we can partake of!

God has a plan for you. Yes, you! He knows exactly what He is doing and why, and I am still learning that every day. ■

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*Andrea Cardenas, Camp Akita staff/instructor*





**CAMP DATES:**

Cub Camp (ages 7-9) June 19-26  
Junior Camp (ages 10-12) June 19-26  
Tween Camp (ages 11-14) June 26-July 3  
Teen Camp I (ages 14-17) July 3-10  
Teen Camp II & Specialty Camp (ages 14-17) July 10-17  
Family Camp (All Ages) July 17-24

**Address:**

Camp Akita  
1684 Knox Road 1200 N  
Gilson IL 61436

**Website:** [www.campakita.com](http://www.campakita.com)

**Email:** [youthdept@ilcsda.org](mailto:youthdept@ilcsda.org)

**Phone:** 630-716-3555





## INDIANA SUMMER CAMP

# Timber Ridge Camp

It was with great joy that our 2021 camp staff started our summer at Timber Ridge Camp in Southern Indiana. 2020 had been miserable in many ways and skipping a summer of camp ministry had been almost unbearable. We were all looking forward to a time when we could put the pain and sorrow of the previous year aside and begin the important ministry that only takes place at a summer camp.

2021 did not turn out the way we had anticipated. As a result of COVID-19, our campers and staff brought a load of pain and sadness with them to Timber Ridge Camp. Despite these difficulties, God blessed our summer with many miracles. Our campers were able to meet old friends, make new ones, enjoy all the activities we have at camp and, most importantly, they hung out with our young adult staff who had been specially trained to represent Jesus.

Friday nights were the highlight of each week. Campers were invited to give their hearts to Jesus, become a member of Jesus' family by baptism, or rededicate their lives to Jesus. Amid tears, hugs and joyful hearts, our campers ended the campfire by sending paper lanterns up to the sky, a joyful expression of the hope of Jesus' soon coming to take us home with Him.

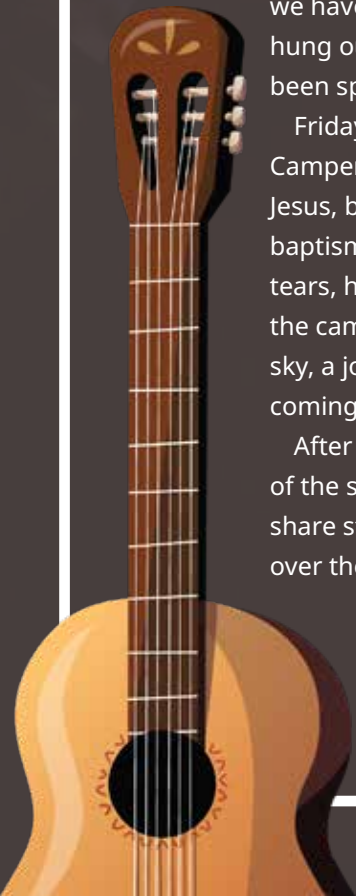
After our campers had gone home at the end of the summer, our staff gathered to debrief and share stories of the life changes that took place over the summer. As the stories were told, there

were laughter and tears. Two different staff reported campers had approached them and asked if they would pray for them. They were amazed at the fact that, in a place where they were brought to minister to campers, the campers were ministering to them.

At the close of the meeting, a staff member began singing, "All Day Long I've Been with Jesus." This is a song that we sing to close out every campfire. It is a benediction for a day spent enjoying all camp has to offer but, most importantly, a day spent knowing Jesus better. Instead of singing that song, the staff started the song: "All summer I've been with Jesus." We all joined in singing together, and the words really hit home. With tears in our eyes, we all realized not only had Jesus used us to bless our campers, but He also had given us a double measure of blessings. ■

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*Pastor Charlie Thompson is the Youth director for the Indiana Conference.*





**CAMP DATES:**

Single Mom's Camp	June 15-19
Camp for the Blind	June 19-26
Cub Camp (ages 7-10)	June 26-July 3
Junior Camp (ages 10-13)	July 3-10
Tween Camp (ages 13-15)	July 10-17
Teen Camp (ages 15-17)	July 17-24
Family Camp	July 24-31

**Address:**

Timber Ridge Camp  
1674 Timber Ridge Road  
Spencer IN 47460

**Website:** [www.indysdayouth.org](http://www.indysdayouth.org)

**Email:** [trcampermail@gmail.com](mailto:trcampermail@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 317-844-6201 x107





## LAKE REGION SUMMER CAMP

# Camp Wagner

**T**he Countdown for Summer Camp is on!!! This year, Junior Campers will be a part of the special L.E.A.P. Squad—an elite group trained as spies for Jesus as they Listen to God, Examine His Word And Pray for His guidance. At Lake Region Conference Camp Wagner, campers will embark on an adventure that will combine elements of Fun, Curiosity, Teamwork, Resourcefulness and Community, all while cultivating a closer relationship with God.

The story of Rahab, an actual spy for Jesus as depicted in Joshua 6 (KJV), will come to life as campers portray, through drama and spoken word, the events of this amazing Bible story. Campers will learn and experience that, for His glory and honor, God will and can use anybody.

Summer camp is the place to create some of the best memories! At Camp Wagner, campers are sure to make new friends, develop new skills, and gain more self-confidence and a sense of independence. Campers will engage in activities that utilize both mind and body, including plenty of exercise, games, water activities, arts, crafts, and more.

### CAMP DATES:

Junior Camp (ages 8-15) July 24-31

### Address:

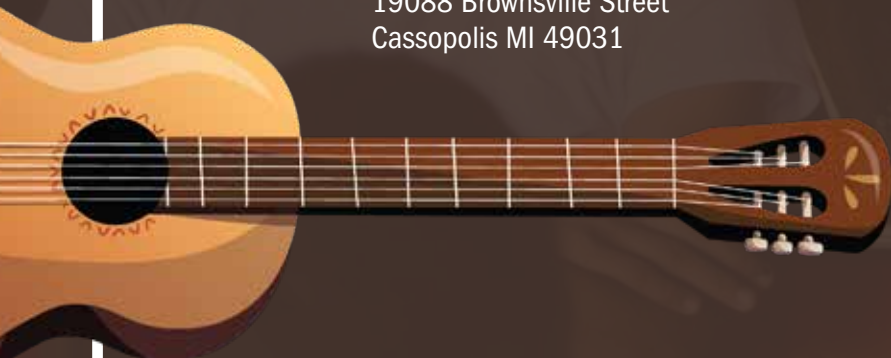
Camp Wagner  
19088 Brownsville Street  
Cassopolis MI 49031

Developing your Christian faith is the focus here at Camp Wagner. Campers get to foster a passion for Christ while having fun, enjoying nature, engaging in outdoor education, campfires, sports, team-building, and much more. Camp Wagner is all about inclusivity; believing that every youth and young adult should have an opportunity to discover Jesus, regardless of your financial situation. Some scholarships are available. ■

*Latita Thomas, Lake Region Conference Youth Dept.*

### Social Media:

Facebook - @lrcjuniorcamp  
Instagram - @lrc\_youth  
Twitter - @lrcyaya  
Register at [www.lrcyouth.com](http://www.lrcyouth.com)  
or LRC Youth Facebook page,  
or send an email to  
[youth@lrcsda.com](mailto:youth@lrcsda.com).







