

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

HERALD

AUGUST 2022

MAKING A
CASE FOR
PUBLIC
CAMPUS
MINISTRY

I WILL GO

ILLINOIS MEMBERS *ILLINOIS FOCUS* INSIDE



Jeannie Michel

TEST OF FAITH

Graduations recently wrapped up here in Berrien Springs. I always look forward to celebrating the graduates' accomplishments, awards and learning of their future plans. College students transitioning to their careers and high school students transitioning to college—this is a time of hope. But, oddly, it's also a time of concern.

You may be familiar with the sobering statistic from the Barna Institute showing that “70 percent of high school youth who enter college as professing Christians will leave with little to no faith.” And if you're thinking that's doesn't apply to our youth, then consider findings of the Institute of Church History longitudinal study over 10 years which found “nearly 50 percent of Adventist youth had left the church or were inactive members by their mid-20s.” I must tell you, these statistics are like alarm bells ringing in my head.

In researching this issue, I was relieved to see the proactive steps underway in the Lake Union to stem the tide. Did you know the Lake Union is the first Union in the North American Division to formally organize public campus ministry some five years ago? If you go even farther back, it was reported in the University of Michigan's daily newspaper, *Michigan Daily* (October 12, 1891), that an Adventist sanitarium/boarding house near the Ann Arbor campus was managed by a medical student. Are you aware that the Lake Union is the only Union with a coordinator focusing on students at non-Adventist higher education institutions? Do you know that each of our conferences has a representative overseeing this critical area of ministry?

So how do you fit in? You can email or call your conference rep (see page 26 for full list) and give your name, if you're a student, or the name of someone you know heading to a non-Adventist university this fall, to get connected with a church near the campus. In light of today's pressures, I urge all of us to continue covering our youth with a blanket of prayer. ■



Debbie

Debbie Michel
Editor, *Lake Union Herald*

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A Case For Public Campus Ministry

It is estimated that more than 75 percent of our Adventist college students are attending non-Adventist institutions of higher learning.¹ Anyone skeptical about these statistics is not currently in touch with our denomination's educational administrators in North America and beyond. The challenges are many and complex.



▲ Israel Ramos

Most of the North American Division church membership is made up of minority groups. These individuals, especially African American, Asian and Latino students, are viewed as a growing asset by colleges and universities in some of our nation's most populous states. Backed by substantial government support, these state colleges heavily target minority groups in an effort to "embrace our demographic future."²

This poses a significant challenge for Adventist institutions of higher learning. Even though our schools receive a large sum of funding from local conferences, unions, divisions and—in some cases—the General Conference, church subsidies make up a discouraging 10 percent of operating funds, making it difficult for our tuition-dependent institutions to compete with other

better funded public and private schools in our nation.³

Regardless of the validity of the arguments, the reality is that an increasing number of Adventist students—especially the minority demographics that make up the majority of our North American Church population—are finding a growing list of reasons for not attending Adventist colleges and universities.

Reach the Campus, Reach the World

According to the Institute of International Education, the leading nonprofit educational exchange organization in the United States, more than one million (or 5 percent) of students studying in our country's colleges and universities are international students. Saudi Arabia, China, India, Vietnam, Taiwan and Japan make up

more than 60 percent of the international student population on public college campuses. This population is known by some missiologists as the 10-40 Window—the area with the greatest number of unreached people groups around the globe. Thirteen of the top 25 places of origin for international students are nations whose populations are predominantly or entirely non-Christian. These countries include Indonesia, Turkey, Malaysia, Nepal and Iran.⁴

Although sending missionaries on overseas mission trips is critical to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, it is hard to justify a more efficient method of world mission outreach than reaching international students on public university campuses. In addition to engaging the future leaders of the world and the wealthy and educated, public campus ministry is more pragmatically effective. International students of non-Christian religions who are studying on American college campuses have already overcome the language barrier. We are engaging them on safer grounds. And, in many cases, we have an easier time engaging with them on a cultural level than we would if we were guests in their home countries.

Reaching the public college campus is the most effective missional way to reach the world of non-Christian global religions. It also is the most responsible way of reaching the North American Division's largest unreached people group in its territory.⁵

Ministry and Mission

Although there are many creative approaches for ministering to non-Christian religions on the college campus, here are five suggestions.

Community is becoming more crucially important for college students. For many students, loneliness—the feeling that social

needs are not being adequately met—is a common experience on college campuses.⁶ In fact, some experts say that loneliness has hit epidemic proportions among millennials in the United States.⁷ Having sober barbecues, wholesome game nights and meaningful meetings are simple, effective ways to build community among students of non-Christian religions.

Second, many international students who come have an appreciation for American culture. However, students from other countries often discover that there are major differences between our educational system and what they're accustomed to at home: professors have office hours, the grading system is different, group projects are sometimes required, and more.⁸ Inviting international students to celebrate holidays (American or those of their native country) or learning about other aspects of our culture is a good way to reach them.

Academic tutoring is a third significant way to reach the needs of international students. For most, English is not their first language and they'll have to study longer hours in order to fully grasp material. Helping academically is a strong way to serve and practice Christ's method of reaching people.

