

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

# HERALD

JUNE/JULY 2022

## Feel Whole

CHURCH MISSION DRIVES  
ADVENTHEALTH PROMISE

ILLINOIS MEMBERS  
ILLINOIS FOCUS  
INSIDE

# Ministry of Healing

At the end of the Pathway to Health appreciation dinner program, as hundreds of volunteers made their way out of the room, Dr. Miriam Morgan-Skinner began telling me about a refugee she had cared for earlier that day. He had told her this was his first time being seen by a doctor in 10 years. Laying there on a cot in the makeshift clinic in the Lucas Oil Stadium, pulling his hat over his face to shield himself from the overhead lights, he made a curious statement about rest: “This is the most rest I have had in years.” Rest. What had he experienced which made rest so elusive? I can only imagine.

As I thought of this mega-clinic run by 2,500 volunteers, serving over 4,000 people in four days this April, I couldn't help but praise God for the impact He was making through His church. This innovative event had served as a beacon of hope in this increasingly dark world—providing care for the sick, the suffering, the ones Matthew 25:40 refers to as *‘the least of these,’* the ones that Galatians 6:2 counsels that we carry their burdens and in so doing fulfill the law of God.

The importance of health and ministry has loomed large in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist

Church in the Lake Union. Next June marks 160 years since Ellen White had a vision in Otsego, Michigan, where she was shown that a healthy lifestyle provided the “best condition for the highest service to God and man.”

It was here in our region, too, that the Battle Creek sanitarium opened its doors to patients, eventually leading to the formation of one of the largest healthcare providers in the U.S. today. That system, now known as AdventHealth, operates 51 hospitals nationwide. In our region, one hospital is in Durand, Wisconsin (operates as part of the Mid-American Union), and four are located in the Chicago area: Bolingbrook, Glendale Heights, Hinsdale and La Grange. The focus of this month's *Herald* is on the noble work of AdventHealth as it extends the healing ministry of Christ.

*Debbie*

Debbie Michel  
Editor, *Lake Union Herald*

P.S. Time is running out to take our survey, found on p. 33. We value your input and thank you for your time in helping to shape your publication.



**Download the *Herald* to your mobile device!**

Samuel Girven



◀ *The Herald* team, along with Lake Union executive secretary El-den Ramirez, broadcast live each day from the Pathway to Health clinic in Indianapolis. You can watch the reports on [www.youtube.com/LakeUnionHerald](http://www.youtube.com/LakeUnionHerald).

# CONTENTS

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Guest Editorial	4
Lest We Forget	8
Conexiones	9
Conversations With God	40
Partnership With God	41
One Voice	42, 43

## EVANGELISM

Telling God's Stories	10, 12
-----------------------	--------

## LIFESTYLE

Family Focus	6
Alive & Well	7

## CURRENT MATTERS

AdventHealth	24
Andrews University	25
News	26
Annual Readership Survey	33
Mileposts	34
Classifieds	36
Calendar of Events	38

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## FEATURES

16

**Faces of Mission  
AdventHealth Team Members  
Are Faces of Mission**

*By Julie Busch*

20

**The AdventHealth Brand  
as an Expression  
of Seventh-day  
Adventist Meaning**

*By Garrett Caldwell*

# Coming Home

On the morning of April 1, 2022, staff members of AdventHealth's four suburban Chicago hospitals walked into work on red carpets, many smiling and rejoicing as the hospitals celebrated the start of a new day as AdventHealth Hinsdale, AdventHealth Bolingbrook, AdventHealth La Grange and AdventHealth GlenOaks.



▲ Thor Thordarson

This memorable “Go-Live Day” culminated months of preparations after AdventHealth and Ascension announced last October that they planned to unwind AMITA Health, the seven-year-old joint operating company that included four AdventHealth and 14 Ascension hospitals.

It was inspiring to see everyone so excited about our health system's future, and it was heartwarming to hear so many team members talking joyfully about the opportunity to bring the brand promise of AdventHealth to life. Their energy was palpable, and their joy reminded me of how special it is to belong to an organization whose mission is Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.

Our team members are committed to achieving this mission by providing exceptional, whole-person care for patients and their families, while also caring for each other. Their commitment radiates

across our hospitals, creating a warm, welcoming and compassionate environment that makes a lasting impression on the people we serve.

On Go-Live Day, we wanted to celebrate our team members for their tireless commitment to our mission, including their heroic efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are the lifeblood of our organization and, by celebrating them, we wanted to underscore our renewed commitment to caring for them and making sure they have everything they need to take great care of our patients and the communities we serve.

It took a monumental team effort to arrive at this new day, and I'm deeply grateful to all our team members for their hard work, patience and perseverance during our transition from being part of AMITA to returning fully to AdventHealth. Everyone played a vital role in the



transition, from those directly involved in the unwinding process to those focused primarily on patient care.

We learned many valuable lessons during our time as AMITA. We confronted the challenges presented by the pandemic and faced the intensely competitive Chicago healthcare market. Although our organizations have gone separate ways, I have no doubt that the many professional relationships and friendships formed during our association will endure.

As we move forward as AdventHealth, we plan to focus squarely on mission-driven strategic priorities. This includes caring for our caregivers holistically, working to engage physicians by involving them in strategic decision-making, growing our inpatient and outpatient volumes, fostering collaboration among our ministries, and exploring opportunities to work with other health systems and

physician groups to achieve our growth objectives.

We also want to reconnect with our local communities, reaching out to local churches and schools to bring our message of wellness and nutrition to these groups. We want everyone to know that, while our name has changed, the outstanding care that we provide remains. Our mission has not changed—we all are committed to extending the healing ministry of Christ, now more than ever.

With the talents, energy and commitment of our teams, and with the resources of AdventHealth behind us, I have every confidence that we will realize our strategic objectives, better serve our hospitals' communities, and realize the bright future we envision for our organization. It's a new day at AdventHealth for the Great Lakes Region! ■

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*Thor Thordarson is president and CEO for the Great Lakes Region of AdventHealth.*

▲ The memorable "Go-Live Day" culminated months of preparations after AdventHealth and Ascension announced last October that they planned to unwind AMITA Health, the seven-year-old joint operating company that included four AdventHealth and 14 Ascension hospitals.

# When Your Aging Parents Resist Your Help

Her husband had recently died unexpectedly. Her own health had been deteriorating for some time.



▲ Alina Baltazar

A son, who lives nearby, worries about her memory and isn't sure she can be left alone. She wants to stay in her home since she is very active in her church. Her son works so isn't always around to make sure she's safe. Her younger son, who lives on the other side of the country, wants to make sure mom is safe so is pressuring her older son to make sure that happens. This situation is very overwhelming for her son.

Does this predicament sound familiar? As a clinical social worker, I have seen these types of scenarios often and it can be a real struggle for the aging parent and their adult children. There are some things you will want to keep in mind as you navigate these difficult waters.

## Be Patient

As we age, there are bound to be major changes with our health or loss of a spouse. Some of these changes are sudden. Finding solutions often isn't easy. When a person has lived in a home and a community for many years, it is scary to think of moving away from them, even if it is to be near family where better care can be provided. If your loved one has the mental capacity to be alone and make decisions, give them time to do so. Pushing someone into a decision before they are ready to increase their safety can worsen their health due to the stress.

## Work Together to Solve Problems

Although you may think you know what is best for your parent, s/he is still an adult and accustomed to managing his/her own affairs. It is a difficult transition from being the parent to being cared for by your children. My grandmother was diagnosed with colon cancer in her mid-80s. Although her kids wanted her to get surgery, chemo and radiation to fight the cancer, she wanted to live her last

months on this earth without the misery of cancer treatments. Respecting her wishes, her kids worked with her to make sure she had the care she needed in her last days by taking turns to care for her in her own home.

## Accept Them for Who They Are

As we age, our priorities may change. If dementia sets in, we may change completely. When I worked in a nursing home, there was a man with dementia who had been happily married start a relationship with another woman at the nursing home. Your parents may date people or do things you don't approve of, like you may have done when you were young. Wise financial decisions and safety may not be their priority.

## Let Go; Let God

This is my favorite phrase I learned from a client. There are so many things we try to control in this sinful world but, because of sin, it is just impossible. Your parents are going to age; they are going to get sick. You may want to care for them, but sometimes you just aren't able to, or they resist your care. There are many options, but most aren't ideal. This is when we need to turn to our heavenly Father and let Him take control, like we eventually realize we have to do with our own children. If you are concerned your parent is suffering from dementia and is not competent to make wise decisions, there are legal options.

For additional information and support check out this website: Better Health While Aging <https://betterhealthwhileaging.net/recommended-resources-family-caregivers-month/>. ■

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

# Embracing Health and Life

*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* John 10:10

People often think that advances in medicine must be a new drug, a new laser or a surgical intervention to be powerful—something really high tech and expensive. They often have a hard time believing that the simple choices we make in our lives each day—what we eat and drink, how we respond to stress, whether or not we smoke, how much we exercise and rest, and the quality of our relations with God and our fellow men—can make such a powerful difference in our health, our wellbeing and our survival.

When we become more aware of how powerful our choices in the food we eat and lifestyle affect us—for better or for worse, then we can make changes. It's like connecting the dots. Once we are aware and understand the benefits of whole, plant-based food, we are not afraid to make big changes in our lives. Statistics show “as many as six percent of U.S. consumers say they are vegan—a 6x (500%) increase compared to just one percent in 2014.”<sup>1</sup>

With each succeeding year, scientific research examining the link between diet and disease strengthens the argument in favor of plant-centered diets. Governments and health organizations around the world have begun promoting plant-based diets as supportive to human health. Evidence confirming the nutritional adequacy of well-planned vegetarian and plant-based diets has become too overwhelming to refute.

Dr. Mervyn Hardinge, the founding dean of the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University, has broad-based experience in the field of pharmacology, nutrition and health. He stated, “Attitude toward vegetarian diets have progressed

from ridicule and skepticism to condescending tolerance, to gradual and sometimes grudging acceptance, and finally to acclaim.”<sup>2</sup>

Why is that? In this advanced scientific age, people have become more aware that medicine is not giving total wellness or complete healing disease, but only managing symptoms. It is well documented that lifestyle diseases, including Type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, coronary artery disease, and other chronic diseases, often can be reversed by making lifestyle changes. How? By implementing a whole plant-based diet, predominantly made up of whole grains, fruits, vegetables, legumes, unrefined foods and nuts.

But what if you know how to take care of your health but haven't brought people to the Water of Life? You are missing the key point.

I remember the story of Samaritan woman in John 4. When Jesus sat down by Jacob's well, the Samaritan woman came seeking physical water. As she rushed back to town, forgetting her water pot, she carried with her the Living Water which gushes forth unto eternal life.

Let's give people more than the temporal benefits of embracing their health. Let's share with them, too, the Greatest Treasure, which is Jesus. ■



▲ Yin Schaff

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#### Sources:

<sup>1</sup>Report Buyer. *Agribusiness. Top Trends in Prepared Foods 2017: Exploring trends in meat, fish and seafood; pasta, noodles and rice; prepared meals; savory deli food; soup; and meat substitutes.* <http://www.reportbuyer.com/product/4959853>. June 2017.

<sup>2</sup>*American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 70, Issue 3, Sept. 1999, p 432.