## MICHIGAN SUMMER CAMP

# Camp Au Sable & Camp Sagola

Staff worship had just finished and, as the sun cast its last rays across Lake Shellenbarger, a shiver went through me. I couldn't believe that this moment had finally arrived. The next day, hundreds of campers from all walks of life poured through our front gate, said goodbye to their parents and guardians, got settled in their cabins and started one of the most exciting weeks of their summer.

When I got the call that I was hired to work at camp I was over the moon. Since my first experience as a camper, I couldn't wait until I was old enough to work at camp. I was so excited to be a part of the mission that had brought me closer to Jesus. Every week had its own triumphs and difficulties. Campers went from missing family and being too shy to speak to conquering their fears in the cabin as well as at high adventure, the waterfront and the barn, all while getting closer to Jesus.

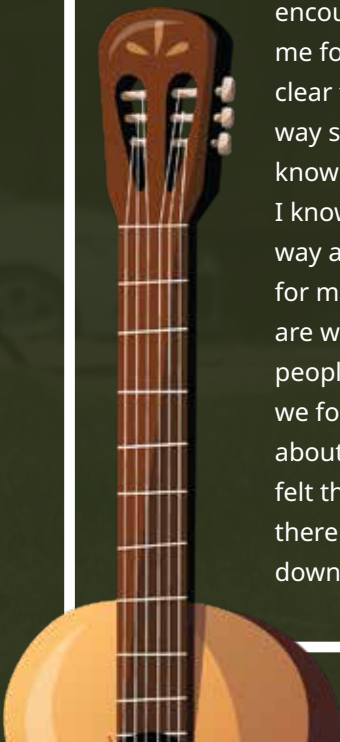
I love all my campers from last summer, but an encounter I had with one of them will stay with me forever. I had a camper who made it perfectly clear that she did not want to be touched in any way shape or form. Now, something you should know about me is that I. Love. Hugs. End of story. I know that not everyone else feels the same way about them and that is perfectly fine. But, for me, a hug really means a lot. Of course, there are ways other than physical affection to show people that you love them and so, over the week, we found different ways to connect, like talking about art or playing card games together. I still felt that I hadn't quite gotten to her though, like there was a wall that hadn't quite been knocked down.

When the week ended, I was making the rounds of the cabin before starting my day, saying goodbye to all the girls, passing out hugs and sharing in some tears. I had given out my last hug and was turning toward the door when a girl caught my eye. She had made it clear during the week that she did not want to be touched but, in that moment, she burst forward and wrapped me in one of the tightest embraces I have ever received. I gave her a tight squeeze and then let go. She took a step back and then came in for another one! I couldn't believe what was happening. My heart was so full of joy! and the tears running down my face were not from sadness any longer.

With that hug, the wall had been smashed apart. I hope to one day watch her do the same thing to her friend, Jesus, when we all finally meet Him. I pray that all the campers and staff will be there. ■

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*Ryleigh Snow is currently an intern at Camp Au Sable. She plans on returning to Andrews University in the fall to pursue a major in Graphic Design and minor in Photography.*





**CAMP AU SABLE DATES:**

Adventure Camp (ages 8-10) June 12-19  
Junior Camp (ages 10-13) June 19-26  
Tween Camp (ages 12-14) June 26-July 3  
Teen Camp (ages 14-17) July 3-10  
Family Camp I July 10-17  
Family Camp II July 17-24  
Family Camp III July 24-31

**Address:**

Camp Au Sable  
2590 Camp Au Sable Dr.  
Grayling MI 49738  
**Contact:** Jordan Grove  
**Phone:** (989) 348-5491

**Email:** [jgrove@misd.org](mailto:jgrove@misd.org)

**Website:** [www.campausable.org](http://www.campausable.org)

**CAMP SAGOLA DATES:**

Junior Camp (ages 8-12) July 17-24  
Teen Camp (ages 13-17) July 24-31

**Address:**

Camp Sagola  
2885 State Hwy. M-69  
Crystal Falls MI 49920  
**Email:** [campsagola@gmail.com](mailto:campsagola@gmail.com)  
**Phone:** (906) 282-9639





## WISCONSIN SUMMER CAMP

# Camp Wakonda

Just eleven years ago, I was called by Pastor Greg Taylor to work at Camp Wakonda as its Boys' Director. I had already worked at Timber Ridge Camp as a counselor for several summers and was looking for the opportunity to fill more of a leadership role at a camp.

Initially, my fiancée and I were going to work there together. However, we broke up and that left me, sadly, going to a new camp alone. It had me wondering what God's plan was in all of this. Little did I know, God was laying the groundwork for a long career of ministry in Wisconsin. The next summer, I ran a day camp for a church down in Tennessee and, after that, was hired as a full-time youth pastor by the Wisconsin Conference.

Over the next several years, I spoke for summer camp weeks at Camp Wakonda several times, led the Youth Division tent at Wisconsin Conference's Camp Meeting (held at the camp), and helped with various youth events that took place at the camp. I learned so much during these years and had so many experiences that developed me as a person. Even during my time as a local pastor of a district of churches, I kept finding myself back at the camp for youth ministry purposes.

Last April, I got the call to be the Youth Director for the Wisconsin Conference, which includes being the Camp Director at Camp Wakonda. So now, I live here . . . and that feels pretty cool: like, all the way back when I came to work here as a camp staff and was all sad because my personal plans didn't go the way I'd planned. . . . God had plans much bigger for me than I realized at the time.

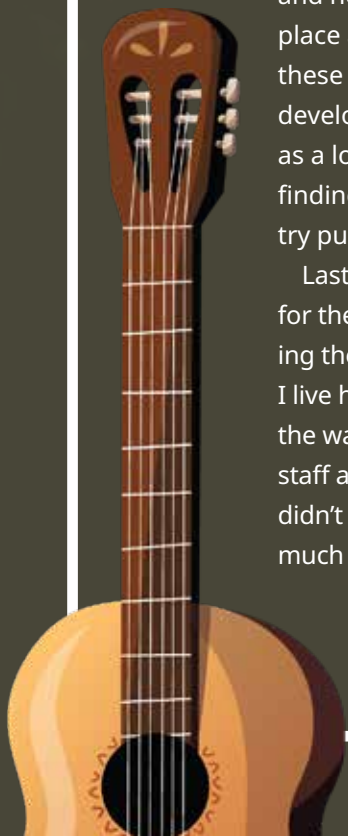
The point of this article isn't to tout my résumé, but to encourage any young person reading this: even if you don't know it, God has a plan for your life. The word *wakonda* is a Lakota-Sioux term that means "set apart." We want kids who come to our camp to know that, before they were even born, God set them apart for a special purpose.