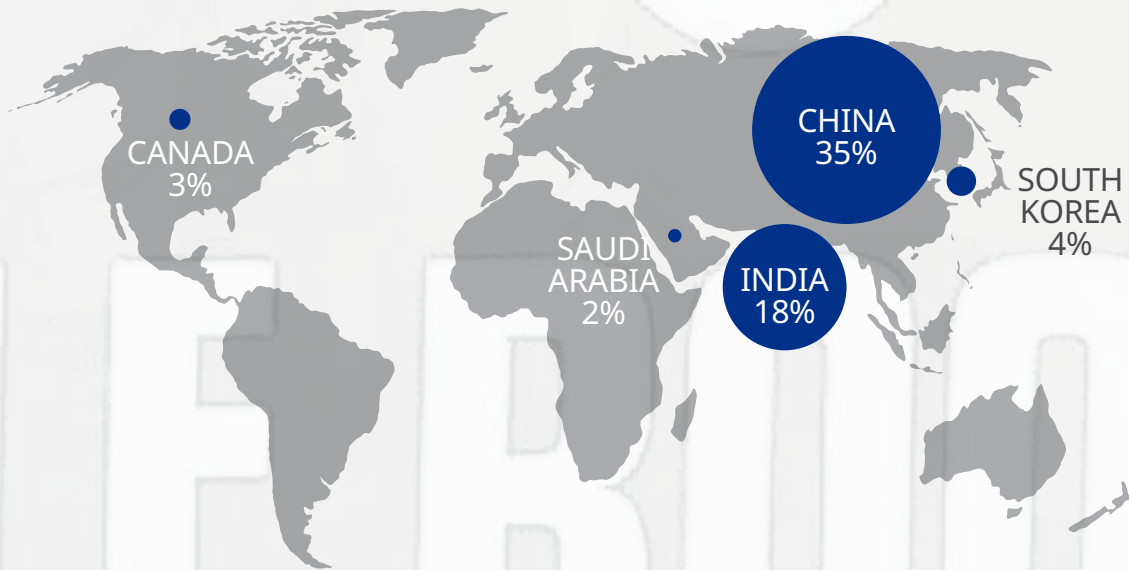
Fourth, international students welcome spiritual conversations more than many anticipate. The reason why some do not experience successful spiritual conversation with students is usually because they lack a tactful approach or are unwise in their timing. In most cases, it is fairly easy to engage in spiritual discussion when it becomes a natural part of everyday living. When spirituality is not something we put on and take off, but is instead who we are, spiritual conversations lose their awkwardness and become meaningful for the Adventist student and the non-Christian student, alike.

The ultimate purpose of the Seventh-day Adventist should be to reveal Christ in the life. In the early Christian church, "one interest prevailed; one subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character and to labor for the enlargement of His Kingdom."⁹ ■

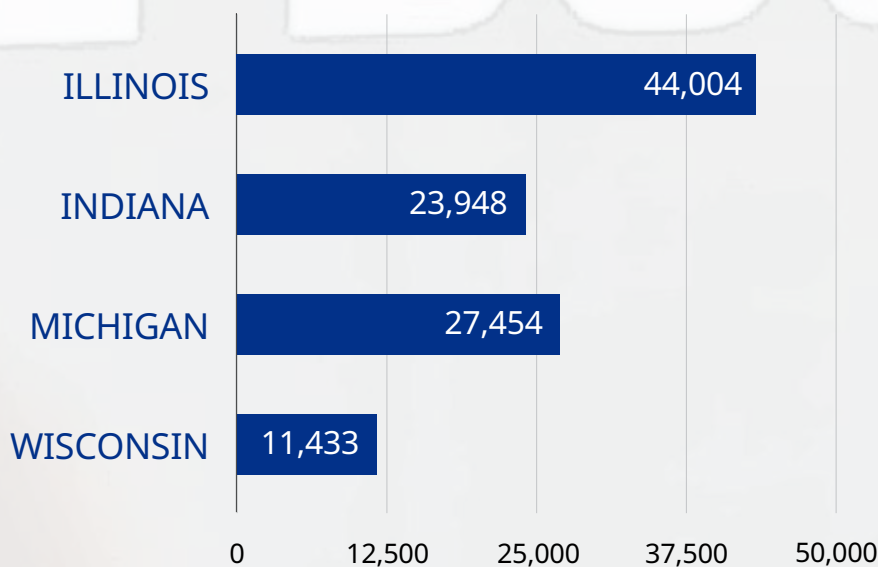
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International Students in Lake Union Public Universities

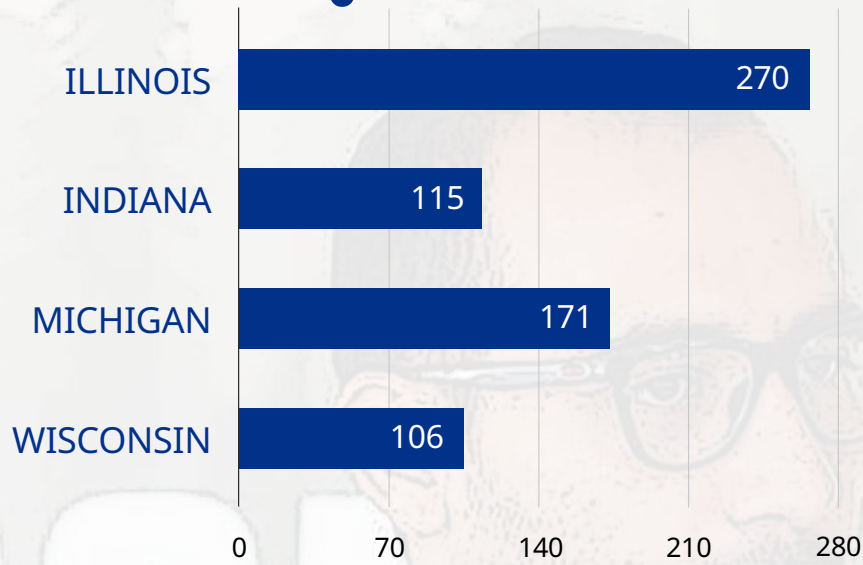


Total International Students 2020–2021



Compiled by Michigan Conference Public Campus Ministry Department (2022) using data obtained primarily from www.univstats.com and www.opendoorsdata.org