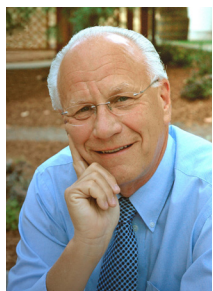
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Yin Schaff, MS, CNP, is the Wisconsin Conference Health Ministries leader.

# Education Evangelism

*So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

Genesis 1:27 RSV



▲ George R. Knight

Ellen White's book *Education* takes the topic of pedagogy out of the realm of the mundane and transfers it to a crucial issue in the great controversy.

On its second page, it provides Adventist education with its ultimate purpose. "In order to understand what is comprehended in the work of education," we read, "we need to consider both (1) the nature of man and (2) the purpose of God in creating him. We need to consider also (3) the change in man's condition through the coming in of a knowledge of evil, and (4) God's plan for still fulfilling His glorious purpose in the education of the human race" (*Ed.* 14, 15).

At that point, the book begins to treat these four points, indicating that (1) God created human beings in His image to be like Him, and (2) that they had infinite potential.

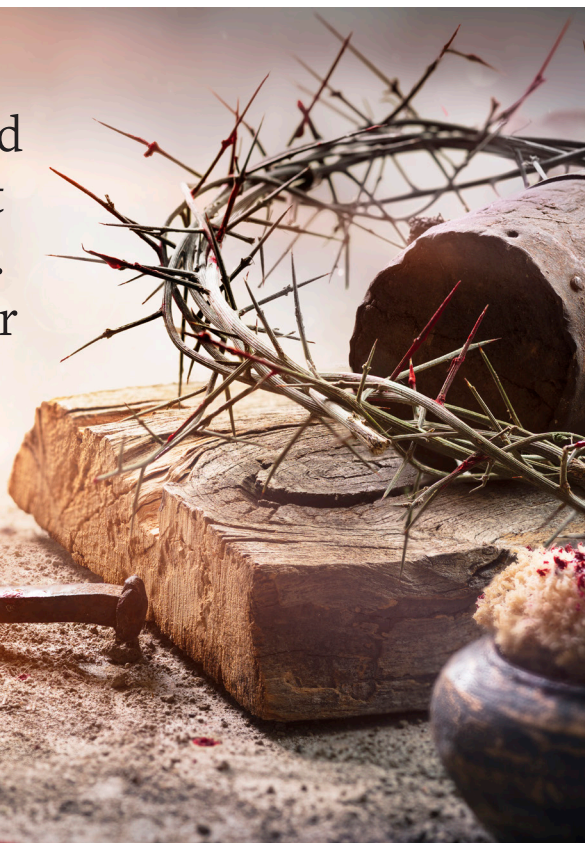
Next, it gets very specific and quite pertinent to the human situation. "But (3) by disobedience this was forfeited. Through sin the divine likeness was marred, and well-nigh obliterated. Man's physical powers were weakened, his mental capacity was lessened, his spiritual vision dimmed. He had become subject to death. (4) Yet the race was not left without hope. By infinite love and mercy the plan of salvation had been devised, and a life of probation was granted. To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of life" (*ibid.*, 15, 16).

Later in the book, Ellen White puts it even more bluntly when she notes that individuals "can find help in but one power. That power is Christ. Cooperation with that power is man's greatest need. In all educational effort should not this cooperation be the highest aim? . . . In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one." The "teacher's first effort and his constant aim" is to introduce students to Jesus and His principles (*ibid.*, 29, 30). ■

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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 312. Reprinted with permission.*

"We can find help in but one power. That power is Christ."





# Una experiencia inolvidable

*“Se le acercó mucha gente que traía consigo cojos, ciegos, mudos, mancos y otros muchos enfermos. Los pusieron a los pies de Jesús, y los sanó; de manera que la multitud se maravillaba al ver que los mudos hablaban, los mancos quedaban sanos, los cojos andaban y los ciegos veían. Y glorificaban al Dios de Israel” (Mateo 15:30-31).*

En los años que he trabajado como ministro del evangelio, una de las experiencias más inolvidables para mí ha sido, sin duda alguna, participar en el ministerio llamado *Pathway to Health*. Este ministerio ofrece una gran variedad de servicios sociales en forma gratuita y tiene el apoyo de la División Norteamericana de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día. Ofrece también ayuda médica, por ejemplo, ayuda dental, de la vista y terapias diversas. Este gran evento se llevó a cabo del domingo 16 de abril hasta el miércoles 20 de abril de este año. Gracias a Dios más de 2.000 personas ofrecieron sus recursos y dieron su tiempo para ayudar a más de 4.000 personas.

Este evento me hace recordar el relato bíblico en el que nuestro Señor Jesús visitó un lugar donde los habitantes eran mayormente gentiles. Lo que me encanta de este relato son las palabras siguientes: “la multitud se maravillaba al ver que los mudos hablaban, los mancos quedaban sanos, los cojos andaban y los ciegos veían. Y glorificaban al Dios de Israel”. Trato de imaginar lo que sentían aquellas personas al ver cómo sanaba Jesús las distintas enfermedades, y cómo estas personas no judías “glorificaban al Dios de Israel”. En otras palabras todos estaban sumamente agradecidos.

El primer día del evento me encontré con un caballero musulmán que había ido por problemas en la dentadura. Ese día había llegado tanta gente que no fue posible atenderlo. Tuvimos que pedirle que viniera

el día siguiente a las 6:00 de la mañana para poder ser atendido. El señor musulmán se veía desesperado. Me dijo que tenía que trabajar pues en su empleo no le darían permiso para volver al día siguiente. Al ver su reacción le recomendé que le mostrara el volante de *Pathway to Health* a su supervisor y que le explicara que el evento no se repetiría y que realmente estaba necesitado del servicio de un dentista. Luego oré con él pidiéndole a Dios que le diera compasión a su supervisor. Al día siguiente me dio mucho gusto ver a este hombre reclinado en la silla de examen listo para recibir su tratamiento. Al conversar más tarde con él me explicó que el dentista que lo atendió le dijo que había resultado mejor que volviese la mañana siguiente pues el tratamiento que necesitaba requería más tiempo del que disponían la noche anterior. Le respondí: “Praise God!”, y él contestó: “I am so thankful for Pathway to Health!”

No tengo duda alguna que muchos, tanto voluntarios como pacientes, se fueron sumamente agradecidos. Durante los cuatro días que se realizó *Pathway to Health* la Iglesia Adventista hizo un impacto visible en la ciudad de Indianapolis. Muchas personas se fueron sonrientes. Mi pedido es que la semilla que se sembró durante esos cuatro días dé fruto y muchas almas entreguen sus vidas a Cristo y se unan al pueblo remanente. ■



▲ Carmelo Mercado

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

# Letting Good Deeds Shine

By Mark Bondarenko

**YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD—LIKE A CITY ON A HILLTOP THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN. NO ONE LIGHTS A LAMP AND THEN PUTS IT UNDER A BASKET. INSTEAD, A LAMP IS PLACED ON A STAND, WHERE IT GIVES LIGHT TO EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE. IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR GOOD DEEDS SHINE OUT FOR ALL TO SEE, SO THAT EVERYONE WILL PRAISE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER. MATTHEW 5:14-16 NLT**

If my family had a motto, it would be very simple: *Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.* Many of us heard this text more than once, but my parents insisted that both my brother and I memorize it and live by it. When my father passed away early, the Heavenly Father became even more relevant in our family. Being all alone in a new city, my mother was determined to continue her commitment to church music ministry, and I grew up in choir practice.

*Let your light shine* took on many different definitions as I learned the real meaning of those words for a follower of Christ. Surrounded by the influence of social media and a culture of instant gratification, it is easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Jesus' appeal to His followers. What does it mean to "*let your light shine*" in your day-to-day life? The more important question is how to remember the second part of the appeal: *so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father!*

As a child, I always wondered why adults liked to reminisce about the past so much, especially the time when there were no worries, no problems to deal with, and when everything was taken care of by those who had their best interests in mind. Being the light was so much easier! As adults we face uncertainty every day. Our lives are overwhelmed with demands, accountabilities, strategic priorities and a never-ending flow of information. Being pulled in different directions can be very frustrating and finding the courage to be the light for others often gets put on the back burner of our priorities.

Yet, His appeal is still relevant for us today! In my life's journey I discovered the work that helps me be the light for others. Healthcare chaplaincy became my calling almost as soon as I began to study clinical pastoral education. While rounding patient rooms in the hospital, I saw the immediate need patients have for support, love and encouragement. My life was no longer lacking purpose and meaning, and I knew the contribution I could make to those around me.



One night while working, I was called to an emergency room where a young woman died from an overdose of her medication. She'd had a wonderful day with family and decided to take all the pills she had to avoid facing pain and uncertainty again. When I entered the room, her mother, who was Catholic, pleaded with me to ask God that her only daughter would not go to hell for taking her own life. "I am not going to lose my daughter twice!" she said with the authority of a mother. It was an opportunity to be the light in this overwhelmingly dark place, but I was uncertain about what I could offer in the face of this tragedy.

I prayed silently for God to help me. He reminded me of the Bible promise and, as I prayed with the mother, I read from Romans 8:38 NIV, *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God.* I will never forget the mother looking at me with hope and gratitude for not abandoning her request at this very difficult time. It was the high moment of my ministry, and it was easy to be the light.

But there are moments in life when being the light for others is extremely difficult. How do we shine brightly so others can see hope, see courage, see a future through us when our own lives are in disarray? I was asked this question multiple times by our caregivers, especially our nurses and support staff during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is on their shoulders that we stand today as a society that has overcome the worst of this virus. Their determination and their courage to show up and go into patient rooms, even when proper PPE was in short supply, helped all of us. Sometimes being the light for others is not about being cheerful and positive. Rather, it's about hard work and the determination to do what is right, to follow your calling even when the odds are against you. This is what our nurses did, and for that I am forever grateful!

When Jesus delivered His Sermon on the Mount, teaching people to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, He was talking about a lifestyle. Today, there are many popular lifestyles—healthy, active, nomadic, rural, minimalist, and more. All of these require one very important thing: commitment. Jesus also requires a commitment from His followers. It is fairly easy to love people . . . until they become our enemies. It is fairly easy

to help people . . . until they no longer appreciate the effort. Yet God requires our commitment to shine bright despite all the difficulties life may throw our way.

If you are waiting for a perfect time to commit to a lifestyle of being the light for others, today is that time! A friend once told me, "It's easy for you to say it. You are the chaplain; you see people that need help every day. I don't [see that need] on a day-to-day basis." But this is just an excuse we use to make ourselves feel better, to reduce the burden of responsibility God placed on us as His followers.

Jesus said to His disciples, *The harvest is great, but the workers are few* (Matt. 9:37 NLT). When I look at the last two years of the pandemic, the political polarization in this country, the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world, I see uncertainty that seems to be at the center of our lives. I see a lot of dark places that are in desperate need of light. People are yearning for someone to come and shed a ray of light into their lives.

Just last month our clinical team gathered several pallets of medical supplies to send to Ukraine and our team members donated food and clothing to Ukrainian refugees who are in desperate need. Dr. Bela Nand, the chief medical officer at AdventHealth Hinsdale, wrote to us: "Just as an FYI, the boxes in both medical staff lounges are full and overflowing. Could someone from Mission [Department] please empty them out and put some empty ones back in there?"

The need is always there; we just have to be open for God to shine His light through us. When being light is the lifestyle choice, then God will show you so many places where He needs you today!