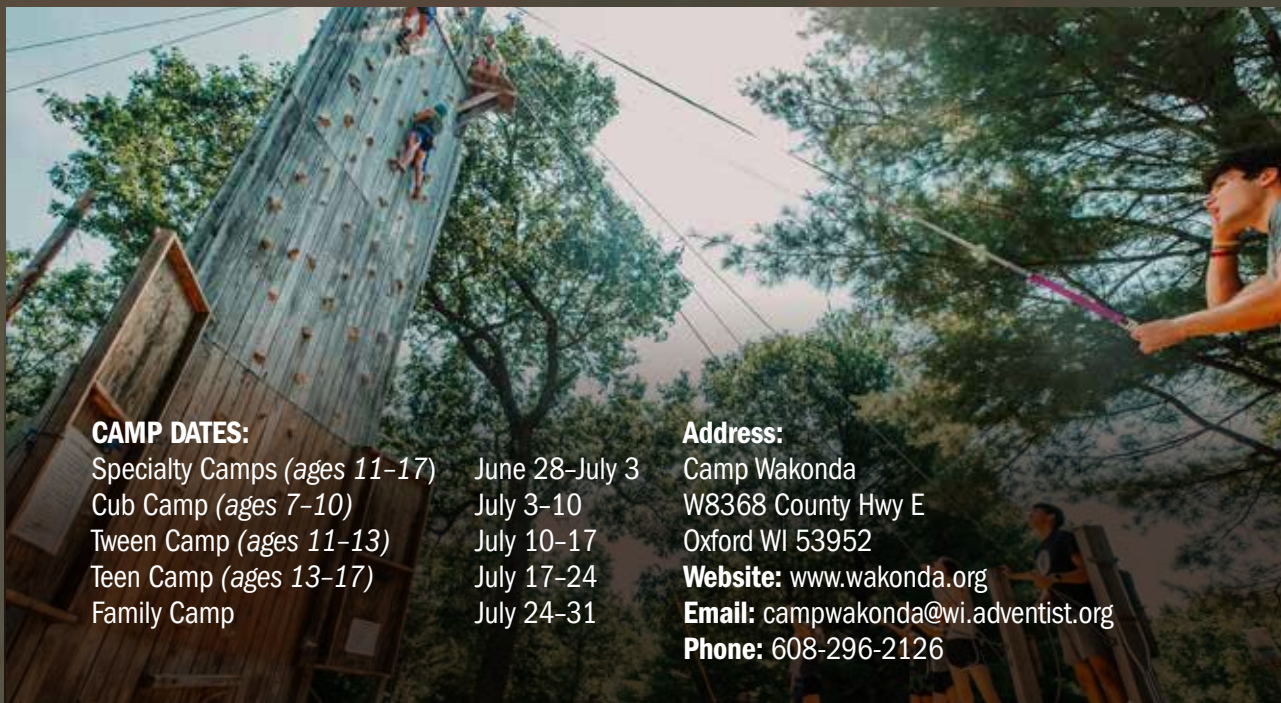
This summer, our programming is going to be focusing on the Bible characters of Esther and Peter: two young people who may not have considered themselves anything special but, nevertheless, God was able to use them for great things. It's impossible for anyone to know the future or predict what God's plans for your life will look like—but I promise, those plans exist. Stick with God, be open to His leading, pray for His guidance daily, and one day you, too, will look back and see a beautiful pattern that shows you how God has been working with you all the way.

Summer Camp evangelism has a special way of helping connect young people to the life-story God is writing for them. If you ever wondered, "Why send a child to attend or work at camp?"—that's your answer. ■

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*Zack Payne, pastor and Wisconsin Conference Youth director*





**CAMP DATES:**

Specialty Camps (ages 11-17)	June 28-July 3
Cub Camp (ages 7-10)	July 3-10
Tween Camp (ages 11-13)	July 10-17
Teen Camp (ages 13-17)	July 17-24
Family Camp	July 24-31

**Address:**

Camp Wakonda  
W8368 County Hwy E  
Oxford WI 53952

**Website:** [www.wakonda.org](http://www.wakonda.org)

**Email:** [campwakonda@wi.adventist.org](mailto:campwakonda@wi.adventist.org)

**Phone:** 608-296-2126





# Bolingbrook Church Organizes Drive-up Blessing for Hospital

On a cold day in late January, members of The Bolingbrook Church, a Seventh-day Adventist church, gathered outside AMITA Health Bolingbrook for a drive-up hospital blessing to honor hospital workers for their service to the community during the pandemic.

“We parked in the first row of the parking lot facing the hospital, and got out of our cars holding signs of encouragement and prayed over the hospital workers,” said David Oceguela, lead pastor for the church and also a chaplain for the hospital. “About 35 people were praying and sending our best vibes to them.” Assistant pastor David Quilatan was inside the hospital, praying

over the intercom while the people outside watched on Zoom and prayed along.

Many associates and patients came to the windows to acknowledge the blessing and join in prayer. The support of the church and the community lifted spirits and provided support.

“It has been a challenging couple of years,” said Samantha Sagrado, manager of Volunteer Services at the hospital. “It was encouraging to see members of our community lined up in our parking lot to lift us up in prayer.”

Oceguela said the church held similar events in the summer of 2020 and fall of 2021; there is another hospital blessing

planned for June 25. These blessings are part of the church’s efforts to build relationships with the Bolingbrook community and, additionally, to show thanks for everything the hospital workers have done during the pandemic.

“We wanted to tell our healthcare workers that they are seen, they are appreciated, and we acknowledge their sacrifice,” he said.

Oceguela said he has witnessed this sacrifice firsthand as a chaplain for the hospital. “I have seen the long hours people are working, their compassion,” he said. “They are heroes. They are saving people’s lives.” ■

*Julie Busch, associate vice president, Internal Communication, AMITA Health*

# Early College Experience: Making Connections at Andrews

“I heard about the Early College Experience during the Andrews University Preview event,” says Daesy Galeas, senior Nursing major at Andrews University. “I had been hearing a lot about how taking courses prior to college could prevent stress during your actual college experience. So, during the Preview, I grabbed an informational pamphlet, and ended up applying for the program the following summer.”

During the Explore Andrews event, Daesy had grown to appreciate the opportunities the Nursing Department offered. However, she had some reservations about arriving on campus in the fall, only to abruptly start classes. “The Early College program sounded like a great way to become accustomed with college life while also knocking out some of my general education requirements,” she explains.

The Early College Experience is a summer program designed for high school juniors and seniors as well as incoming college freshmen. It allows students to gain experience at the college level while also showcasing Andrews University and the surrounding area. The 2022 program will consist of a three-week opportunity to take one three-credit college course and participate in seminars, activities and local travel.

Daesy arrived about a month prior to the start of her first semester at Andrews. Classes were from 9 a.m. to noon. The schedule allowed time for exploration off-campus after class.

The attendees went to Silver Beach in St. Joseph, Mich., the mall in Mishawaka, Ind., and took a day trip to Chicago. They also played laser tag and mini-golf and went bowling.

“We structure our activities in a way that allows students to begin balancing work and play—this helps further reinforce habits necessary for success in college,” says Aaron Moushon, assistant dean for Undergraduate Education and director of Explore Andrews. “Our activities help students become better acquainted with the area and help them make connections to their new home.”