Total Colleges and Universities



National Rank for Number of International Students

ILLINOIS	5
INDIANA	10
MICHIGAN	9
WISCONSIN	21



Nurturing Core Longings

And ye fathers . . . bring them up in the nurture and admonition of God. (Ephesians 6:4)



▲ Jasmine Fraser

Parents' efforts to nurture and admonish children in the way of the Lord is a daunting endeavor. Despite the fluctuation of society's morals and values, it is incumbent on parents to nurture and admonish children for God. Nurturing and admonishing involve attending to children's developmental needs, instructing and guiding them to trust and commit to God. Nurturing and admonishing have spiritual, physical, mental and emotional implications in the developmental years and over a lifetime.

The early years of development are essential in individuals' functioning throughout life.¹ The need for love, security, purpose, significance, belonging and understanding are God-given core longings to be met adequately during early development.² When core longings are inadequately met, they create developmental gaps that affect how a person functions in the adult years.

Addressing repercussions of unmet core longings in adults is vital. Yet it is crucial to mitigate effects of unmet core longings by attending to children's developmental needs. Doing this helps them grow into healthy adults who are less likely to be trapped in the spiral of dysfunctional habits.

Attending to the core longings of children requires intentionality, awareness, and creating atmospheres and moments where these needs are met. Parent-child relational atmosphere is pivotal in this process.

Responding to children's need for love influences their cognitive-affective wellbeing. Love is not contingent on anything children do or fail to do. Parents' expression of love should model God's love for each person. God loves despite a person's trait or character. He holds nothing back except what would cause harm.

Children's sense of security is contingent on the relational climate within families. Both parents

contribute to children's experience of feeling secure. Fathers are likely to contribute more to children feeling secure. Children's security is incumbent on the parent-child relationship, but vicariously they experience a sense of security by observing their fathers relating to their mothers with love and care. Children who experience a sense of security through family relationships develop trust.

Children realize their purpose through their identity in God and the family unit. Parents can help children understand what it means to be created in God's image, empowering them to accept who they are and embrace the responsibility to live according to God's desires. Parents' also may nurture purpose in their children as they authentically live out their own God-given purpose.

Children's significance and sense of belonging are linked to awareness of their purpose. Their significance is tied to understanding who they are in the family and the world. Parents can help children experience significance by letting them know they are valued in the family unit and God's plan. Knowing they are loved and valued creates a lifetime sense of belonging—an awareness that they are wanted within their family units and in the Kingdom. Ultimately, they feel understood and are not ashamed to assert “who” they are and “Whose” they are as they fulfill their life's purpose. ■

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Lifestyle Changes Yield Rapid Blood Pressure Benefits

Over the course of over three decades of medical practice, I've had many patients who told me they didn't do as well as they knew when it came to healthy lifestyle practices.

If you can relate to that admission, it is not surprising. After all, we get comfortable with our typical lifestyle choices so, initially, changes simply don't sound all that appealing. On top of that, many people feel that the benefits of lifestyle change only come after many years. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Consider the case of high blood pressure (known in medical circles as hypertension). It is an extremely relevant example. Hypertension afflicts roughly 30 to 50 percent of the adult population in virtually every country on planet earth. Even if you don't have high blood pressure today and you live a normal lifespan, you have about a 90 percent chance of developing the condition some time before you die. Although many people feel fine even with significantly elevated blood pressures, hypertension increases the risk of devastating conditions as diverse as heart attack, stroke, dementia, blindness and kidney failure.

In 2016, fellow physician, Dr. Greg Steinke, and nurse practitioner, Trudie Li, collaborated with me to author our ultimately-award-winning book, *Thirty Days to Natural Blood Pressure Control*. Along with the book, we released a series of videos that could be used by churches or community groups to run an eight-session blood pressure program (which is still available at www.compasshealth.net). When we pooled data from the first three Adventist churches who submitted results, we found that, among 25 participants who started programs with systolic blood pressures of 140 or greater, they lowered their systolic (upper) number by an average of 17.1 points and their diastolic (lower)

number by 8.0 points. These results were obtained in 30 to 60 days. (Some churches offered the program over 30 days by covering two sessions per week; others offered the sessions weekly over 8 weeks).

Although community programs are extremely powerful, we later released a free daily video series (available at www.TimelessHealingInsights.org). The same rapid and striking benefits can be obtained by individuals watching the videos.

Consider Opal, a 68-year-old Seventh-day Adventist who resides in the Lake Union. In a published interview, Opal describes having baseline blood pressures that averaged around 152/90. She reported that she often saw systolic readings in the 170s and 180s. Within a few days of following the program available at www.TimelessHealingInsights.org, Opal noticed that her systolic blood pressures had dropped from the 150s down into the 140s. When I interviewed her after sticking with the program for 4 to 5 months, she reported a weight loss of 24 pounds and an average blood pressure reading of 118/76.