In His appeal to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, Jesus ends with a very important statement, *so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father!* This is an essential component of the commitment to Christian lifestyle. Our culture encourages us to promote our greatness, to promote our success and achievements; while those are important, let's not forget that it is only by His grace we exist today! Let all the honor and glory be to the One who sustains us through life's uncertainties, the One who can shine bright light through us if we open ourselves to Him. ■

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Mark Bondarenko, executive director, Mission Integration, AdventHealth Great Lakes Region

# Workplace Wellness: The Faith Factor

By Cheri Daniels Lewis

**LET'S BE HONEST.** Every job, from fast food worker to funeral director, has *some* level of stress (especially in the wake of COVID-19). But there are a few positions with particularly high-pressure demands—daily demands that can bring burnout, backlash, even life-threatening blunders if one isn't careful. The only way some employees keep themselves grounded is by clinging to something higher than themselves, and leaning on the One far above the stresses and strains of this world.

to bring broken families back together again. “I saw such sadness, sorrow, depression at such young ages,” Fernandez-Gibbs admits. “It was almost too much to bear.”

Yet, the 32-year-old was all in—meeting deadlines (like finding a new place for a runaway before dark) and following strict standards (documenting every conversation, contact or visit meticulously). She explains why crossing each “t” and dotting all the “i’s” was critical. “It just wouldn’t cut it to say, ‘I’m too busy to enter the last known address in connection with my progress check. . .’ By then the child could be dead,” she states matter-of-factly. “The first priority always had to be the safety of the children.”

Sometimes that safety was at the expense of Fernandez-Gibbs’ own sleep and finances, but NEVER at the expense of her time with God. “I have to have that quiet time with Him. I can feel the difference if I don’t,” she says. Fernandez-Gibbs describes her early morning routine: up (often before dawn) for earnest prayer, blanketing her “kids,” clients and coworkers with the Holy Spirit.

Focused time in the Word also was a must. She admits it would’ve been harder to smile or find *any* silver lining without that routine, amidst days of endless documentation, family members cursing at her, and kids asking, “Why was I taken from my parents?”

You may notice the past tense when referring to Fernandez-Gibbs in her social work role. She left it just more than a year ago for a position in full-time ministry. Although she insists she wasn’t fervently looking for something else, she admits the ministry position is more flexible, a big draw for a new mom. More flexibility, however, doesn’t necessarily mean less stress (as ministry causes its own unique wear and tear), but Fernandez-Gibbs credits her centeredness and successful balancing act to the great I Am. “He



Victor Rayno

## Jharony Fernandez-Gibbs

Jharony Fernandez-Gibbs’ first child is now 18 months old. She admits caring for her has been tough, but not quite as all-encompassing as the 15 or so children (ages newborn to 17) for which she *used* to be responsible.

As a foster care specialist in Berrien County, Michigan, she remembers appearing in court every 90 days, juggling seven-plus cases and, ultimately, trying

reminds me what I'm here for," she says. "It's all about serving others."

## Karl Macomb

Helping others was exactly why Karl Macomb went into his line of work. "Seeing myself as someone people could go to in a time of need was always a draw for me," says Macomb. He typically clocks in for 2nd shift, which is often the busiest for police work. "Most people are awake during those hours [2:00 to 11:00 p.m.]. Kids are out of school; people are out of work; more folks are on the road, or just settling in at home. That's also when most people are drinking and doing drugs," says Macomb, which are added elements that can make a dangerous job much more complex.

Macomb admits there have been at least three times in his 18-year law enforcement career when he wasn't sure he was going to make it out alive. He's convinced it was only the grace of God that brought him home in one piece after each situation. "I do believe God is constantly with me," says Macomb. "I don't take that as a greenlight to run unnecessarily into dangerous situations, though," admits the 48-year-old. "I'm not thinking I'm invincible or anything." In fact, says the patrol officer, his spiritual walk has helped him be more careful and cautious. "My faith definitely helps me take extra pause on the job," says Macomb. "It helps me reflect on how I could've done something better or reacted differently."

Macomb is careful not to insinuate he or other Christians on the force are better at their jobs, but he does note distinctions. "You see a difference in attitudes, how we carry ourselves, how we interact with others," says Macomb. "There tends to be more kindness, more of a loving attitude shown, regardless of what's happening." Macomb insists, when he's able to look at the tough situations through Jesus' eyes, it becomes easier to separate what some people are doing intentionally and what they are *not* intending to do.

"As a Christian, an Adventist, I especially understand the battle inside. I'm seeing the great controversy in real life. I see what's really at play and I'm able to not take certain actions or reactions personally. . . . Faith and compassion are important tools needed in law enforcement," Macomb says soberly.



# Karl

Jae'Ona Middleton

A good family support system doesn't hurt either. For Macomb, his faithful, Spirit-filled wife often has been the Godly-glue that helps him keep his chin up, keep perspective and keep going.

"Nearly every officer will tell you that the hardest part of the job is dealing with the death of a child [i.e., after a car crash or domestic violence incident]. It's always a sad, sad scene . . . very hard to deal with. . . I often get distracted and fixated on the tragedy," admits Macomb. "Sometimes my mind is just stuck on some rough images I've seen that day. It's hard to focus on faith and God after some tragedies, but then my wife is able to help me refocus and reminds me of the necessity of prayer. If I didn't have someone to come home to like that, I don't know what I'd do," emphasizes Macomb.

### **Abigail Greaves**

There are not too many jobs more stressful than that of a healthcare worker. Couple that with working during the peak of COVID outbreaks, then throw in running a respiratory care unit. Well, it's a perfect storm of intense, lives-on-the-line pressure. And that's exactly how you'd describe a day-in-the-life of Abigail Greaves.

"A respiratory therapist is at every single Code Blue [when someone's heart stops], managing life support and attempting to resuscitate the patient," explains Greaves. She's been that therapist for 12 years and currently serves as Emergency Management coordinator at a central Illinois healthcare system. Greaves confesses her job has always been stressful, "but manageable."

That all changed when COVID-19 cases started getting wheeled into her unit two-plus years ago. "Right at the beginning," says Greaves, "it was terrifying. Everything we would do with people on a ventilator *before* COVID wasn't working." As a therapist *and* administrator, she also has to lead a team that's "in the trenches," doing direct patient care for 12 straight hours. "It drains you," Greaves admits. "Then you go home."

Greaves explains that it's those quiet times between jobs (from the hospital to home, where she's a mom of two young boys) that often get her through. She may

be the only person in her car, but she knows she's never alone and that makes a "world of difference."

"Before I get in the house, I often need to have a good cry. I need to tell God how I feel," explains Greaves. She has found the most effective way for her to do that is through prayer journaling. "Any stress or anxiety I have, I can leave on the pages. When I pray in my head [I find] I'm often still holding on to the burden," admits Greaves. "I tend to be honest in journaling. Even if He didn't answer the way or when I wanted, it makes me. . . He makes me feel better," says Greaves.

Nature also has been an especially important outlet for her, particularly at the height of the pandemic. She says her faith helps her appreciate to the fullest those times of needed rejuvenation. "When I see a beautiful sunset, for instance, it strikes me—the same God who has the ability to create this magnificent scene *also* has the ability to take care of me, my family and my patients," says Greaves.

It's important to note, the faith described here doesn't just soften the rough edges. It's foundational and fundamental to thriving amidst stress. "I don't know how I would do it without God. I can't imagine not having a relationship with Him, not being able to have the God of the universe to cry to, to shout at and lean on," continues Greaves. "I honestly don't know how I would make it from day to day."

Greaves is certainly not alone. Both Fernandez-Gibbs and Macomb share similar sentiments. All three also tell of how their faith changes workplace circumstances.

.....

Fernandez-Gibbs describes usually "out-of-control" parents/clients suddenly reacting calmly, after she prayed for them. Macomb holds tight to the promise that God won't give him more than he can bear. Just when his work seems at its worst, there's a "thank you," or a life saved. There's help from unexpected places, or there's simply hope. For Greaves, it's peace amidst the chaos. "When I've had the opportunity to show my faith or pray with someone at work, I've physically seen the patient relax or heard a family member's sigh of relief. I do believe there's power in prayer and, more importantly, in God. He's going to be there for this patient in whatever form He chooses."

It may be hard to discern which impacts the other more. Does the stressful job drive someone to faith? Or does a strong faith make it possible to withstand a stressful job? Perhaps, it's a bit of both. Bottom line, the best Boss Fernandez-Gibbs, Macomb and Greaves say they've ever had is God Himself. ■

*Cheri Daniels Lewis, freelance writer*

# Abigail

*Matthew Lucio*

# FACES OF MISSION

ADVENTHEALTH TEAM MEMBERS ARE FACES OF MISSION

**W**hat sets AdventHealth apart as a health system is our commitment to extend the healing ministry of Christ. It starts with providing exceptional whole-person care that treats the body, mind and spirit of each of our patients. But it also includes ensuring that our commitment to care extends to our staff and the communities we serve.

The three people profiled here understand that commitment and live it every day of their lives in their work at AdventHealth. They are among the many faces of mission at AdventHealth.









## Dmitry Kucheryavenko

Like most people, Chaplain Dmitry Kucheryavenko watched in horror as Russia invaded Ukraine. Immediately, he and the other chaplains at AdventHealth took action, creating an effort by all the Adventist hospitals in the region to collect food, clothes and personal items to send to those affected by the war.

“The project was a natural response to suffering there,” Kucheryavenko said. “A lot of our team members are deeply concerned about what is happening. And a lot of them have family and friends in Eastern Europe.” He and his wife are among those who have family in Ukraine.

But the effort to help was not restricted only to those with connections to the war zone. “For many team members, it comes very naturally and is based on their commitment to the mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ,” said Kucheryavenko, who serves as a chaplain at AdventHealth Hinsdale and AdventHealth La Grange.

The collection effort began about a week after the invasion. Pastoral care team members distributed collection boxes to leaders at each of the hospitals in the region, and the leaders put those boxes in physician and staff lounges. The pastoral care team also provided information about how people could contribute money or other items that were not on the collection list. At the same time, nurses were leading an effort to gather medical supplies to send to Ukraine.

The response was overwhelming, Kucheryavenko shared. “It was a tremendous effort that reflected the way people at AdventHealth value human life as well as the desire of our community to bring healing.”

The effort was so successful, in fact, that after a few weeks they had to remove the boxes. They had collected so much that those donations, combined with donations from people all over the world responding to the crisis, were outpacing the ability of relief agencies to deliver the items.

Kucheryavenko said the chaplains are considering what they might do next for the people of Ukraine. But, he added, as they look for the next opportunity to send supplies, there is still a way to help. “The most important thing we can do right now is to give our thoughts and prayers,” he said. “We pray for peace for Ukraine. We pray for a solution to this conflict.”

## Kenneth Nelson, MD

After 34 years as a doctor, most of those associated with AdventHealth hospitals, Kenneth Nelson, MD, was thinking about taking a step back. Like many doctors, he was feeling the stress of two years of pandemic and an increasing amount of bureaucracy in his profession. But the unwinding of AMITA Health seemed to bring a fresh opportunity to impact the way his physician colleagues carried forth their work.

Asked to head the newly named AdventHealth Medical Group in Illinois, he reflected, “I thought the position might give me a chance to make some things work better for doctors and, therefore, work better for our patients.”