Outside of classes and activities, there also is time for students to reach out to their academic departments for support and guidance. “If your advisor is on vacation or unavailable, you can always talk with someone about classes or your schedule or preparing for school in general. It really helped me to not stress out,” says Daesy. She adds that students received tips on preparing for and organizing their workloads during the semester.

During freshman orientation, Daesy says she felt at ease because she already knew the

campus. When fall semester classes began, she wasn’t as anxious about meeting professors or understanding the syllabus for each class. “It was great to improve my social skills and be able to roam around campus and familiarize myself with where everything was beforehand, as opposed to having to rush to figure things out right before fall semester classes began,” says Daesy.

Daesy recommends the Early College Experience to anyone looking for a smooth transition to college life. “Early College was the best decision I could make for myself transition-wise,” says Daesy. “It was a really great introduction to what college would be like.”

To apply for the Early College Experience, visit [andrews.edu/exploreandrews/earlycollege](https://andrews.edu/exploreandrews/earlycollege). ■

Moriah McDonald, University Communication student writer, Andrews University

▼ Daesy Galeas (back row, second from right) with new friends at the 2018 Early College Experience



Aaron Moushon



▲ A group from the Ann Arbor church took a group of Afghan refugee women to shop for clothes and necessities.

## Refugees find warm welcome in Ann Arbor

One chilly Friday afternoon last fall, Karen Yang saw two young men walking toward the bus stop. She recognized one of them as a regular Ann Arbor church attendee and pulled over to offer a ride. Vincent, a refugee from Rwanda, was with Sherif, newly arrived from a Rwandan refugee camp. She took the teens to their temporary home, a hotel, and met the new family.

When she arrived, the family appeared anxious and worried. Karen decided to invite them to church the next day and offered to take them. They brightened at the invitation and quickly agreed to go. Since most Christians don't attend church on Saturday, their response seemed a little too favorable. "Are you Adventists?" Karen asked. "Yes!" was their response.

The Ann Arbor church warmly welcomed the family. Other Rwandan families embraced them; the church provided the family with winter clothing, shoes, blankets, and more. Through the generous sponsorship of a church member, the

youngest son enrolled in the Ann Arbor Adventist Elementary School.

Karen began to visit the Rwandan family more frequently at the hotel and met other refugees who noticed the Rwandan family seemed less distressed. Some of the Afghan refugee families were exasperated, trying to keep their children occupied for a month or two, with nothing for little ones to do in a cramped hotel room.

A few days before Thanksgiving, Daniel Rodriguez, the new pastor of Ann Arbor, suggested that the church provide a meal for the refugee families staying at the hotel. Fifteen Rwandan and 17 Afghanistan refugees came for the Thanksgiving dinner.

Provisionally, God sent translators for each group to understand what the pastor said in his short talk and prayer in the school gym. The Afghan families were incredibly grateful their children could run and play in the gym and shared a speech of thanks at the end.

Later, a group took the Afghan refugee women to purchase clothing and things from a second-hand store. Members took the children to the public library to borrow books and play at the playground. Karen and Pastor Rodriguez connected with the Plymouth Adventist Community Services to select items the families would need for their new place. An agency in Ann Arbor soon found apartments for the families.

A few events opened the door of trust between Karen and the refugee families. Through Google translate, Karen was able to take the Rwandan youth and the Afghani men to rake leaves at homes surrounding the Ann Arbor church.

Karen would knock on the door, introduce herself as a member of the Ann Arbor Adventist Church, and explain that the refugees wanted to rake leaves on a donation basis. The neighbors not only gave generous donations but brought out jackets, suits, winter shoes, hats, gloves, and good wishes for

their resettlement. The day was a blessing in many ways: the community became aware of the church's refugee ministry, and refugees earned money for needed items. Karen took the men out again when it snowed and offered to shovel for donations.

The refugees were very happy to receive compassion from the community as they served them, plus the side blessing of making an income. Karen told the refugees that those who live by the Word of God, especially Adventists, want to be blessings to others, even those not of the same faith.

Karen says: "I rejoice in the refugee ministry. The new Rwandan family started a Bible study twice weekly. We open the Scriptures and let the Holy Spirit move. If no translator is available, we use Google Translate.

"The seven young people have become enthusiastic and interested in the life of Christ Jesus. They said that their family is praying together every evening for worship now, and Jesus has become real to them.

"The Holy Spirit may not call us to go to Rwanda or Afghanistan as a missionary but, instead, brought them close to our home to share the love of Jesus and the gospel to preach." ■

*Karen Yang, a retired nurse, is Family Ministry director of the Ann Arbor Church. The church's refugee ministry was started three years ago and continues to grow, ministering to 12 Rwandans and 25 Afghans.*



▲ Karen Yang, Family Ministry director of the Ann Arbor Church, visited community houses with a group of refugee youth to rake leaves in exchange for donations.





▲ At a February 23 ceremony at the Ubyly high school, Vassar Church pastor Andrew Park (center) presented awards to two Ubyly high school students. Maze Gusa (left), 1st place winner for the oratorical contest, received a check for \$2,500. It so happens, her brother, Utah Guza (right), won second place in the video contest.

## Michigan church explores creative approach to temperance

In the neighborhood surrounding one Thumb Region church, it wasn't hard to find signs that things were heading in the wrong direction. An abandoned factory near the center of town was converted into a marijuana commerce park — complete with outdoor shopping, café, private smoking rooms and a cannabis beverage factory.

"The development of this large-scale-marijuana manufacturing and grow site, in a rural town like Vassar, right next to railway for quick movement of large quantities, says a lot," notes Vassar Church elder, Raymond Waller. Waller's interest in this unwelcomed facility was informed by his background as past CEO of an addiction hospital and past chair of the American Hospital Association's Governing Council for Psych and Substance Abuse Hospitals.

In 2018, Michigan voters legalized recreational use of marijuana, which followed the legalized delivery of alcohol by mail; since then, sales of these products have skyrocketed. For instance, sales of marijuana in Michigan last December alone topped \$135 million.

To counteract aggressive measures from the alcohol and marijuana industries, and out of a recognition of God's love for His children, the Vassar Church felt it had to respond.

"As Seventh-day Adventists, temperance should be in our DNA," explains Waller. "And knowing the downstream collateral damage that addictive substances inflict on communities and individual homes, the volume of our collective voice on this topic needs to increase in a marked way. Spirit of Prophecy tells us, 'Of all who claim to be numbered among the friends of temperance, Seventh-day Adventists should stand in the front ranks'" [*Review and Herald*, Oct. 15, 1914].

Starting with a small committee of five, organizers designed a simple poster for an essay and oratorical contest, targeting 7th- through 12th-graders across the region. Students would address the topic, "What negative health effects does marijuana and alcohol have on the brain and body?"

The idea quickly developed, gaining church support and several volunteers at other Thumb Region Adventist churches. They concluded that reaching young people was key, because through them their parents are also impacted. Thus, it made sense to allocate a portion of the church

evangelism budget — \$10,000 — for cash awards to the contest's winners.