The encouraging message from our work with high blood pressure is this: you can achieve striking benefits in your blood pressure in a relatively short time. Furthermore, there are free or inexpensive resources that can help you and those you love make such lasting lifestyle changes. ■

David DeRose, MD, MPH, is a board-certified specialist in both Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine. He also holds a master's degree in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University and pastors the Fort Wayne First Church. He also has an audio devotional ministry. You can receive "The Upward Look" at <https://bit.ly/38TGens>.



▲ David DeRose

Protestant Mission Explosion

And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it: and then, finally the end will come. Matthew 24:14, NLT



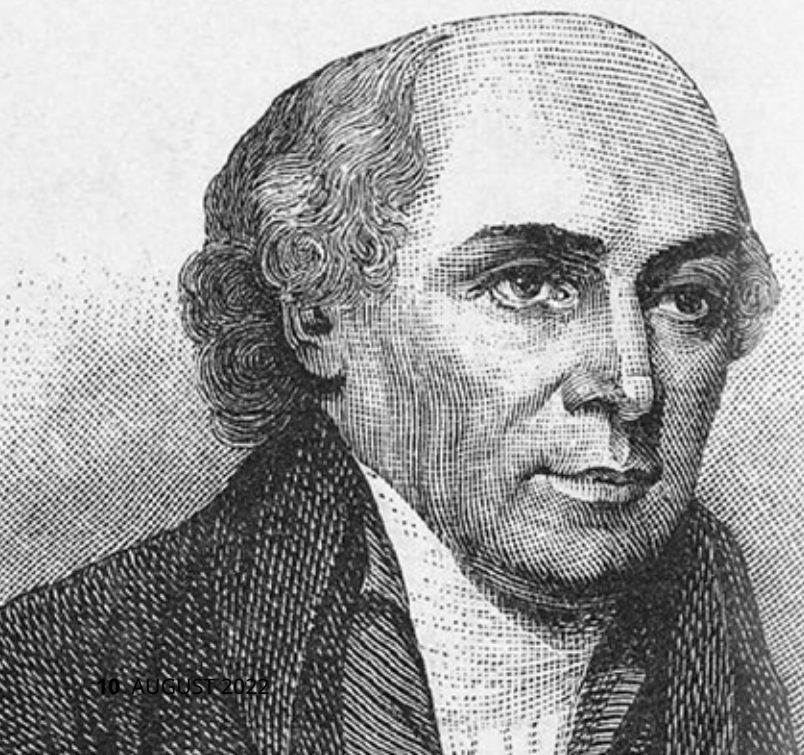
▲ George R. Knight

World mission stood at the heart of the nineteenth-century Protestant Christianity. The modern mission movement began in 1792 when William Carey published, *An Enquiry into the Obligation of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*.

That might not seem so revolutionary to us, but it was in 1792. The next year saw the establishment of the first missionary society for sponsoring foreign missions and the sending of Carey to India, where he worked for seven years without an Indian convert.

But even though his efforts began slowly, they rooted themselves firmly. By the time of his death in 1834, Carey had not only established a strong Christian church in India, but he had fathered the modern mission movement that would take Protestantism around the world. The first great wave of Protestant missions to the world peaked in the 1830s, but it didn't stop there. Rather, it increased in magnitude during the

▼ William Carey



latter part of the century. Kenneth Scott Latourette has labeled the nineteenth century as “the great century” of Protestant missions, while Sydney Ahlstrom, a leading student of American church history, has noted that “the closing two decades of the nineteenth century witnessed the climactic phase of the foreign missions movement in American Protestantism.”

One of its main stimulants was the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, which grew out of an appeal by evangelist Dwight L. Moody in 1886 for college students to devote their lives to mission service. One hundred took their stand that first year. That number increased to 2,200 in 1887; within a few years, many thousands of young people had pledged their lives to mission service. The movement's motto was, “The evangelization of the world in this generation.”

It stimulated, claims Ernest R. Sandeen, “the greatest demonstration of missionary interest ever known in the United States.” As a result, American Protestants began to see such places as Africa, China and Japan as their spiritual provinces.

Such a movement did not catch Adventists sleeping. God had opened the way through the Protestant initiative, and the Seventh-day Adventists would rapidly reach out to *every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people* with messages of the Three Angels. ■

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 313. Reprinted with permission.

Editor's Note — This marks the final installment from the book, Lest We Forget. Next month, we begin a new history column from the Center for Adventist Research.

Totalmente Reconciliados

“El Señor está deseoso de unir nuestro corazón con su corazón de amor infinito para que nos reconciliemos totalmente con Dios ... Cuando creemos en Cristo como nuestro Salvador personal, la paz de Cristo se hace nuestra.” Exaltad a Jesús, p. 326

En la sesión general de la Iglesia Adventista que se tuvo recién en St. Louis se presentó la maravillosa historia de la conversión de miles de rebeldes comunistas en las Filipinas que decidieron dejar de pelear contra el gobierno y hacerse miembros de la Iglesia Adventista. Sucede que nuestro ministerio radial llamado Adventist World Radio comenzó en el 2017 a transmitir diariamente mensajes de salvación a los habitantes en la isla de Mindoro. En esa isla el gobierno de las Filipinas había estado en conflicto con los rebeldes por 50 años en donde más de 40,000 personas habían perdido sus vidas. Pero sucede que el líder de los rebeldes notó que sus soldados habían decidido dejar de pelear y entregar sus vidas a Cristo. Comenzó a averiguar lo que estaba pasando y con el tiempo el líder tomó su decisión de seguir a Jesús y ser bautizado, junto con sus esposa y cientos de los rebeldes. En los últimos tres años miles más de los rebeldes han dejado de pelear, han entregado sus vidas a Cristo y ahora son miembros de la Iglesia Adventista. El gobierno salió tan impresionado con el cambio de vida de los rebeldes que decidió concederles amnistía a todos y hasta les entregó a cada uno de ellos un pequeño terreno para cultivar. También se decidió cambiar su clasificación de “Former Rebels” (previos rebeldes) a “Fully Reconciled” (totalmente reconciliados).