With a leadership philosophy that is more bottom-up than top-down, Dr. Nelson recalls, “I wanted to help people find their own answers to the issues they face,” an approach he believes to be aligned with AdventHealth’s values. “This organization has its eyes wide open,” he said. “They are willing to listen to people and be inclusive.”

After accepting the new position, he changed the traditional title of chief medical officer to chief medical facilitator to better reflect how he sees his role. Supporting physicians as they develop solutions that empower patients to be active participants in their care is another way of extending the healing ministry of Christ, in



addition to efforts like Mission at Home and other kinds of outreach to the community and those in need.

“AdventHealth isn’t fixing all of the world’s problems,” he said, “but they can be a piece of the solution. And they understand that.”

## Samantha Sagrado

Samantha Sagrado knows she has the right job as manager of volunteer services at AdventHealth Bolingbrook and AdventHealth GlenOaks. “I like to help people,” she said. “I like to see that people are taken care of.”

Sagrado organizes and trains volunteers at the hospitals. The volunteers do a variety of tasks, and they come for a variety of reasons. Some need to get volunteer hours. Some want to get experience in a healthcare setting. Some come because a loved one was cared for at one of the hospitals, and they want to give back. But regardless of their specific motivation, “These people want to help the helpers.” Currently there are 40 volunteers at AdventHealth Bolingbrook and 35 at AdventHealth GlenOaks.

In addition to her work with volunteers, Sagrado is always looking for other ways to be of service. In early 2020, during the start of the pandemic, she started a micro pantry at AdventHealth GlenOaks. Several AdventHealth hospitals, including AdventHealth Bolingbrook, already had micro pantries. But Sagrado realized one was needed at AdventHealth GlenOaks as well.

Working on the same premise as the Little Free Library, where people can take a book to read or leave a book they no longer need, the micro pantry has nonperishable food items which people can take what they need or add something to the shelves.

Each week a different department at the hospital “adopts” the micro pantry and restocks it. Hospital staff and community members also often add items to the pantry. Anyone, including community members and staff, can take what they need from the pantry, which is located outside the front of the hospital. More than 700 people have been served by the pantry since it opened.

Sagrado also spearheaded the opening of a wellness pantry at AdventHealth Bolingbrook in November 2021 to serve the homeless population in the area. “I saw homeless people sometimes coming into the hospital to get warm, and I knew there was a need,” she said.



The wellness pantry, located in a discreet location near the hospital chapel, stocks toiletries, bottled water, blankets, outerwear and other items needed by people experiencing homelessness. It also provides information about resources like temporary shelter. “All of the items are donated by the staff of the hospital,” she said. “It is amazing.”

Once a year, each hospital partners with the Northern Illinois Food Bank for a Mobile Food Pantry to bring food to the needy. Sagrado said her work is a way of furthering the mission of AdventHealth. “This is what I think Jesus would be doing. He would be helping in any way He could. He would be feeding the hungry, He would be helping the less fortunate, and I want to do that,” she said. “It’s how I practice my own Christianity.”

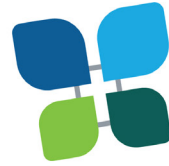
She believes her colleagues share that commitment. “Within this healthcare system, people are living the mission every day. You know how people say, ‘If you do something you love, you won’t feel like you are working a day in your life’? Well, this is what that feels like,” she said. “It feels great!” ■

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*Julie Busch, associate vice president, Marketing & Communication,  
AdventHealth Great Lakes Region*



# THE **Advent Health**



**BRAND** as an Expression  
of Seventh-day  
Adventist Meaning

In January 2019, the hospitals of what was known as Adventist Health System unified under a single brand: AdventHealth. Except for the system's joint ventures, the 51 hospitals and hundreds of clinics and care sites operate under a single moniker and carry a common brand promise: Feel whole.

BY GARRETT CALDWELL



AdventHealth's brand promise is central to its public-facing messaging and is closely connected to the organization's mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.

Reminiscent of the discourse in which Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10 NIV), the brand promise suggests that even the healthiest among us can aspire to feel whole.

However, in the same way that the ministry of Seventh-day Adventist health care is connected to, but distinct from, the ministry of the denomination's

ecclesiastical arm, the corporate messaging of AdventHealth hopes to strike chords of harmony with that of the church, even while hitting different notes.

## The Adventist Church and Marketing and Communications

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has no doctrinal teaching, statement or guideline that speaks directly to the need the church and its ministries have for communications, marketing and brand awareness. However, the importance of the message and teachings of the church have led to the practice of using creative and varied marketing methods from the earliest days of the Adventist movement.

Whether it was to sell books and other publications or to bolster attendance at a seminar on Bible prophecy, church leaders, limited only by their creativity and financial resources, have used attention-seeking strategies to raise awareness regarding their efforts.

In 1912, Baltimore journalist Walter L. Burgan attended an evangelistic series by Carlyle B. Haynes and became a convert to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was then hired to be the head of the Public Relations Bureau of the General Conference, making the Seventh-day Adventist Church the first Protestant denomination with a public relations program.<sup>1</sup> Church leaders recognized the critically important role of combatting misinformation, breaking down prejudices and building bridges of understanding in the community in order to raise public awareness of this young denomination. The Public Relations Bureau became the communications department of the church, and it continues to be tasked with the same charge.

Although the denomination has grown exponentially since those early years and communications has become an established department at all levels of the organization, the focus of church communications is predominantly internal, with most efforts directed toward members. Beyond the signage placed in front of congregations, schools and office buildings, very few resources are allocated to public awareness.

## Messaging Distinctive Care

There are several scriptural models that support the assertive approach AdventHealth takes in its advertising

and public relations efforts, especially those that seek to distinguish the efforts of the faith-based, consumer-focused institution it aspires to become. One vivid example comes from the pages of Exodus.

Moses is standing before God in the Tent of Meeting outside of the Israelite encampment. He had just received tablets of stone from God for the second time. Moses is pleading with God that the Divine presence should accompany the chosen people on their journey to the Promised Land rather than the presence of an angel, as God had proposed in response to the insurrection which had just occurred.

*“How will anyone know that You are pleased with me and Your people unless You go with us?” Moses argued. “What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”* (Exodus 33:16 NIV)

In this discourse, we find an essential goal of AdventHealth’s marketing and communications efforts: to show the distinctive nature of whole-person care that has become the hallmark of Seventh-day Adventist health care.

Whole-person care, which functions as an extension of Christ’s healing ministry, is distinctive from the care other healing organizations provide. While all evidence-based medicine is best rendered with compassion and seeks to be curative, whole-person care which is faith-based is meant to be restorative, referencing the image of the Creator found in every living soul and balancing physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

Just as Moses knew the presence of God in the massive company of Israelite migrants would set them apart as a distinct nation, AdventHealth believes the legacy of whole-person care which recognizes the image of God in every human being and seeks the presence of God in every patient interaction will distinguish it from all others who merely desire physical healing.

## Honoring the Story of the Healed

During His Galilean ministry, Jesus was asked by a ruler of the synagogue to heal his critically ill daughter. While journeying toward the home of Jairus, the crowd noticed Jesus stopping firmly in His tracks. An unanticipated act of healing had just occurred. A woman who sought a miracle in stealth and silence would be cajoled by Christ to speak openly about what God had done.

*When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His cloak, because she thought, “If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed.” Immediately her bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.* (Mark 5:28, 29 NIV)

AdventHealth team members labor daily under the mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ and desire to be the garment that functions as the conduit between the healing power of God and the desire resident of every AdventHealth consumer, namely, to feel whole.

However, the account of the woman who was healed by the faith-filled brush with Christ’s garment does not end with her healing, but with her story. Christ would not let this woman leave His presence before giving witness to what had happened in her life in a moment so private that, were it not for His insistence, it would have gone unnoticed.

The marketing materials and brand advertising of AdventHealth also take up this challenge. Ultimately, the fuel giving validity and power to television commercials, billboard ads and marketing campaigns are the real stories of healing that happen every day in the skilled and compassionate care of team members.

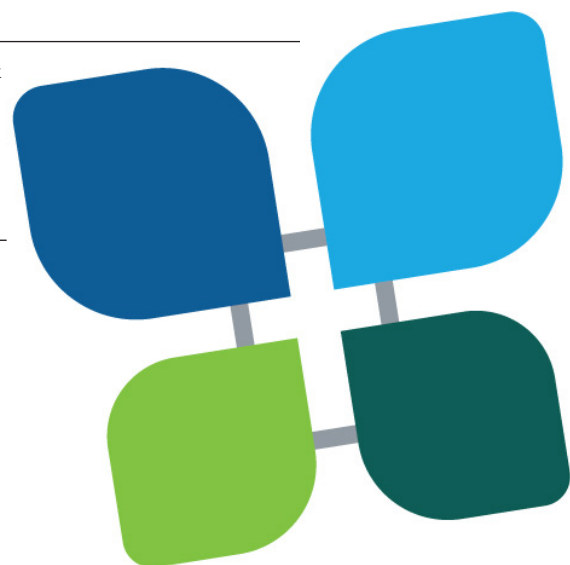
*“Go in peace and be freed from your suffering”* were the closing words uttered by Jesus as the woman departed. The peace in her heart, the relief on her face, the lightened steps of one who had so long carried the burden of her condition are the same sentiments conveyed in AdventHealth’s advertisements. This is what it looks like to feel whole. In AdventHealth’s marketing messages, the heroes of the story are always those who have been healed. ■

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<sup>1</sup>Weeks, Howard B. The Development of Public Relations as an Organized Activity in a Protestant Denomination, Master’s Thesis: American University, Washington, D.C., 1963

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Garrett Caldwell is executive director of External Communications for AdventHealth.



# Nurse Overcomes Struggle to Achieve Dream of Becoming RN

TEAM MEMBERS AT ADVENTHEALTH HAVE ACCESS TO DEBT-FREE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE, TUITION REIMBURSEMENT, STUDENT LOAN SUPPORT AND MORE TO SUPPORT THEIR CAREER GROWTH.

Gladys Franck, a registered nurse (RN) for AdventHealth Celebration (Orlando)\*, is living proof that education can unlock opportunities and create a ripple effect that can transform lives.

After immigrating to the U.S. from Haiti, Franck had to completely start her career over and build a new life for herself and her two children. With a dream to work in health care, Franck began her career at AdventHealth through an education assistance program that allowed her to work while also receiving free training to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA).

To help more people like Franck, AdventHealth is enhancing its offerings to attract, retain and engage talent through education assistance that helps team members grow in their career and hone their talents.

As her thirst for knowledge continued and her dream to become a nurse in view, Franck then pursued her associate degree in nursing (ADN), and is now living her dream as an RN. Her struggle as a Haitian immigrant, she says, inspires how she cares for her own patients.

Franck is an RN in the surgical department at AdventHealth Celebration, which has received Magnet recognition for nursing excellence.

“My struggle is what inspires me to care for others and to try to understand how they feel by putting myself in their shoes. That empathy guides me to exactly how I should respond to their need.”

Thanks to AdventHealth’s education assistance offerings, Franck’s tuition throughout her journey to becoming an RN was completely paid for by the organization, leaving her with no student debt.

“Removing the burden of paying for school is a big relief,” she said. “I know people who are in student debt and have to pay back the loans they took for school, but I don’t owe a penny because of AdventHealth.”

Now, after more than 14 years with the organization, Franck intends to continue growing her career at AdventHealth and is currently studying for a Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN).

“I’m not giving up. I plan to go to school until I cannot read anymore. I love school and learning how to better help people,” she said.