To promote the contest, a group of church volunteers emailed every sheriff, mayor, city manager, judge, school principal, art teacher, English teacher and head librarian in Huron, Port Sanilac and Tuscola counties. In addition to the favorable responses from these community leaders, the connections provided an opportunity to introduce the Adventist churches to regional thought leaders.

At a ceremony at the Ubyly high school on February 23, Vassar Church pastor Andrew Park presented awards to two Ubyly high school students:

1st place winner for the oratorical contest was Ubyly High School senior, Maze Gusa. She received a check for \$2,500. (It so happens, her brother, Utah Guza, won second place in the video contest.)

1st place winner for the essay contest was Julian Gerstenberger, a homeschool student in the 8th grade. He received a check for \$1,500.

Now that the contest has ended, organizers are asking the question, "Where will we go from here?" They're considering holding the contest again next year. However, they're not merely wanting to promote their stance on temperance since the message of health is broad-based. To that end, they have partnered with an Adventist nonprofit called Lifestyle By Design Health ([www.lifestylebydesignhealth.org](http://www.lifestylebydesignhealth.org)) to distribute immune care boxes. "Our members are prayerfully giving boxes to neighbors, family and friends, with the intent of promoting strong immune health and educating on right health principals," says Waller.

They also are praying and fasting that the next time an announcement is made for an evangelistic harvesting series, the community will respond favorably. ■

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*Raymond Waller, elder of the Vassar Church with Lake Union Herald staff*



▲ After watching an evangelistic series via livestream on Green Bay's Facebook page, Darlene, Karen and Christopher were baptized by Pastor Cory Herthel.

## Wisconsin records uptick in baptisms

Wisconsin Conference, like so many other organizations, had big plans for evangelism in 2020. As the coronavirus lingered longer than anyone expected, conference leaders set their sights on 2022.

However, 2021, it turns out, was a banner year for baptisms. The number of baptisms, profession of faith and re-baptisms numbered 225 last year, the most in nine years.

Ministerial director Adam Case says this surprising record number of baptisms is proof that “God doesn’t need our plans to do big things.” He further explained that last year they didn’t spend anywhere near what they normally would for evangelism and were not even closely tracking baptism numbers. “Lo and behold, this just snuck upon us,” he said. “It just happened — with God’s people doing faithful work in a COVID environment.”

Case says that there are about 2,600 people in Wisconsin pews each Sabbath and the baptism numbers indicate a growth rate of eight percent, which is remarkable for a small conference.

Wisconsin Conference is the smallest of the Lake Union conferences,

with 63 churches and a membership of 7,798, as of June 20, 2021, according to [AdventistYearbook.org](http://AdventistYearbook.org).

With just a month into the new year, already 10 baptisms were recorded, including three family members who watched a sermon series via livestream on the Green Bay Church’s Facebook page and accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Here is their story, as told by Pastor Cory Herthel, and published on the Wisconsin Conference website (Feb. 3, 2022):

As plans came together for our fall 2021 revival series, we spent time praying that God would lead the right participants to us that were ready to hear these messages. We had no idea what attendance would be like given the culture that COVID-19 has produced. However, we decided not to focus on numbers. Instead, we focused on the mission and the message.

As we usually do, we livestreamed this service on the church’s Facebook page and prayed that God would reach as many as possible. And He did just that! As the series was drawing near to its end, we received a text message to our church’s phone number (we use MagicJack instead of traditional landline). The message read:

“Will Pastor Cory baptize me?” Since this message came from an unrecognized number to the church, we had no idea who it could be.

Within a day or two I called the number and on the other end was Karen. I told her that I was Pastor Cory and that I was thrilled to have received her message. We talked for a few minutes and right away she invited me to come for a visit and talk about her decision for baptism.

When I arrived at Karen’s home, I was also greeted by her mother, Phyllis, and sister-in-law, Darlene. During our visit, I learned that Phyllis had become an Adventist some years back when living out west and she had now introduced both her daughter and daughter-in-law to God’s Word, and they had been watching “End-Time Messages from Jesus” together on Facebook. Up to this point, neither Karen nor Darlene had attended the church in person. But they both had given their hearts to Jesus and made their decisions for baptism!

In addition to these two ladies making their decision, Darlene’s grandson, Christopher, also had made his decision for Jesus! What an awesome day this was. The Holy Spirit had touched three hearts and they reached out to us for baptism. After a few visits, these three were ready. We planned their special day for Sabbath, January 22. It turned out to be a beautiful celebration.

It is incredible to see how God’s hand works. So often we have no idea what is going on in the background of what we are doing in ministry. Even though we had a fairly steady in-person attendance during the series, God used the tool of technology to reach three people from a remote location. And we give Him all the praise for these souls won to Him through this witnessing on the web. ■

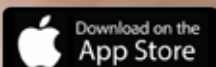
*Cory Herthel, with Lake Union Herald staff*

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[awr.org/apps](https://awr.org/apps)

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

## OBITUARIES

**ADEN, Verna L. (Ramage)**, age 88; born Nov. 12, 1933, in Perks, Ill.; died Jan. 29, 2022, in Anna, Ill. She was a member of the Marion Church in Marion, Ill. Survivors include her sons, Jeff (Sharon) Aden, Randy (Susan) Aden, Shaun (Kelly) Aden, Paul (Christine) Aden; sisters, Joann, Rita, Annie; nine grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren. Funeral services were held by Pastor Dale Barnhurst; interment in Meisenheimer Cemetery in Dongola, Ill.

**ALLEN, Lloyd E.**, age 93; born Aug. 11, 1928, in Whoop Up, Mo.; died Jan. 6, 2022, in Hendersonville, Tenn. He was a member of the Highland Church in Portland, Tenn. Survivors include his wife, Carolyne F. (Terry) Allen; son, Terry Allen; daughters, Linda (Larry) Ashcraft, Molly (Roger) Hainey; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Private inurnment. If you would like to send a card of sympathy or a gift in memoriam, please send it to 118 Highland Dr. Portland, TN 37148.

**BENDER, Marilyn G. (Neal)**, age 80; born July 28, 1941, in Columbus, Ohio; died Feb. 18, 2022, in Collegedale, Tenn. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include her husband, David Bender. A private graveside service was held at Collegedale Memorial Park in Tennessee; private inurnment.

**COPELAND, Linda L. (Thompson)**, age 74; born Jan. 24, 1947, in Terre Haute, Ind.; died Jan. 13, 2022, in Evansville, Ind. She was a member of the Lewis Church in Lewis, Ind. Survivors include her husband,

Wilbur L. Copeland; son, Mark Wayne Copeland; daughter, Tammy (Copeland) Null; father, Claude Leon Thompson; mother, Dorothy L. (Cutsinger) Thompson; sister, Brenda Sue Taylor; and six grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ken Olin; interment was in West Lawn Cemetery, Prairie Creek, Ind.