Doy gracias a Dios que también la reconciliación ha estado tomando lugar—por medio del evangelismo (en la ciudad de Indianápolis). Como muchos de ustedes saben la Unión del Lago ha estado apoyando la conferencia de Indiana y la conferencia Regional del Lago con una estrategia de evangelismo en Indianápolis, comenzando con la conferencia de oración titulada “Nuestro Clamor Unido”, seguido por el ministerio de salud llamado “Pathways to Health” y la campaña evangelística dirigido

por los esposos Omar y Nessy Grieve de La Voz de Esperanza titulada “Jesús, La Esperanza para el Mundo Hoy”. Esta estrategia tuvo su culminación con la campaña de la Conferencia General titulada “Revelación de Esperanza”, la cual fue presentada por el presidente de la Conferencia General, el Pastor Ted Wilson. Damos gracias a Dios por la multitud de programas que se presentaron y han resultado en muchas almas tomando sus decisiones en seguir a Jesús y ser bautizados. Al final de todo, hacer evangelismo tiene su meta principal – la reconciliación total con Dios. Mi oración es que sigamos evangelizando en nuestras comunidades para así compartir en este mundo de conflicto las buenas nuevas de paz y salvación. ■



▲ Carmelo Mercado

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago



▲ Un alma entrega su vida a Jesús en la campaña evangelística “Revelación de Esperanza” dirigida por los pastores Mark Finley y Ted Wilson

'God always has had plans for me'

By Becky St. Clair

WHEN JAMAICAN NATIVE, KEMOL LLOYD, WAS VERY YOUNG, HIS FATHER MOVED TO THE UNITED STATES. His mother left town to find work and never returned, so Lloyd was brought up by his grandmother, a strict and devout woman who raised him in the church, accepting no excuses when it came time to attend the service every Sabbath morning.

"My grandma wasn't educated—she couldn't read or write—but she believed in education, and she believed in God," Lloyd says. "That faith is what got me through Adventist school, and when I was 12 years old, I was baptized."

When Lloyd's grandmother died three years later, the church stepped in and truly became his family. He became even more involved in church, participating in Adventist Youth (AY) and singing regularly.

When he graduated from high school, Lloyd tried to work his way through college with a job in the shipping industry. Unfortunately, they weren't willing to give him 24 hours off work every weekend for Sabbath so he couldn't hold a position.

"I didn't know what to do," he says, "so I asked God to show me what path He wanted me to take."

Shortly thereafter, Lloyd decided to change his career focus to education; within days, he received notice that he'd been awarded a scholarship which covered his tuition for the duration of the three-year program. The following year he received another full scholarship, this time one that also provided an allowance for expenses. This pattern continued for eight years, into Lloyd's two-year master's program.

"At the start of every school year, I'd have no idea where my tuition money was going to come from. Somehow, God always provided," he says.

Power of a Divine Encounter

During the summer break, Lloyd worked at an adventure theme park, helping guests with their harnesses as they awaited their turn on the canopy zipline.

It was on the zipline platform that he met a retired American math professor named Stu.

"Stu was all harnessed and ready to go when an episode of his medical condition made it unsafe for him to do the zipline," Lloyd recalls. "He stayed behind while his wife went, and Stu and I got to chatting."

As they discussed religion, God and professions, Lloyd mentioned he was hoping to someday get his PhD in mathematics but wasn't sure where or how that would be possible. Stu asked for Lloyd's contact information and said he'd be in touch when he got home.

"I didn't expect to hear from him, to be honest," Lloyd admits. "Why would a random theme park guest care about the life of a park employee?"

A few weeks later, Lloyd received an email from Stu, recommending him for the mathematics education doctorate program at Indiana University Bloomington. Much to Lloyd's surprise, his application was accepted, but the age-old question rose to the forefront: Where would the funding come from? Then the age-old answer also appeared: God.

"The school said they could fund me for a year, but could not guarantee anything more," Lloyd explains. "I told God if He only wanted me there for a year, I'd go for a year. The next year they funded me again. And the next."

For six years God provided the means for Lloyd to continue in his PhD program, and he is set to complete his degree before the end of this year.

His faith journey isn't just about academics, however; he also found a spiritual purpose on the IU campus.

Blooming at Bloomington

"As soon as I got here, I looked for an Adventist group of students," Lloyd says. He discovered ACF (Adventist Christian Fellowship). When the former leaders graduated, a local pastor whose church was a strong supporter of ACF asked Lloyd to consider being the group's president. Although he was hesitant, Lloyd agreed to give it a try. He's now led the group for four years.

“We started out pretty small, and we couldn’t seem to make it grow,” Lloyd says. “Then two of my friends and I began meeting monthly to pray specifically for more members, and it made a huge difference.”