In addition to providing tuition reimbursement and debt-free educational assistance, AdventHealth also offers its team members student loan coaching, repayment support for existing loans and many other resources to grow their career within the organization. ■

*\*While Gladys’ story took place in Florida, these benefits are available to all AdventHealth employees. Go to [careers.adventhealth.com/benefits](https://careers.adventhealth.com/benefits) to learn more.*

Content provided by AdventHealth





# Andrews University and General Conference Launch the Global Leadership Institute



▲ Erich Baumgartner and Randy Siebold planning the next phase of their learning activity for Trans-European Division church leaders in Tirana, Albania

The Global Leadership Institute was born through crisis to opportunity. In 2018, the Andrews University Leadership program was preparing for its 25th anniversary; while the program received high praise from its participants, it was out of reach for most church leaders. Additionally, leadership development had been rising to the top of the agenda of the church. After brainstorming sessions and much prayer, it was clear: the church needed professional training for its executive leaders. To address this, the Global Leadership Institute (GLI) was born. In early 2019, the General Conference (GC) partnered with Andrews University with hopes of expanding the program on a global scale.

Currently, the primary service of the GLI is a program titled LeadLab, a mix of virtual and face-to-face experiences called the “Leader Growth Series.” The series consists of three main parts: LeadLab Launch, a sequence of introductory meetings;

LeadLab Core, a set of seven leadership modules; and LeadLab Forward, a multi-day gathering which focuses on reviewing and implementing into the future.

Erich Baumgartner, director of the GLI, and Randy Siebold, associate director, work together with other Adventist experts to produce the material for the series in the form of online lectures with group discussions and a growing collection of leadership resources. Content includes lessons on professional identity and personal vision, emotional intelligence, innovation, mission and strategy, assessing programs, and more.

Siebold notes, “We believe that a great leader is always learning, so the program is designed to instill habits of growth. When the program is completed, we hope the participants continue doing the things we do in the program.”

The Leader Growth Series is managed through a website called the LeadLab Network. Within it, participants can post

to discussion forums, attend virtual events, and access information and lessons. In the future, Baumgartner envisions the site as a social media platform for Adventist leaders, functioning as a “social community where Adventist leaders anywhere in the world can talk with other Adventist leaders, around the world.”

So far, LeadLab prototype experiences have been carried out in both the Inter-European Division and South Pacific Division of the GC. In follow-up meetings with the GLI team, the GC expressed an interest in working together on a long-term goal: making the LeadLab experience available to all 13 divisions of the church and its attached fields. Siebold states, “We want to work with the divisions and other entities so that through their LeadLab training, not only are they equipped to be a better leader and a growing leader, but they also can build their own leadership development programs.”

Currently, utilizing LeadLab participant feedback, the program is being reassessed, adjusted and improved for implementation to a wider audience.

Baumgartner affirms, “The purpose of these programs is to help build and strengthen the leadership of the church—to help leaders have a higher level of competency, a stronger faith in our church and its mission, and to give them the opportunity to build the habits of a growing leader.” ■

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

## United We Serve

### THOUSANDS RECEIVE FREE SERVICES AT PATHWAY TO HEALTH INDIANAPOLIS

After a two-year wait, Pathway to Health, a humanitarian arm of the North American Division (NAD), held a free mega-clinic in Indianapolis at the Lucas Oil Stadium. From April 17–21, the clinic served over 4,200 people in the metropolitan Indianapolis area. The goal of the event was to show people God's love by serving as many people as they could with free medical, dental, vision and lifestyle care.

Dental services ranging from dental cleanings to partial dentures were offered, as well as vision services such as optometry and glasses. In addition, medical services, such as primary care, cardiology, dermatology, radiology and podiatry were offered. No identification, documentation or remuneration were required for these services.

Organizers accomplished this by working together, in harmony with the theme, United We Serve. "We know that we could never have done this on our own," said Vic Van Schaik, Indiana Conference president. "By uniting together with the Lake Region Conference, the Lake Union Conference and other ministries, we were able to do something that only God could have brought about."

At a volunteer appreciation dinner where various partners were thanked for their involvement, Pathway to Health president and CEO Ivan Golubic said, "We live in a divided world but here we're united. You don't vote the same or speak the same language, but we all came together to serve the people of Indianapolis."

Adventist World Radio president Duane McKey echoed those sentiments further, saying, "As we unite, we come together and we tell people God loves them."

Virginia Caine, health director for Marion County Dept. of Health, told the volunteers



▲ **Top:** Indiana and Lake Region leaders were thanked at a volunteer appreciation dinner on April 19.  
**Bottom:** Vision and dental services were in high demand.

and organizers, gathered in a space surrounded by Indy 500 race car memorabilia, that it was a wonderful sight to see thousands of volunteers help people who need it most. "Thanks for having the compassion to take time out of your busy lives," she said. "What an incredible resource. You've raised the bar for others. The city loves you. We will always be there for you."

The mega-clinic's arrival had been delayed by the COVID-19 outbreak. When the pandemic suddenly burst onto the scene, it forced the Pathway to Health board to postpone the mega-clinic. Event organizers

took many precautions at the rescheduled event. Volunteers were required to wear face masks and other protective equipment and, depending on when they arrived, test for COVID-19 up to two times. Julie Bryson, medical director for Pathway to Health, said, "We had to work on really good safety protocols."

**"I want to go to your church many times, not one time."**

Mark Eaton, Indiana Conference secretary and treasurer, was volunteering at the clinic and had an encounter he won't soon

forget. “We were standing in the lifestyle section, and I was talking to a Hispanic lady. She didn’t speak any English. I know a little bit of Spanish, so I showed her the locations of the Health Information Centers and some of the dates and asked her if she wanted to go.” The woman, who appearing interested in the Centers, replied, “Yes, not one time.” Eaton, a bit unsure of the woman’s response replied, “Some of these are only one time.” The woman persisted. “No, no, many times. I want to go there many times. Any church that helps people like this, I want to go there many times.”

Blown away by her response, he called Noel Ojeda, Indiana Hispanic Ministries coordinator, and had him speak with the woman. “She was adamant — she said, ‘I want to go many times! I want to join!’” Eaton said. After she spoke with Ojeda, the woman informed Eaton of her choice. “She told me, ‘I want to join your church.’ The Holy Spirit really impressed her.”

It is stories such as these that NAD president Alex Bryant says that makes Your Best Pathway to Health the closest to the ministry of Jesus. “It provides a ministry to the people who are in need, and who almost don’t know where else to go,” said Bryant in an interview for the *Lake Union Herald’s* livestream broadcast. “When Jesus was here, He attracted this kind of people who don’t have means, yet they have great need. Your Best Pathway to Health comes into a community and provides free medical services to the people who are *the least of these* among us. And I believe that, more than anything else, really represents what Jesus would be doing down here.”

### How It Came Together

Mark Black serves as the layout director for Pathway to Health and he says that is it always astounding for him to see what our God does at these outreach efforts. “In my career, I have been involved with the opening of many licensed care facilities. There is

more than a month of training before any patients are admitted,” Black explained.

“With Pathway events, 2,000 to 4,000 volunteers come together, set up and open a medical, dental and vision triage and treatment center within a couple of days, and immediately bring in thousands of patients!”

Black gives all the credit to God. “The reality is it really cannot be done! Humanly speaking, this is not possible. But that is how God works!”

### What’s Next

The Indiana and Lake Region conferences have planned an assortment of bold evangelism initiatives. As patients left the Lucas Oil Stadium, they were handed a booklet about Health Information Centers. Evangelistic meetings and the Health Information Centers will be located throughout Indianapolis and are designed to provide ongoing support to individuals as they strive to overcome lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity.

Kevin Rogers, who pastors the Capitol City Church in Indianapolis, said: “You’ve heard the saying, ‘Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.’ One of the things that Pathway pretty much insisted on as we were preparing, was they wanted us to have what they call Health Information Centers. They saw the great need for people to learn to be [healthier] in their lifestyle.”

Van Schaik is enthusiastic about the efforts. “Because all of these people have come and they had have such a positive impression of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” he said, “I believe that God is already working on their hearts so we can lead them to the next part of the journey.” ■

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



▲ **Top:** Virginia Caine, health director for Marion County Dept. of Health, told the volunteers and organizers that it was a wonderful sight to see thousands of volunteers help people who need it most. “Thanks for having the compassion to take time out of your busy lives,” she said. “What an incredible resource. You’ve raised the bar for others. The city loves you. We will always be there for you.”

**Middle:** Former Indianapolis councilmember Joseph Simpson was singled out at the volunteer appreciation dinner for the key role he played in getting the city to allow the clinic to take place at the Lucas Oil Stadium for free. It would have cost \$350,000 per day to rent the stadium used by the Colts football team.

**Bottom:** The mega-clinic’s arrival had been delayed by the COVID-19 outbreak. When the pandemic suddenly burst onto the scene, it forced the Pathway to Health board to postpone the mega-clinic. Event organizers took many precautions at the rescheduled event. Volunteers were required to wear face masks and other protective equipment and, depending on when they arrived, test for COVID-19 up to two times.



▲ Around 80 percent of Chicago's Hope Church is Ukrainian; the rest are Moldovan, including the pastor, Russ Drumi, pictured kneeling in front. "Some of the members have lived here for a decade or more, but their hearts are still in Ukraine," Drumi says, "and right now, those hearts are breaking."

▲ According to the United Nations, since the start of the war there have been approximately 100,000 people leaving Ukraine every day, mostly women and children as men are not allowed to leave the country. Here Ukrainians are transported to neighboring countries, such as Poland and beyond.

## 'We Can't Stand Idly By'

### ILLINOIS CONFERENCE AIDS UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

For the first couple of weeks of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Roman Ryabyy, a member of Hope Church, the Russian-speaking Adventist church in Chicago, said it was hard to believe what was happening. "I thought I was sleeping, and that eventually I'd wake up and it wouldn't be true. That day hasn't come."

His reaction is not abnormal. Ryabyy, who is originally from the Ukraine, says many in his church felt similarly and, during the first few days of the war especially, there were many tears shed in church.

"We may be 5,000 miles from the bombing, but this war is personal to us," says Russ Drumi, pastor of Hope Church. "Three days into the conflict was a Sabbath; instead of the service we had planned, we spent the entire day in prayer."

Around 80 percent of Hope Church is Ukrainian; the rest are Moldovan, including Drumi, and a couple of members are Russian. Although one Sabbath School class and some music is in Ukrainian, nearly all services are conducted in Russian as it is a common language all of them can speak and understand.

"Some of the members have lived here for a decade or more, but their hearts are still in Ukraine," Drumi says, "and right now, those hearts are breaking."

## Bringing Hope to Chicago

Hope Church began in 2009 as Hope Advent Center, and the church has continued to thrive over the years as Ukrainian, Moldovan and Russian immigrants settled in Chicago.

Today, there are upwards of 70 members. Drumi, who started as a volunteer pastor while studying in the Seminary at Andrews University, has been its pastor for ten years. He is now shepherding them through a crisis.

"Mostly they just want to talk through what's happening," he explains. "Simply asking them how they are feeling or whether they've heard from their relatives recently demonstrates that we care and that they're not going through this alone. It may not be our personal tragedy, but it is not just Ukrainians who are affected. We are all troubled."