**LAMB, Sharon (McKeeby)**, age 82; born June 17, 1939, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; died Jan. 11, 2022, in Kalamazoo. She was a member of the Paw Paw Church in Paw Paw, Mich. Survivors include her sons, Dan (Kathy) Lamb, Kelly Lamb, Kenneth Lamb, John (Terri) Lamb; daughter, Cheryl (Lee) Forbes; 22 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held by Pastor Sean Reed with private interment at Fort Custer Cemetery in Battle Creek, Mich. Any gifts in memoriam may be sent in Sharon's memory to the Paw Paw Adventist Church Cornerstone Fund.

**RUSHER, Patricia (Lewis)**, age 79; born April 18, 1942, in Corvallis, Ore.; died Jan. 27, 2022, in Mishawaka, Ind. She was a member of the Niles Westside Church in Niles, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Max A. Rusher; daughters, Linda Munroe, Wendy Munroe; and one grandchild. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Paul Pellandini; inurnment held in Mission Hills Memorial Gardens in Niles. If you would like to send a card or gift, please send them to Wendy Munroe at 2621 Miars Drive Niles, MI 49120.

**SCHROEDER, Jessie L.**, age 94; born July 21, 1927, in LaValle, Wis.; died July

26, 2021, in Elk Park, N.C. She was a member of the Roan Mountain Church in Roan Mountain, Tenn. Survivors include her sons, Roger (Elaine) Schroeder, Ronald (Annette) Schroeder, Harold "Harry" Schroeder; daughter, Joanne (Bruce) White; 10 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren. Interment was held at the Oakland Adventist Church Cemetery in Wisconsin.

**SOWERS, Amma L. (Thomas)**, age 76; born March 24, 1945, in Hope, Mich.; died Jan. 16, 2022, in Tunnel Hill, Ga. She attended the Lewis Church in Lewis, Ind. Survivors include her husband, John R. Sowers; daughters, Leona R. (Sowers) Bange, Leanna R. (Sowers) Powers, Leta R. (Sowers) McCall, LeEtta R. (Sowers) Sandoya; father, Raymond A. Thomas; mother, Almira L. (Cole) Thomas; brothers, Clyde D. Thomas, Daniel D. Thomas, Olan B. Thomas; sisters, Kay C. (Thomas) Nelson, Nancy J. (Thomas) Sermersheim, Penny J. (Thomas) Galoviss, Grace (Thomas) Godfre; and 20 grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Ken Olin; private inurnment.

**STOCKWELL, Terry L.**, age 79; born July 11, 1942, in Plainwell, Mich.; died Jan. 2, 2022, in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was a member of the Kalamazoo Church in Kalamazoo. He is survived by his wife, Roberta (Roberts) Stockwell; daughters, Sheri (Tim) Castanon; Wendi (Jacob) Smith; foster child, Sara (Stofer) McGruder; and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held with a graveside service at Hillside Cemetery in Plainwell, Mich.

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>.

**APRIL 8–9, 2022 — 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR MILWAUKEE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL (f/k/a MJA).** All are welcome to attend. Speaker: Pastor Debbie Rivera. Celebration will be held at 1090 W. Mill Road, Milwaukee, WI 53225. Please RSVP at [milwaukeeedschool.org](http://milwaukeeedschool.org).

**APRIL 22–23 — BROADVIEW ACADEMY 2022 REUNION.** Mark your calendars and tell your classmates. Friday 7:30 p.m., Sabbath 9:30 a.m., and 2:30 p.m., at North Aurora SDA Church, 950 Mooseheart, North Aurora, IL. Lunch is served. Please bring a dish to share.

**MARCH 31–APRIL 3 — SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY ALUMNI:** You are invited to attend our annual Homecoming Weekend. There's No Place Like Home! For more information and to RSVP and register for the different events, visit [www.swau.edu/homecoming](http://www.swau.edu/homecoming).

**LEGAL NOTICE: The 23rd business session of the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich., on May 15, 2022.** The first meeting of the session will convene at 9:00 a.m. on May 15. This session is being held for the purpose of receiving reports for the six-year period ending December 31, 2021; the election of officers, associate treasurers, departmental directors, associate directors, and executive committee for the ensuing five years; to consider proposed constitutional changes; and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Ken Denslow, president  
Elden Ramirez, secretary

**JUNE 3–5 — "YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION** is back for the alumni and schoolmates of 1972 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Because we have missed the past two years, the Honor classes this year include: 1940–1942, 1950–1952, 1960–1962, 1970–1972. Details will be sent by mail to all alumni. You may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or <http://www.glaa.net>.

**LEGAL NOTICE: Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventist—Notice is hereby given that the regular Quadrennial Session of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday, July 17, 2022,** beginning at 9:00 a.m., E.D.T., at Camp Wagner, Cassopolis, Michigan. The purpose of the session is to elect officers and departmental directors for the ensuing term and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates to this 29th Quadrennial Session are duly appointed representatives

of the various churches of the conference. Each church is entitled to one delegate for each 35 members or major fraction thereof.  
Garth Gabriel, president  
Julius R. Everett Sr., secretary

**LEGAL NOTICE: Lake Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventist—Notice is hereby given that the regular Quadrennial Session of the members of the Lake Region Conference Association of Seventh-Day Adventists, Inc., a corporation, will be held on Sunday, July 17, 2022,** in connection with the 29th session of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at Camp Wagner, Cassopolis, Michigan. The first meeting of the Association will be called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m., E.D.T. The purpose of the meeting is to restate and amend the articles of incorporation and bylaws, to elect trustees for the ensuing term, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates from the churches in attendance at the 29th Quadrennial Session of the Lake Region Conference comprise the constituency of the association.

Garth Gabriel, president  
Julius R. Everett Sr., secretary

## Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:12	8:19	8:27	8:35	8:43
Chicago, Ill.	7:17	7:25	7:32	7:40	7:48
Detroit, Mich.	7:59	8:07	8:15	8:22	8:30
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:10	8:17	8:24	8:31	8:38
La Crosse, Wis.	7:33	7:41	7:49	7:58	8:06
Lansing, Mich.	8:05	8:13	8:21	8:29	8:37
Madison, Wis.	7:25	7:33	7:41	7:49	7:57
Springfield, Ill.	7:23	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:52



## ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

### GENERAL EVENTS

**April 10–11:** *April Preview*

**April 15, 1:30–5:30 p.m.:** *Honors Thesis Symposium, Buller Hall*

### 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).*

**April 1, 7 p.m.:** *Collegedale Academy Concert*

**April 3, 4 p.m.:** *Sunday Music Series: Andrews University Composers*

**April 10, 7 p.m.:** *Watchmen Concert*

**April 15, 7 p.m.:** *Andrews University Singers Easter Tenebrae Concert*

**April 23, 8:30 p.m.:** *Andrews University Wind Symphony Spring Concert*

**April 24, 4 p.m.:** *Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra Concert*

## ILLINOIS

**April 1–3:** *ACF Retreat / Hi-C Retreat, TBD*

**April 9–16:** *Hispanic Metropolitan Evangelism, various Area 6 churches*

**April 29–May 1:** *Pathfinder Spring Camporee, Camp Akita*

**April 30:** *Youth Event, Naperville Community Christian Church*

**April 30:** *Hispanic Women's Retreat, Naperville Community Christian Church*

## INDIANA

**March 30–April 18:** *Ignite Indiana Evangelistic Meetings, Local Churches*

**April 29–May 1:** *2022 Pathfinder Fair, Timber Ridge Camp*

**April 30–May 1:** *Ignite Indiana: Hispanic*

## LAKE REGION

**April 1–3:** *RESTORED: Virtual Mental Health Symposium*

**April 2:** *Chicagoland Youth Federation, Commsummit I Comunicaciones*

**April 5–9:** *Adventist Community Services Convention*

**April 8:** *LRC Health & Wellness Ministries, "On the Couch with Dr. Kim"*

**April 8–9:** *Motor City Youth Federation*

**April 9:** *Motor City Evangelism Rally, Evangelismo Semanario*

**April 10–16:** *Evangelismo Semana Santa*

**April 10–23:** *Motor City Evangelism*

**April 16:** *SAL Seminario Adventista Laico*

**April 23–30:** *Evangelismo Ministerio Caballeros*

**April 29–May 18:** *Indy-area Evangelistic Meetings (various locations)*

**April 30:** *Retiro Damas*

## MICHIGAN

**April 1–3:** *Hispanic Marriage Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

**April 8–10:** *Women's Ministry Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

**April 15–17:** *Women's Ministry Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

**April 29–May 1:** *Marriage Commitment Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

## WISCONSIN

**March 31–April 2:** *Wisconsin Academy Music Festival*

**April 2:** *Mad About Marriage, Sun Prairie, WI*

**April 8–9:** *50th Anniversary Celebration, Milwaukee Adventist School*

## LAKE UNION

**April 9:** *Children's Leadership Conference*

**April 14–21:** *Pathway to Health Mega-Health Clinic, Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis*

**April 15–16:** *Pathfinder Bible Experience Division Level, Eugene, OR*

**April 29–30:** *ASI Lake Union Spring Fellowship, Benton Harbor/St. Joseph, MI*

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>.

**REAL ESTATE**

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

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**EMPLOYMENT**

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**CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS  
APRIL**

- April 2** Local Church Budget
- April 9** Hope Channel International, Inc. (GC)
- April 16** Local Church Budget
- April 23** Local Conference Advance
- April 30** Local Church Budget



**EXPLORE OUR GROWING COLLECTION OF  
ADVENTIST RESOURCES**

The Adventist Digital Library exists to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world through free online access to Adventist historical and contemporary resources. Visit us to discover magazines, books, photographs, and more.

<https://adventistdigitallibrary.org/>





## Welcome to the Annual *Lake Union Herald* Readership Survey!

This is your opportunity to share your opinions and suggestions so the *Herald* magazine can best serve your interests. Your responses will help us gain a clearer understanding of what you expect to see in these pages and assist us in producing a magazine that is a better reflection of interests and concerns to our readers.

### How often do you typically read an issue?

Every  Most  Occasionally  Never

### How much of each magazine do you read?

All  Most  Some  None

### How long do you keep an issue?

>1 mo.  <1 mo.  1 wk.  Discard

### Total minutes reading each issue?

60+  30-60  10-30  0-10

### If additional content is available online only, how likely are you to go to the website to read it?

Not  Some  Moderately  Very

### Using either the list below, the Table of Contents (on p. 3) or by flipping through the magazine, please answer the questions that follow:

**Feature articles** which focus on a particular theme or topic for that issue

**Perspectives** (editorial, Lest We Forget, Conversations with God, Conexiones, One Voice)

**Evangelism** (Sharing Our Hope, Telling God's Stories, Partnership with God, On the Edge)

**Lifestyle** (Family Focus, Alive & Well)

**Current Matters** (AdventHealth, Andrews University, other News stories, Calendar of Events, Mileposts, Classifieds)

### What type of articles would you like more of?

### What article(s) do you *Always* read?

### What article(s) do you *Never* read?

### In general, the articles should be (*check one*):

Shorter  Longer  Remain Same

### On a scale of 1-10, how valuable is the content to you?

In your opinion, how can we improve that value?

### What article topic would you consider to be the most memorable in the last year?

### What do you like the most about the magazine?

### What do you like the least about the magazine?

### Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest?

### Do you subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter?

Yes  No

Please sign me up (*provide info. below*)

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

### Please rate the quality of the current *Herald* magazine on the following:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	No opinion
Content						
Cover						
Readability						
Design						
Photography						
Writing						

### Of what conference are you a member?

Ind.  Ill.  Mich.  Lake Region  
 Wis.  None  Other

### What is your age? under 25

25-34  35-49  50-64  65+

### What is your gender? Male Female

### Please mail completed survey by

**July 31, 2022, to:** *Lake Union Herald*,  
P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Or, go online to fill out the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSG5MCW>

Or, scan this QR code.



Watch for survey results in the October issue of the *Herald*.

Thank you for your time and support in completing this survey.

**Readers** - Return your survey **TODAY** to be included in a drawing for a \$50 gift card at Amazon.



# Budgeting Basics

In the last month's article ("Living in the Rainy Day"), we discussed the importance of saving, becoming financially prepared for the unexpected.

One major aspect of financial preparation is *budgeting*. Yes, the word can spark an initial negative reaction. However, this article will provide a positive perspective on how budgeting is not only impactful but also inspirational.

A budget can be defined as an itemized estimate of expected income and expenses for a given period. It's also described as an amount of money available for spending that is based on a plan for how it will be spent. The purpose is to provide you with a visualized balanced blueprint of how to care for life's expenses with income that is received on a monthly or annual basis. By detailing items, you can gain a better understanding of your financial picture and how to manage it. A simple and effective budget can be created with three steps.

**Set a financial goal:** Determining your purpose for establishing a budget and how it can benefit you, will support the decisions made for future financial endeavors. This includes paying off debt, buying a house or car, saving for retirement or the overall improvement of managing funds.

**Create separate categories** for the following:

- **Monthly Income:** Consider monthly income as any amount of money that you receive consistently each month. Only account for funds received after taxes (net pay). You can also include funds received quarterly by calculating the amount to derive at a monthly figure.
- **Tithes and Offerings:** Tithes and offerings should be the first category of deductions and listed separately. Writing this on paper visibly demonstrates giving God your first fruit. While separating

this item may not seem like a necessary action, spiritually, you will experience a transformational difference. Be amazed just how God blesses you by giving faithfully.

- **Monthly Expenses:** Expenses most likely will be the lengthiest category. Examples include housing, transportation expenses, utilities, food, childcare or school, personal upkeep expenses, etc. First, create subcategories of general expenses. Then list the specific expense under the corresponding subcategory. All monthly expenses should be notated, regardless of the amount. Listing individually will provide prompt recognition of any excess spending.
- **Savings:** It is important to set aside funds for savings. Saving could be for an emergency fund, personal, an event or funds for retirement. As discussed in the previous article, consider reducing expenses to have an adequate savings.

**Calculate and Evaluate:** After recording all income, expenses and savings, calculate each category. Thereafter, subtract total expenses from total income. The final number may surprise you, whether good or bad. Nevertheless, this is your opportunity to evaluate and make any necessary adjustments.