Although not all 30 identified Adventists on the IU Bloomington campus are yet part of ACF, the group’s numbers have increased. They are now large enough to implement several initiatives on campus and in their community. One such initiative is Lunch Buddies, a program that takes IU students, members of the Bloomington Adventist Church, and their lawn chairs to a local city park to seek out houseless individuals. When they meet some, they set up their chairs and begin a conversation.

“We know this community is receiving food and clothes from the many organizations in the city, so we want to provide something else,” Lloyd explains. “We just want to love them as Christ would, making sure they are seen and heard.”

Based on the results of an ACF-instigated campus survey of students, the group focuses their on-campus efforts on creating opportunities for social engagement. Things like Christmas caroling, passing out cookies and offering prayer, providing a massage chair and coordinating open volleyball games dot their calendars throughout the school year. It was at one of these ACF-coordinated events that Lloyd experienced a true, God-inspired moment.

Somehow, he had come into possession of a Chinese-English Bible. Despite not speaking or reading Chinese, Lloyd couldn’t bring himself to get rid of it.

“I kept wondering if there was someone who could use it,” he says.

At a university volleyball game, Lloyd met a student from China who began asking him questions about Christianity. He immediately knew who that Bible was for, and gifted it to her. He invited her to the weekly ACF Bible study meetings and, to his delight, she not only came to the meetings, but became an



Joshua Pedroza

▲ For six years, God provided the means for Kemol Lloyd to continue in his PhD program at Indiana University Bloomington; he is set to complete his degree before the end of this year. His faith journey isn’t just about academics, however; he also found a spiritual purpose on the IU campus.

active ACF member and helped promote the group on campus.

“As I wrap up my doctoral degree, I hope to find a job teaching math, but the truth is, just like every year of my educational experience, I don’t know what’s coming,” Lloyd admits. “What I do know is that God always has had plans for me, and I’m just waiting to see what He’s going to do next.” ■

Becky St. Clair is a freelance writer.



MODEL OF MISSION

REFLECTIONS ON
NAVIGATING SPIRITUAL
LIFE ON PUBLIC
UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES



When I decided to attend a public university, as a good, second-generation Asian American, I carefully considered the academic prestige and the financial cost. Having attended public schools in Southfield and Novi, Michigan, and having to constantly explain why I did not go to parties or compete on

Sabbath, I did long to attend one of our Adventist institutions. However, what tipped the balance were the needs of my local church—the Detroit Korean Church and my desire to have the opportunity to share our beautiful Adventist message with the 40,000 students at the University of Michigan. Ann Arbor was not my Tarshish. On the contrary, as a high-schooler having just read the *Great Controversy*, I was inspired to be a present-day Waldensian. But I vastly underestimated what I would be up against intellectually and spiritually.

As one of 500 students in the lecture hall taking organic chemistry, I quickly felt insignificant. In my small group study sessions, I felt I had little to contribute intellectually. Thinking God had led me here to contribute spiritually, I joined a non-denominational Christian fellowship. There I met some of the most sincere and dedicated Christians who ended up teaching me more about the gospel, grace and salvation by faith than I taught them about either the health or the sanctuary message. It was humbling. And I felt very alone.

It was at that point when the Lord started to work. A group of students from the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti churches found each other and started having weekly Bible studies. Then someone found me, and I started getting emails from Adventist Students for Christ. There were about seven of us who met for Bible study and prayer meetings. According to the school's registrar's office, there were more self-identified Adventist students, but they probably did not want to be found.

The following year, CAMPUS was launched and I found my home. We were young people who were passionate about Christ and eager to study God's Word together, student missionaries who dedicated a year of their lives to serve this secular campus through Bible study, health seminars and massage therapy. Our numbers grew and more students from the local churches enrolled which made our newly minted church, CAMPUS HOPE, look like the United Nations. The passion, kinship and joy was real. We were no longer merely a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was *our* church. The church was no longer a building. We turned any room in

the student union or a mobile home into a sanctuary for God. The Sabbath was a delight as the student missionaries prepared for us the most humble but tasty haystacks I have ever had.

Just as college is supposed to prepare young people for the real world, CAMPUS taught me how to lovingly share the gospel truth through friendship evangelism, Bible study and the health message. We learned to run a church on a secular campus and create a diverse and dynamic body of like-minded young people where seekers were welcome into our ragtag bunch. As a result, I have witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit transform the lives of those who were seeking the present truth through God's Word.

It was at CAMPUS where I personally witnessed the *spark* that kindled the vision for the Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC). But, just as important as that movement, CAMPUS equipped us young people to become leaders in our local churches. With the support of local churches and church leaders like Pastor Dan Hall, Randy Skeete and Dan Vis (fastmissions.com) who believed in a small group of students at the University of Michigan, we were able to reach a generation of young people, inspire them to take ownership of their church, and preach the Three Angels' messages to the whole world. This is true discipleship. Now, many of us who have become professionals are commissioned to pay it forward as we support and equip the next generation through CAMPUS and our local church.

We would that there were strong young [persons], rooted and grounded in the faith, who had such a living connection with God that they could, if so counseled by our [leaders], enter the higher colleges in our land, where they would have a wider field for study and observation. Association with different classes of minds, an acquaintance with the workings and results of popular methods of education, and a knowledge of theology as taught in the leading institutions of learning would be of great value to such workers, preparing them to labor for the educated classes and to meet the prevailing errors of our time. Such was the method pursued by the ancient Waldenses; and, if true to God, our youth, like theirs, might do a good work, even while gaining their education, in sowing the seeds of truth in other minds. (5T 583.1) ■

Jukes Namm, a surgeon at Loma Linda University, has been an active member of the local churches and campus ministries throughout his medical training in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Chicago and now Riverside, California.