## 'It's happening again.'

According to the United Nations, since the start of the war there have been approximately 100,000 people leaving Ukraine every day, mostly women and children as men are not allowed to leave the country. As Poland is receiving most of this number, there are now nearly 2.3 million refugees within their borders.

"What is interesting to note," says Arkadiusz Bojko, Illinois Conference pastor and native of Poland, "is that the Polish

government has not built a single refugee camp. Instead, they have accepted every woman and child from Ukraine across their borders — whether or not they have passports — and have given all who apply the Polish equivalent of a U.S. social security number and a work permit."

The compassion and love being shown to the refugees entering Poland is even more meaningful when you know a bit about the history between the two countries. Although it hasn't always been so genial, the fact remains that, deep in their collective national memory, the Poles know exactly how the Ukrainians feel.

"This is exactly the same situation as in 1939, but this time it's Ukraine," says Tytus Gudzowski, pastor of the Polish Church in Chicago. He's referring to the attack on the Republic of Poland by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union which marked the beginning of World War II. "We were in the same situation 80 years ago, and it's something every Polish person knows and feels deeply. We're seeing it all happen again, and we can't stand idly by."

## Beyond the Border

Refugees have immediate needs once they reach the border — in particular, food, water, clothing, phone chargers, accommodations and transportation. These needs are primarily being met by NGOs (non-governmental organizations) like churches, relief agencies (such as ADRA Poland) and



War protest images by Andrzej Mucka

▲ Hundreds of people, many of them Ukrainian Americans with relatives still living in the war-torn country, packed the street outside Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church on Feb. 27.

▶ “What is interesting to note,” says Arkadiusz Bojko (above, right), Illinois Conference pastor and native of Poland, “is that the Polish government has not built a single refugee camp. Instead, they have accepted every woman and child from Ukraine across their borders — whether or not they have passports — and have given all who apply the Polish equivalent of a U.S. social security number and a work permit.”

grassroots movements by individual citizens, including members of the Adventist Church in Poland.

The weather in Poland right now is similar to that of Chicago, and finding a warm place to sleep is crucial, as is the actual rest.

“Many who reach the border have been traveling virtually nonstop for two to four days,” explains Bojko. “They are exhausted, dehydrated and hungry. They often arrive carrying nothing but a small suitcase or a couple of plastic bags.”

Because there are no refugee camps, Ukrainians are being placed in private homes, churches and community centers.

“Any available space with a roof has become a refugee shelter,” Bojko says. “Church sanctuaries have become dormitories; the pews are beds.”

This hospitality comes with a very literal cost, however, as operating expenses for churches have skyrocketed as a result.

### An Impossible Task

Back in Chicago, Ryabyy, who owns a trucking company with a friend, is doing what he can to help. At the beginning of the conflict, his company gave \$50,000 toward relief efforts, but they didn’t stop there.

“When any of our drivers are willing to take a load of supplies headed for Ukraine to the port in New Jersey, we cover the cost of their fuel,” Ryabyy says. “Then we help coordinate logistics of how to get the loads from New Jersey to Poland and Ukraine.

“It is very uncomfortable to be here in the U.S. and sleep in a warm bed every night, eat big meals three times a day, and realize your friends and fellow church members across the world are struggling to survive. It’s impossible to do nothing, and as Christians — as good global citizens — we have to help. That’s why we’re all doing anything we can, even from so far away.”

This is a perspective shared by Andrew Mikołajczyk, a Poland native who now lives in the U.S. and is a freelance journalist for the Polish-American media in Chicago. His primary focus has always been humanitarian issues, and these days he is very busy.

“The situation in Ukraine is very dramatic,” Mikołajczyk says. “As a community activist and member of the media, I attend rallies to support Ukraine and their refugees, and am invited to meetings with government officials. Many community organizations in Chicago are very involved, working hand-in-hand with Ukrainian-American organizations to offer aid.”

### Out of Crisis: Opportunity

“Great need” is without a doubt the order of the day. Many individuals have sent money directly to those they know in Ukraine, Poland or other bordering countries to support refugees, which Drumi says, in some instances, can be easier and better than trying to organize a specific campaign.

“The need is so enormous on so many fronts, there is really no benefit to creating

a big joint effort, which requires ironing out logistics and agreeing on exactly what it’s supporting,” he says. “There isn’t one single target — there are countless. Anything anyone does is helping.”

For those who feel more comfortable giving through an Adventist organization, the Illinois Conference is providing the opportunity to church members across the North American Division to donate a tax-deductible gift through the Adventist Giving online platform. One hundred percent of donations marked “Poland — Ukrainian Refugees” will be transferred to the Polish Union for support of their work with Ukrainian refugees. A video with more information on the crisis and how members can respond was produced by the Illinois Conference. You can view it at <https://bit.ly/3P1ds4B>.

The Adventist Church in Poland is small; out of a population of 38 million, less than 6,000 Polish people are Adventist. However, their size has not kept them from ministering and serving in significant ways.

“This is probably the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since WWII,” Bojko says. “It is a great crisis, but it is also a great opportunity to minister to people. It is a unique opportunity to work with people where their needs are, and that’s the true gospel.” ■

*Becky St. Clair is a freelance writer. You can reach her at [letmedothewriting@gmail.com](mailto:letmedothewriting@gmail.com).*



▲ Pastor Tytus Gudzowski and his wife, Joanna, are welcomed into the Polish Church by Elder Janusz Czajkowski (right) and board member, Małgorzata Kroczyk (left).

## 'Here to Be a Light'

### THE STORY OF THE ONLY POLISH CHURCH IN THE AMERICAS

As a child, Tytus Gudzowski listened to his father preach many times as an elder, and dreamed of one day being able to do the same.

"After every sermon I would go to the pulpit and check to see if I was tall enough to preach," Gudzowski says with a grin. "It was all about being tall enough."

Although he chose other studies in college, God didn't give up on him. After blocking Gudzowski's path a few times to lead him down another, God led him to earn his pastoral credentials in 2012. For ten years Gudzowski served in the Polish Union before he received a call from Ron Aguilera, president of the Illinois Conference. The Polish Church in Chicago was in need of a pastor.

"God has called us to *go and make disciples of all nations*, and that includes this community," Aguilera says. "We decided to fund a full-time position to minister to the Polish church, and Pastor Tytus was a clear choice to lead this effort."

In November 2021, Gudzowski took on pastoral leadership of the Polish Church in Chicago, the only Polish Adventist church in all of the Americas.

It's difficult to know exactly how many Poles live in the greater Chicago area, but most estimates place the number around one million. It is by far the largest Polish population outside of Poland. Although that number includes those of Polish descent, whose grandparents or great-grandparents came from Poland in the early 20th century, there is a significant number of older immigrants whose primary language is Polish — the third most spoken language in Chicago, and it is this group the Polish Church seeks to serve.

"Poles are predominantly Roman Catholic," explains Arek Bojko, pastor with the Illinois Conference, who came with his family from Poland to serve the Polish Church in 2006. "Although, it's not so much about the religion for most of them; it's simply part of their national identity."

As the number of Polish immigrants in Chicago grew, the Illinois Conference saw an opportunity. Because there were so many Polish businesses across the city, it

was possible (and fairly common) for Poles to operate day-to-day without speaking English. If the conference wanted to reach the Polish community, they had to provide a Polish church. After several successful evangelism campaigns, there was enough interest to do just that.

Over the years membership has fluctuated to reflect immigration patterns; currently there are approximately 60 on the books.

"We are a small community, but very mission-oriented," Bojko says. "It is important to us to proclaim God, and our church has several different outreach programs every year. We are here to be a light for the Polish-speaking people."

This is a challenge, however, for three primary reasons. First, as most Poles equate Roman Catholicism with their national identity, talking about any other religion identifies you as an outsider, and it is assumed you are part of a sect. Second, the Polish community is not sequestered into one identifiable area; it is spread across the whole of Chicagoland. And third, the church is shrinking.

"Immigrant churches are, at most, two-generational," Bojko points out. "Usually the third generation is completely integrated into the local community. So the fate of the Polish Church depends on the influx of immigration, and how successful we are in reaching the Polish-speaking community in Chicago. If we depend only on natural growth, we will die."

Regardless of the size of the church, the value of what it provides has not diminished.

"For many people who come, the church is their only family," Gudzowski says. "It's the only support group they have, and we have always operated with that in mind. People in difficult life situations can count on the community of the church. As long as the need remains, so will we." ■

*Becky St. Clair is a freelance writer.*



▲ Mr. Peterson celebrating his 100th birthday with his friend, Mike Maguire

## Wisconsin receives \$1.5m donation, largest monetary gift in recent memory

Nobel Prize winner, Sir Aaron Klug, said, "One cannot plan for the unexpected." That may be true, but in the sphere of God, we should "expect the unexpected."

Recently, the unexpected happened right after our February 2022 Wisconsin Conference Executive Committee meeting. During lunch, a man approached me and introduced himself as Mike Maguire. Mike informed me that he was the executor of the Robert Peterson Trust, and he was there to personally deliver (as he had done for all of the beneficiaries of the trust) Mr. Peterson's gift to the Wisconsin

Conference. In fact, there were three gifts: one for the Wisconsin Conference, one for Camp Wakonda, and the third gift to Wisconsin Academy. The three gifts totaled over \$1.5 million!

Mike explained that he knew Mr. Peterson, a successful farmer, having helped him with the business side of his farm for several years. Mike said: "I did the job Mr. Peterson asked me to do, and it took 2.5 years to complete. I didn't want to just mail a check. I wanted the beneficiaries of the Peterson Trust to know who Mr. Peterson was and to personally hear about the potential impact of the gifts that he gave."

In addition to benefiting the Wisconsin Conference, Mr. Peterson also left gifts to benefit the University of Stevens Point, the Almond High School, and his local 4-H Club. These gifts were intended to

encourage young people to have a career in farming.

Mr. Peterson was born in the Town of Almond and lived there his entire life. He and his wife, Esther, were long-time members of the Almond Church and often attended the Wisconsin Rapids church. Mr. Peterson and Esther had no children of their own, but they enjoyed helping kids attend church school and often hired young people to work on the farm. It also was important to them to make it easier for parents to send their children to Wisconsin Academy and summer camp at Wakonda.

Mr. Petersen died in 2019 at the age of 100. Remarkably, he was still operating a working farm at the time of his death. Mr. Peterson never made a big deal about the gifts he would someday leave to his church and community. In fact, we were unaware he had a trust that named Wisconsin Conference entities as a beneficiary.

We always encourage anyone who is impressed to leave a gift for the Lord's work to do so. Whether one does that through the local conference Trust Department, or their own attorney, is a personal choice and accomplishes the same purpose.

Mr. Peterson's gift was truly unexpected. It seems that God delights in doing the unexpected and, in this instance, He used a faithful farmer. Although to us the gift was unexpected, we are sure that God has a purpose and a plan for the gift, and we are looking forward to seeing what that purpose is. This story is not just another inspiring story... What Mr. Peterson left behind *will* make a difference.

Remember! "*God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!*" (Eph. 3:20, *The Message*) ■

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*Bill Ochs, Wisconsin Conference Planned Giving and Trust Services director*



Joshua English

## Wisconsin pastors collaborate to produce original camp song

Last April, Zack Payne started as the Youth director for the Wisconsin Conference. He remembers it was a “rough-and-tumble kind of summer” at Camp Wakonda. Within one month, he had to move, hire staff, learn the ropes and be ready to run the camp. But, by God’s grace, he got through it and young people made decisions for Christ.