Proverbs 21:5 (RSV) states, *the plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want*. Be diligent and take the significant step towards establishing financial stability for the present and future. Creating a budget is life-changing. Try it and see! You can see a sample budget at [www.lakeunion.org/directory/departments/stewardship](http://www.lakeunion.org/directory/departments/stewardship). ■

*Jermaine Jackson is the Lake Union Conference associate treasurer and Stewardship director.*



▲ Jermaine Jackson

# All in God's Time

**I GREW UP VERY POOR IN KENYA.** My parents, five siblings and I often didn't know where our next meal was coming from. My mother, a mighty prayer warrior, would set out in faith to find us food. She never returned home from the market empty-handed.

My grandparents were among their village's first converts to Seventh-day Adventism. I resolved at a young age to serve Jesus. After finishing high school, I decided to become a pastor. I applied to study at Andrews University. I was overjoyed when I was accepted, but my dreams were soon dashed. Twice the embassy denied me a student visa.

Devastated by this setback, I ran away from home. While traveling to Tanzania, my cell phone and all my cash were stolen. Penniless and hungry, I prayed, "Lord, I have forsaken You many times, but please don't forsake me."

While on the bus to Tanzania, I struck up a conversation with a Muslim man sitting next to me. This "good Samaritan" shared his food, took me to his home in the capital city of Tanzania, and gave me food and shelter for several weeks while I searched for work. He also counselled me and helped me to contact my family. My mother pleaded with me to come home. I decided to honor her wishes.

As I was thinking about all of my setbacks, I recalled a near fatal accident I had experienced when I was seven years old. I had fallen from the terrace of my family's third-story apartment. The doctors didn't think I would survive but, with many prayers and much care, I was healed. My mother insisted, "Son, God has saved you for a purpose." Recalling my mother's words reignited my desire to become a pastor.

Although I had experienced some backsliding in my teenage years, I was beginning to understand the words, *Wait on the Lord* (Psalms 27:14). Still nursing the disappointment of not being able to study at Andrews University, I applied to Spicer Memorial College in India. I was accepted, moved there, and earned my degree. Following graduation, I served as a missionary in the Philippines, South Korea and Laos.

I still desired more training, however. I longed to be a more effective minister for Jesus. I applied to Andrews University again, was accepted, and this time was granted the necessary student visa. I am now studying in the University's Master of Divinity program with a concentration in chaplaincy. I see now that by waiting on the Lord, I was able to gain valuable experience in missions. While in the Philippines, I also met the woman who would become my wife. Samantha and I have been blessed with two sons, Zachary and Zayin.

Scripture tells us that Lazarus waited in the tomb for four days before Jesus came to him and raised him to new life. Those four days of waiting for Jesus probably seemed like an eternity to Lazarus' family. I waited fifteen years for a student visa and the life-changing experience of studying at Andrews University. Waiting for Jesus to bring me here sometimes felt like an eternity, too, but I see now that God is always faithful, and

always on time—His time. ■




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*Timothy Omwega received a full scholarship to Luther Seminary in Minneapolis where he earned a master's degree in Children, Youth and Family Ministries. He's now pursuing a second master's at Andrews University. Edited by Beverly Matiko.*

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

◀ Timothy Omwega

# Finding the Missing Piece

## IT ALL STARTED DURING JOSHUA AHN'S COLLEGE SOPHOMORE YEAR WHEN HE DECIDED TO SERVE IN A LEPROSY COLONY IN CHINA.

At the time, he did not know just how much of an impact this mission trip would have on his life.

Joshua Ahn was born and raised in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "Throughout my childhood, I was blessed with parents, teachers . . . and mentors that helped me grow and develop my faith," he explained. His experience was better than he could have asked for, but there was still a missing piece—what his faith meant to him.

While Ahn was trying to decide his career path, he was drawn to medicine. "I wanted to be a doctor because I thought it would be the most effective way for me to help people," he recounted. While he believed this was God's will for his life, he had never thought to consult Him regarding the matter. Ahn pursued pre-medical education for two years. During the summer after his sophomore year of college, he was granted the opportunity to serve as a missionary in the leprosy colonies of China for two months.

While in China, Ahn realized he couldn't rely on anyone except God. "I went through experiences that called me to rely fully

on God for the first time in my life . . . .

I realized that I didn't know God but, most importantly, I realized that I had no idea how much God wanted to know *me!*" By serving God and others in tangible ways, he tasted the joy of serving those around him. "I was convicted by Isaiah 58, declaring that the "true fast" is to serve the poor and the needy, that this was the service that was truly acceptable to God." He was so deeply convicted that he extended his time of service to a full year! "I want to continue experiencing the sweet love of Christ in my life and share it with as many people as I can, wherever I am, and whatever I do," Ahn said.

After Ahn returned to the United States, he felt convicted to change his major to Education and serve in full-time ministry with CAMPUS. Ahn also has served as Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC)'s treasurer and is currently GYC's vice president of Programming. He believes God has been orchestrating every step of his life. "I would not have it any other way because, just as Abraham knew when he was leaving his homeland, I, too, believe that the happiest place in this life is where God would have me to be." ■

*Samuel Girven, 15, is a student at Northview Adventist School and ASPIRE Academy.*



Joe Lee

◀ Joshua Ahn

Visit [LakeUnionHerald.org](http://LakeUnionHerald.org)

# Lake Union HERALD

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 Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index



**INDIANA  
ADVENTIST  
BOOK  
CENTER**

The tradition continues as Seventh-day Adventists celebrate their heritage and their faith at Lake Union Camp Meetings!

Indiana Adventist Book Center will be serving the Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin locations this June. In addition to our general inventory, you can also look forward to books and materials available that coordinate with key speakers and seminar presenters.



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**INDIANA CAMP MEETING**  
JUNE 13 - 18 (HOURS EST)

M - Th	June 13-16	9:00 am – 7:00 pm
M - Th Evenings	June 13-16	8:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Friday	June 17	9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Sabbath	June 18	9:30 pm – 11:00 pm
Sunday	June 19	9:00 am – 3:00 pm

**MICHIGAN CAMP MEETING**  
JUNE 10 - 18 (HOURS EST)

Friday	June 10	12 pm – 5:00 pm
Sabbath	June 11	9:30 pm – 11:00 pm
Sunday Sale	June 12	9:00 am
M - Th	June 13-16	9:00 am – 7:00 pm
Sun - Th Evenings	June 12-16	8:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Friday	June 17	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sabbath	June 18	9:30 pm – 11:00 pm

**WISCONSIN CAMP MEETING**  
JUNE 10 - 18 (HOURS CST)

Friday	June 10	10:00 am – 5:30 pm
Sabbath	June 11	9:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Sunday Sale	June 12	9:00 am Pioneer Pavilion
Sun - Th	June 12-16	10:00 am – 5:30 pm
Sun - Th Evenings	June 12-16	9:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Friday	June 17	10:00 am – 5:30 pm
Sabbath	June 18	9:00 pm – 10:00 pm