Ella Namm



JUKES NAMM





AMY RATSARA



Christina Rogers

It has been nearly twenty years since my first visit to Ann Arbor, but I can still call it up in my memory like a video on my phone. March 17, observed by many as St. Patrick's Day, was unusually warm that year. Even though my parents and I arrived on campus early in the morning, there was no need for a jacket as we started touring the University of Michigan campus where I had been recently accepted. The first thing I saw as I stepped out of the car at seven in the morning was a group of young men with tables set up outside their fraternity house, passing clear cups with green liquid inside. "Beer?" they offered as we walked by, and I turned and looked at my parents in disbelief. "Would I really consider going to school here? What was I even doing here?"

I thought I was the least likely person I knew to attend a public university. My parents met at Andrews University. I was born while they taught at Broadview Academy, and we moved back to Andrews when I was three. I had been in the Adventist education system for my entire life by that point; I did not see why that should change for my undergraduate studies.

But a scholarship offer led to prayer and soul-searching—and a second trip to Ann Arbor.

On another beautiful spring day, this time we skipped the official tours and just roamed the campus. And we stayed for Sabbath. I knew I would not be able to make the decision I believed God was calling me to unless I could find a spiritual group on campus that I could call home. And that is exactly what I found that morning.

Among other things, my years involved in campus ministry taught me to be a missionary wherever I was, whether hanging out with friends in the dorm, in office hours with a grad assistant, or writing a paper for class. It also illustrated for me how important living the truth is before ever trying to teach the truth to others. The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and loveable Christian, and one who excels to boot. It taught me how to seek God, to be

led and taught of Him in my daily activities as well as in my academic studies (and now my professional life). Through this ministry, my skills were honed in approaching divisive and controversial issues with tact, wisdom and humility. I was equipped to be a leader in the church and on campus.

And it showed me that the gospel is the best foundation for unity among diverse groups of people. My junior year, I stepped into the hall outside of the room where our group was about to start our mid-week Bible study. Often, members would bring dinner with them and eat together in the room before the meeting began. In the hall, I bumped into a friend who was not a part of our group, or any other church on campus that I was aware of. He had a job on campus that provided resources for minority students and encouraged diversity and inclusion. He peeked into the room I had just exited and saw everyone else was there. His eyes nearly fell out of his head as he saw Asian, Black, White and Latino students hanging out, eating together and genuinely enjoying each other's company.

"What group is this?!" he asked me, clearly wondering how we had achieved what so many university programs in diversity had been unable to do. My heart soared as I was able to tell him about our group, how we served other students on campus and what brought us together was our love for God.

Making the decision to leave where I was comfortable to go to where I knew God was calling me was a scary one but, to this day, it is without a doubt one of the best decisions I have ever made. Campus ministry helped support me in my decision to stay in the Adventist church while in college and provided me with the skills necessary to be a valuable church member, thriving professional and involved citizen of the world. ■

Amy Ratsara is assistant prosecuting attorney for Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

Making the decision to leave where I was comfortable to go to where I knew God was calling me was a scary one but, to this day, it is without a doubt one of the best decisions I have ever made.

When I enrolled at Indiana University Bloomington (IUB) for the first time in 2006, I had a simple plan. I was going to focus completely on my academic goals. I was getting started in the doctoral program and knew absolutely no one in the area other than my department chair and a couple of my professors. I had spent several years attending and working at an Adventist university, and knew how time-consuming it was to be involved in non-academic organizations. Don't get me wrong. I wasn't giving up my Christian values or practices. I just wanted to go to church regularly and engage where I could on Sabbaths only. My ambition was to devote all my energies on my academic program.

I faced several problems in my first week. I had no furniture, no kitchen utensils, and no bed. Figuring out the prices for things, the location of things and, most importantly, how to get there and back was a challenge all by itself. So, on that first Sabbath morning, I got up with the intention of going to the closest Adventist church to enjoy Sabbath school, listen to a sermon, and return home. I caught the campus bus, got dropped off at the point closest to the church, and walked for 15 minutes in 80-degree weather to the church. Thankfully I got there when there was no usher at the door. That allowed me to just sneak in the back door, select a Sabbath school class, and sit as close to the back as possible.

One of the elders was teaching the Sabbath school lesson at the time. He quickly identified me as a visitor and asked my name. By the end of Sabbath school, several persons had introduced themselves and asked if I were a student at the university. Almost all of them had the same question after I confirmed that I was a student: "Have you met Abby? She attends the university and there is a campus ministries group there." It was as if the entire church was involved in campus ministries. I was impressed.

By the end of the day, I had been introduced to Abby and multiple persons who also attended the university. There was an active campus ministries group and they met at various times for Bible study and socialization. They emphasized that, along with the Bible study, there would be food from the various cultures that were a part of the group (Brazilian, Korean, Ghanian, West Indian and

more). I have always loved a good Bible study and so that caught my attention.

It wasn't long before I was actively involved in campus ministries. It grew to become one of the most meaningful parts of my graduate school experience. I saw people's lives change for the better and worked with others to support friends who went through some very difficult life experiences. Higher education can be hard on morals, values and attitudes. Having a community of people who are experiencing it with you and actively praying for your success can make it that much more manageable. Of greater significance is the fact that it provided a safe space where we could figure out how to minister to our fellow students who didn't have the same kind of support. We built strong, lifelong friendships as a result.