Even as Summer Camp 2021 was beginning, he was starting to plan for Summer Camp 2022, with the goal of being ready well ahead of time. He even had the next summer’s theme song chorus figured out; his plan was to have a demo recorded by summer’s end. Fast forward several months. He never did finish that song. “I’d tweaked it and played with it,” he says, “but it still never sat right.”

At the beginning of April, Zack sat down and played the song for his wife, Ally. He remembers, “she made a face,” indicating it wasn’t hitting quite right. “Okay,” he told her, “Let me try something different.”

It was only a matter of minutes before he had strummed and hummed something into existence. It came surprisingly quick. He wasn’t sure if the melody was from another song he’d heard. Ally thought it was pretty good, but they needed another opinion.

### Mentorship sparks a plan

The Wisconsin Conference has a mentorship program where seasoned pastors are paired with pastors who have yet to be ordained for the purpose of getting together and talking through questions, issues and ideas in ministry. Zack was mentoring Rhinelander district pastor, Cristian Sorto, whom he knew was into music. After making a rough demo on his phone, Zack sent it to Cristian, asking which he liked better: the first song he was trying to make work, or the new, spur-of-the-moment one. Cristian replied that the new one was the way to go and that he’d play around with it a little, maybe recording his own demo version.

Zack knew that Cristian had some background in music, but had no idea how serious. “I didn’t realize at the time that he had been heavily involved with music since he was younger, with four albums under his belt (the fourth is set for release this June 3, via streaming platforms), and having produced the last two albums himself,” says Zack. It turns out, Cristian had learned to produce, arrange and mix music because he had extra time during the pandemic. “Some people watched ‘Tiger King’ during the shutdown,” mused Zack. “Cristian learned a profession.”

Later that week, Cristian sent him a demo which Zack really liked. Cristian had tweaked a few lyrics and added a bridge. A week later, Cristian and some friends recorded (from a distance) instrumentation for a more professional version of the song. “When I heard the track,” says Zack, “I was so impressed with the quality.”

When he was asked about the other musicians involved, Cristian explained that they are both professional musicians and engineers in South America — Mattheus in Brazil and Sebastian in Colombia. They became friends through social media and were always creating something new. Cristian says that when he makes a demo, he sends it to Mattheus, who then arranges the ideas; they record live instruments, Cristian produces the instruments and vocals, and then Sebastian puts the finishing touches with his great mixing skills. “It’s amazing to see ideas come to life,” Cristian notes, “and they both desire to serve God wholeheartedly. That’s what makes them stand out, and what gets me excited to create with them.”

When Zack and Ally met up with Cristian to record their vocals, it was an interesting experience. “It was funny singing over a fully developed song that I probably spent about ten minutes writing before sending to this young pastor and his team,” Zack recalls. “It struck me that this was no longer my song. The Holy Spirit inspired me in the writing, Cristian in the production, and his friends in the technical aspect. I had been planning on this other song for months, but God flipped the script and inserted a different idea.”

While he’s grateful to have an original theme song ready to go for this summer at Camp Wakonda, Zack says he’s even more grateful that Cristian was involved. “Whether you’re a pastor, student or any other young person in your church,” advises Zack, “find yourself someone to mentor. You might find yourself learning as much, or more, from them as they do from you.” ■

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*Herald staff, with Zack Payne who serves as the Youth director of the Wisconsin Conference. He lives at Camp Wakonda, in Central Wisconsin, with his wife, Ally, and their four young kids.*





## 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?

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### 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?

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	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	No opinion
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Cover						
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 Wis.  None  Other

### What is your age?

under 25  25-34  35-49  50-64  65+

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

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

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

**Return your survey today** and include your name if you want to be included in a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card.

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.

## ANNIVERSARIES



**Gene and Ciliciana Hall** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 12, 2021. They met in fourth grade at the Holly (Michigan) SDA Elementary School, and were married on December 12, 1971, by Elder Earl J. Zager. God has blessed them with three children: Jeremy (Donna) Hall, Rachele (Jeff) Bergman, and Chandra (Mike) Weber; and eight grandchildren.

In 1976, Gene began a 21-year career working as a literature evangelist in the greater Detroit area. He and Ciliciana accepted a call from the Indiana Conference in 1997 to pastor the Terre Haute, Lewis and Greencastle church district. In 2001 they returned to Michigan to the Jackson and Bunkerhill churches, before moving to serve the Holland Church in 2010.

Ciliciana has devoted her life to raising her children, supporting Gene in ministry, and using her culinary skills conducting cooking schools and catering for Michigan Conference events. Currently, Gene serves as associate director for Planned Giving and Trust Services, and Ciliciana is the receptionist at the Conference headquarters in Lansing, Mich. They enjoy daily Bible study, prayer walks in nature, spending time with family, and cooking. Whatever they are involved in, together is how they like doing it.



**Nikola and Zora Jovanovic** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on April 30, 2022, at the Yugoslavian Church in Chicago, with family and friends. Married on May 4, 1952, they have been members of the Yugoslavian Church for 60 years.

## OBITUARIES

**ASH, Billy J.**, age 66; born Oct. 13, 1954, in Fairfield, Ill.; died Feb. 11, 2021, in Flora, Ill. He was a member of the Noble Church in Noble, Ill. Survivors include his wife, Karla J. (Schnell) Ash; daughters, Lindsay (Richard) Wells, Denise Schnell, Trish (Rickey) McGrew, Amanda (Chris) Byam, and Jennifer Borton; brothers, Roger (Pam) Ash, Randall (Rita) Ash, Steven (Edna) Ash; sister, Henrietta Brown, Loretta (Pete) Kistner; and 12 grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Elder Carlos Pena and Pastor Larry Clonch; interment was in Green Hill Cemetery in Noble.

**BURZYNSKI, Alma Grace "Skippy" (Peters)**, age 86; born March 26, 1935, in Clearwater Lake, Wis.; died Dec. 1, 2021, in Three Lakes, Wis. She was a member of the Clearwater Lake Church in Eagle River, Wis. Survivors include her son, Tony (Victoria) Burzynski; daughters, Debi (Ken) Folkman, and Julie (Paul) Lamon; brother, Elmer (Barbara) Peters; sister, Viola Platzke; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Cristian

Sorto; interment was in the Clearwater Lake Cemetery.

**CAIN, Thelma A. (Neely)**, age 88; born Dec. 23, 1932, in Armstrong County, Penn.; died May 6, 2021, in Salem, Ill. She was a member of the Salem Church in Salem. Survivors include her son, Mark Cain; daughter, Cynthia Cain; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. Private interment was at the Paradise Cemetery, Salem.

**EHRHARDT, Michael "Mike,"** age 68; born April 25, 1953, in Olney, Ill.; died Sept. 13, 2021, in Urbana, Ill. He was a member of the Noble Church in Noble, Ill. Survivors include his wife, Pamela K. "Pam" (Mason) Ehrhardt; sons, Brandon Ehrhardt, Austin Ehrhardt; stepdaughter, Bobbie (Andy) Furr; mother, Luella M. (Foll) Ehrhardt; brothers, Richard (Nancy) Ehrhardt, David (Kathy) Ehrhardt, Daniel Ehrhardt, and Mark (Tara) Ehrhardt; and three grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dale Barnhurst; interment in Green Hill Cemetery, Noble.

**FIGGINS, Steven W. "Steve,"** age 63; born July 20, 1958, in Mattoon, Ill.; died Oct. 16, 2021, in Manly, Iowa. He was a member of the Stewardson Church in Stewardson, Ill. Survivors include his wife, Barbara "Barb" Figgins; sons, Jacob Figgins, and Tesia Thomas; daughter, Elissa Figgins; mother, Shirley J. (Farris) Figgins; sisters, Connie (Steve) Thompson, and Cathy (Jim) Collins; and 11 grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Elder Dan Towar and Pastor Larry Clonch; interment in Lower Ash Grove Cemetery, Strasburg, Ill.

**GREEN, Theodore Clarence "Ted,"** age 92; born Nov. 23, 1929, in China; died Nov. 26, 2021, in Stevensville, Mich. He was a member of the St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Grace (Oldham) Green; sons, Ted (Connie) Green and Rick (Emi) Green; daughters, Jan (Don) Krpalek, and Audrey (Roy) Castelbuono; father, Cleon Green; mother, Marion Green; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. Private inurnment.

**HAMILTON, Shirley A. (Wheeker)**, age 95; born July 6, 1926, in Detroit, Mich.; died Dec. 24,

2021, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Village Adventist Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include her sons, Dennis (April) Winslow, and John Winslow; daughters, Pennie (Lew) Carrington, Judy (Robert) Sommer, Nancy (Stephen) Blosser, Barbara Krantz, Linda Winslow, and Brenda (Mark Anthony) Francis; 14 grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held by (Ph.D.) Andrew Blosser; inurnment and a private graveside service in the Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs. Memorial gifts may be sent to Your Story Hour in Berrien Springs.

**HILL, Marilyn J. (Schilling)**, age 87; born Jan. 10, 1934, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; died Nov. 28, 2021, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Village Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Kendall E. Hill; daughters, Merita (Doug) Ross, and Julie Hill; and three grandchildren. Funeral services were held by Pastor Ron Kelly; a private graveside service at Rosehill Cemetery, Berrien Springs. Memoriam may be sent to Caring Circle, 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

**SCHNELL, Denise N.**, age 46; born July 22, 1975, in Olney, Ill.; died Oct. 1, 2021, in Urbana, Ill. She was a member of the Noble Church in Noble, Ill. Survivors include her daughter, Piper Jones; mother, Karla (Schnell) Ash; sisters, Trish (Rickey) McGrew, Amanda (Chris) Byam, and Jennifer (Eric Jones) Borton; and stepsister, Lindsay (Richard) Wells. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dale Barnhurst and Pastor Larry Clonch, graveside service at Green Hill Cemetery, Noble.

**SUMMERS, Russell V. "Russ,"** age 66; born Dec. 15, 1954, in Decatur, Ill.; died July 18, 2021, in Shelbyville, Ill. He was a member of the Stewardson Church in Stewardson, Ill. Survivors include his wife, Pamela J. "Pam" (Holbrook) Summers; sons, John Troy (Michelle) Wilson, Joseph (April) Wilson, and Benjamin (Hillary) Summers; sisters, Loreane (Sam) Robinson, and Lois (Ed) Blondin; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Larry Clonch; graveside service at Glenwood Cemetery, Shelbyville, with military rites.

**WHITE, Kimberly A. (Keway)**, age 62; born Feb. 21, 1959, in Pontiac, Mich.; died Dec. 5, 2021, in Pontiac. She was a member of the Waterford Riverside Church in Waterford, Mich. Survivors include her husband, William R. White Jr.; sons, William J. White, and Colin M. White; brothers, Scott Keway, and Kevin Keway; sisters, Pam (Rod) MacKinnon, and Tracey (Shaun) Randall; and three grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Todd Ervin; private inurnment.

### CORRECTION

**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 five 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 Drive, Portland, TN 37148.

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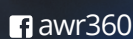
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# June AND July

## ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

**June 13–July 1:** *Social Skills Survival Summer Camp*  
**July 25–27:** *Leadership Roundtable Conference*

## ILLINOIS

**July 27–30:** *Illinois Camp Meeting, Camp Akita*

## INDIANA

**June 11:** *Hispanic Fraternity Day, Indiana Academy*  
**June 13–18:** *Indiana Camp Meeting, Indiana Academy*  
**June 15–19:** *Single Moms and Kids Camp, Timber Ridge Camp*  
**June 19–26:** *Camp for the Blind, Timber Ridge Camp*  
**July 21–24:** *Young Adult (ages 18+) Sight and Sound Event, Lancaster, PA*  
**July 22–24:** *Hispanic Youth Retreat, Timber Ridge Camp*

## LAKE REGION

**June 29–July 2:** *Lake Region Camp Meeting, Camp Wagner*  
**July 17:** *Lake Region Constituency Session, Camp Wagner*

## MICHIGAN

**June 10–18:** *Lower Peninsula Camp Meeting, Great Lakes Adventist Academy*  
**July 31–Aug. 3:** *Ministerial Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

## WISCONSIN

**June 10–18:** *Wisconsin Camp Meeting, Camp Wakonda*  
**July 10:** *JAHWI (Hispanic Youth) Sports Day, Milwaukee*

## GENERAL CONFERENCE AND NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

**June 6–11:** *General Conference Session, St. Louis, Missouri*  
**June 19–22:** *NAD Called Pastors' Family Convention, Lexington, Kentucky*

## CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS JUNE & JULY

- June 4** Local Church Budget
- June 11** Women's Ministries (NAD)
- June 18** Local Church Budget
- June 25** Local Conference Advance
- July 2** Local Church Budget
- July 9** World Budget (GC)
- July 16** Local Church Budget
- July 23** Local Conference Advance
- July 30** Local Church Budget



# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:17	9:21	9:24	9:26	9:26	9:24	9:20	9:15	9:08
Chicago, Ill.	8:22	8:26	8:29	8:31	8:31	8:29	8:25	8:20	8:13
Detroit, Mich.	9:05	9:09	9:13	9:14	9:14	9:12	9:08	9:03	8:56
Indianapolis, Ind.	9:09	9:13	9:16	9:18	9:18	9:16	9:13	9:08	9:02
La Crosse, Wis.	8:43	8:48	8:51	8:52	8:52	8:50	8:46	8:40	8:33
Lansing, Mich.	9:12	9:17	9:20	9:22	9:21	9:19	9:16	9:10	9:03
Madison, Wis.	8:33	8:37	8:41	8:42	8:42	8:40	8:36	8:31	8:24
Springfield, Ill.	8:23	8:27	8:30	8:32	8:32	8:30	8:27	8:22	8:16

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# Taking God With You

I have a great friend with whom I would run all the time. During these runs we would talk about life, the good, the bad, the ugly. We were honest with each other, and the runs became therapeutic, getting things off our chests.



▲ Joshua Voigt

We have both since moved so no longer go on long runs and, subsequently, have lost that time to share what is most important on our minds. If you have ever experienced friendship like this, you will know how valuable it is, how healing it can be. Prayer with God can take on this same honest relationship.

I have met too many people to count who have a hard time telling God what they really feel. When we go to church, we put on our best smile and act like everything is great in the world, even if we are hanging on by a thread. Unfortunately, we take this same approach with God, coming to Him with a façade that does not reveal our true selves. How do we break this habit?

I would direct you to a study of the Psalms. David is continually in communication with God, and it is brutally honest. After David is confronted by Nathan over his affair with Bathsheba, he writes Psalm 51 which includes some of the loved verses in the Bible. David does not flee from responsibility, admits he did wrong and needs God's intervention (Psalm 51:1-4). In Psalm 6, we find a possible response to the census David took that was against God's will. In it, he again admits wrong and asks for forgiveness.

David did not only come to God when he did wrong, he also brought God his troubles. Psalm 40 is a prayer for deliverance. Psalm 118 is a thanksgiving to God. He even speaks his anger when there's anger in his heart (Psalm 109). David was not afraid to be real with God; in turn, God described him as a man after his own heart (Acts 13:22).

We, too, can have this experience with God, but it

takes time. Now that my running partner moved away, I run alone. Actually, I should say, I don't run alone, I run with God. Spending an hour with Him on the road lets me get past the superficial and down to what really bothers me. Once I am able to be honest with God, all aspects of my prayer life change. The thanksgivings seem more genuine, the praise more passionate, even saying "I love you" means more, because now I actually believe it.

You may not be a runner, but what can you do to spend longer periods of time with God? What can you declutter from your life to allow for this time? It might be turning off the radio on your commute to work and talking with Him. Gardening, grass cutting, washing cars, painting, cleaning the house are all times you can turn your mind to God and let Him get to know you.

Yes, God knows us. He knew us before we were even born (Jeremiah 1:5), and He knows our innermost being (Proverbs 20:27), but there is something important about telling God yourself. He wants us to be honest with Him (Psalm 51:6). ■

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*Joshua Voigt pastors the North Aurora Church in suburban Chicago.*





# How to Avoid or Manage Financial Stress

Stress is a common term, defining a positive (eustress) or negative (distress) emotional state of well-being. There are two main types of distress: acute, considered short-term; and chronic, lasting a longer period of time.

Distress also has been labeled as a silent killer, describing the grave effect it can have on your body, causing illness or possible life-threatening consequences. Although multiple factors can create stress in one's life, we will focus on one in particular: financial stress.

Financial stress can be described as a state of worry, anxiety or emotional tension related to money, debt and current or future expenses. A survey conducted by CreditWise discovered that 73 percent of Americans (all ages) rank finances as the most significant source of stress. Additionally, finances rank much higher among Millennials and Gen Z respondents, totaling 81 percent and 82 percent respectively, expressing that financial stress is more apparent in the younger generation. This is possibly related to student loan debt and a lower accumulation of savings.

Many Americans have encountered an increase of financial stress post-COVID-19. Job loss, inflation and other economic factors have contributed to financial uncertainty. As of March 2022, the inflation rate has reached 8.5 percent, the highest rate since December 1981, a period of recession.

Whether you have lived through a recession or are unaccustomed to financial uncertainty, as have older generations, dealing with financial stress is never easy and a matter that should not be taken lightly. Here are some helpful ways to minimize financial stress:

- **List current challenges and set specific and incremental goals.** Listing each on paper, approaching one goal at a time can reduce mental pressure.
- **Create a budget, regularly monitoring your spending.** The goal is to reset your spending to create

some financial flexibility. For more information, review April's Stewardship article, "Budgeting Basics."

- **Focus on what you can control and release those things over which you have no control.**
- **Utilize automatic payment solutions** to reduce the amount of time you spend on managing your finances.
- **Seek professional assistance from a financial advisor.** Receiving professional advice can provide solutions to exacerbated challenges.
- **Find free/low-cost stress-relieving activities.** This can include helpful hobbies or interests (reading, artistry, exercising, etc.). According to the American Psychological Association, 67 percent of Millennials surf the internet and 58 percent watch two or more hours of TV/movies as a way of coping with stress, which is considered unhelpful.
- **Prayer.** Take everything to God in prayer. Matthew 11:28 (NLT) declares, "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." 1 Peter 5:7 states, "Give all your worries and cares to God for He cares about you."

Any form of distress is an unhealthy emotion that should be cared for appropriately. When left untreated, distress can only become more problematic. Take control of the matters that can be controlled. However, remember that God is always available, promising to be an *ever-present help in trouble* (Psalm 46:1). ■

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



▲ Jermaine Jackson

# Values of True Leadership

**AS A RESIDENT ON THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT** track of AdventHealth’s Emerging Leadership Program, I have the privilege to work with leaders of its four suburban Chicago hospitals. My residency track is a two-to-three-year program that focuses on preparing participants for leadership roles by providing a well-rounded and comprehensive understanding of hospital operations.

I’ve always held an interest in healthcare, so when I learned of AdventHealth’s program while studying at Southern Adventist University, my attention was instantly captured. I was studying to obtain a BS in Health Science and BA in International Studies (Spanish emphasis), had previously held leadership roles throughout my scholastic journey, and was working as a medical assistant during college. Given that my mother is an urgent-care physician, my father is a dentist, and my grandparents are retired physicians, healthcare was always a prominent topic in my household. AdventHealth’s program seemed to directly combine two of my passions—using my people skills as a leader and pursuing my deep-rooted love for healthcare.

After graduating in May 2021, I served as a summer intern at AdventHealth before beginning my General Management Residency last October. I rotated through the hospitals, gaining exposure to the clinical and non-clinical departments and their leaders. Projects on which I assisted included budget development, hospital operational work and mission integration. Alongside gaining healthcare experience, I quickly realized how strongly AdventHealth’s leadership adheres to its beliefs and values, including the leadership principles of “lead self, lead others, lead results,” giving back and putting others before oneself.

I saw how AdventHealth leaders embraced change and remained resilient throughout all uncertainties. The act of putting their people first and always offering a voice of care and encouragement has directly demonstrated to me the values of true leadership.

Throughout the entirety of my residency, those in leadership remained focused on achieving AdventHealth’s mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ by focusing on service. A valuable take-away is how leadership should always rotate around the questions, “What can I do to help you? What can I do to lead you? And how can I make your job easier?” Every team member was so wonderful, kind and willing to nourish, give and grow as I began my healthcare career, and it has been a blessing to work for leaders rooted in such strong values.

Come summer, I will lead the AdventHealth internship program and mentor four interns for part of the same program in which I participated following my college graduation. I look forward to emulating the focus on mission and commitment to service that was shown to me. Receiving the platform to do so is a blessing, given this is what I ultimately wish to give back and demonstrate as a leader in healthcare. ■

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*Adele Uta is a first-year General Management resident in the AdventHealth Great Lakes Region. She completed her undergraduate education from Southern Adventist University and will continue with her residency track for the next two years.*



# Grace in a Pandemic



▲ Ama Akoto-Boateng

**GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS.** When I boarded an 11-hour flight to travel over 5,000 miles from Ghana, West Africa, to the U.S. in December 2019, I did not know I would soon experience some of the most incredible milestones in my life.

Three months after I arrived, in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. I was barely through with my first semester of graduate studies at Andrews University. Even during normal times, it can be a struggle to get accustomed to a new environment. How much more difficult when a pandemic hits?

In those dark moments, I took inspiration from seeing the glass as half-full, not half-empty. I based my faith on God's words in Jeremiah 29:11: *For I know the plans*

*I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (NIV).*

A few days after the University shut down, I received an email from my department, calling for any interested students for an internship opportunity at AdventHealth.

Immediately, my interest was sparked; it was my passion to make a difference in the lives of others. This, along with my deep involvement in a previous healthcare project, motivated me to pursue a career at AdventHealth, an organization I've come to admire and respect for its unique mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ.

My first point of contact at AdventHealth was Stephen Smith, an amazing talent recruiter. After a series of virtual interviews, AdventHealth extended an offer in October 2020 for a 2021 summer communications internship at the corporate office. It was evident to me that this was the hand of God, connecting me to the path He had prepared for me.

After three months of the summer internship and four months of an extended fall internship, I was offered a permanent seat at the table. This opportunity was offered thanks to my incredible team members at the AdventHealth Leadership Institute and corporate communications who had confidence in my talents and abilities.

I'm grateful to God for connecting me—not only to a great place to study, but a great place to work, too. ■

*Ama Akoto-Boateng is an Internal Communications specialist at AdventHealth. She completed her master's degree in Communication at Andrews University in December 2021.*

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**Kiran**  
*Assistant Nurse Manager*

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