After a few years at IUB, I moved to Virginia to be closer to my now wife, Verleyne. Campus ministries was so much a part of me by that time that I was happy to help with the growth and development of a ministry at James Madison University (JMU). The fact that Verleyne was actively developing a campus ministries group there allowed us to be in ministry together. I learned a lot from the successes and failures at IUB and shared what I learned with the team there. I also joined a campus ministries group called ANEW which supports campus ministries across the Atlantic Region. I maintained my student status for a year longer than I needed to for the simple reason that I wanted to continue to serve in campus ministries.

Presently, I use every opportunity I can to share my experience of campus ministries with the next generation. One young person whom I have mentored for a few years has gone on to be a leader of a campus ministries group in North Carolina. And so, the cycle continues. I am thankful that God has other plans for my life. ■

Claudius Rodgers holds two doctorate degrees from Indiana University Bloomington, one in Inquiry Methodology, the other in Instructional Systems Technology. Currently he works with corporate and ministry entities to develop learning solutions. He engages in ministry with his wife of almost 10 years, Verleyne, and is father to a new baby girl, Michaella.



CLAUDIUS RODGERS

Rebekah Graham



M

STEPHEN WATERBROOK

Whilst fully entrenched in my freshman year at the University of Michigan, I have a distinct memory of sitting on the couch in my dorm room, staring at a 16-inch TV perched on an outdated chest on the other side of the narrow room. What I was watching is not crucial

to the thought that came to me next. I was watching the political debate for president of the United States in 1996. Suddenly I had an overwhelming sense of confusion, as if suddenly waking up in a strange place. I thought to myself, “*What is going on?*” “*What is life about?*” “*What am I doing here?*” “*Am I ‘here?’*” “*What is reality?*” “*What am I doing with my life?*” “*Is this all there is?*”

Maybe you remember thinking those thoughts at some point in your life. I had been raised a nominal Seventh-day Adventist and had some pretty hilarious contradictions in my life, a patchwork of the sacred and profane.

These glaring contradictions, even to me who’d taken more of the world—with its cacophony of dissonant sounds—than of the godly wise, and I strongly desired some ordered thinking. So, I set out on a journey. I decided I would search out and learn about all the most popular world religions. The truth must be there somewhere, right?! Since I started out as a self-identified and baptized Seventh-day Adventist, I figured I’d make a full circle and give my Adventist roots the last word. What I didn’t realize is that this journey made me come to some shocking and improbable realizations but, first, I had to suspend any belief in God.

It was a good thing I was at one of the largest and most prestigious public universities in the world. The opportunity to explore was almost limitless, especially with the birth of the Internet as we know it around that time; books were also plentiful to an overwhelming degree. This path even led me to declaring Religious Studies as my major. In fact, I would end up graduating with a bachelor’s degree in the subject matter, even though I ended up attending medical school at Loma Linda University.

Back to my search through Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Atheism, Humanism, Shintoism, Taoism; you get the idea. I explored each of these religions thoroughly, immersing myself in the texts and, as available, attending services or religious rite ceremonies. The main vehicle

for learning was my classes, which I couldn’t get enough of! However, as I attempted to suspend judgment until my research was complete, I couldn’t help but peeking prematurely at the mental data points as they came in: man’s reliance on himself for salvation, religious rites that had to be done just so, incantations that if done slightly incorrectly would be negated according to the gods. I also noticed remarkably consistent elements across all these traditions—prayer, theodicy, otherness, discipline, priesthoods, reverence for a deity, proper conduct, etc. Could it be that these were imprinted into man’s very being, not coincidentally?!

As I finally came around to my search into Christianity, I could see a huge and glaring difference—and pardon any simplification, Christianity was the only religious practice with a loving, concerned, caring God who saves us through His sacrifice. *Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many* (Matthew 20:28).

Wow, when that really hit me, I just sat back in my chair astounded.

After that, I wanted to be a Daniel in Babylon, a Waldensian at university!

Around that time, we started a student group on campus, we also had a vibrant Bible study supported by a youth pastor at the Ann Arbor Church. What really solidified this budding spiritual revival was the start of the CAMPUS program. Through CAMPUS, missionaries came to the area to support, encourage and grow our fledgling group. We then multiplied by combining white, black and Korean groups, and flourished in our brotherhood.

Where would I be without public campus ministries? A confluence of education, living on your own, and influence of peers has led many astray. In hindsight, how many public school students made shipwrecks of their faith for lack of support? I would have certainly been one of them if I had not come full circle into the arms of a warm and loving church in Ann Arbor. ■

Stephen K. Waterbrook, MD, is a general surgeon in Grass Valley, Calif. During his undergraduate studies, he served as vice-president of the Adventist student organization on campus, going on to found Advent Hope Sabbath School while studying at Loma Linda.

From the moment you meet James Lee III, two characteristics are abundantly clear. First, he loves the Adventist message. Secondly, he loves good quality music. Lee was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, grew up in Benton Harbor, attended Edith B. Garret Adventist School and Andrews Academy. His family were members of the Highland Avenue Church. In his words, “I was always surrounded by the Adventist community.” The strong faith of his parents and local church family helped him to be grounded in his personal walk with God from an early age.

While studying piano performance at Andrews University, he considered transferring to schools that would further challenge his current piano skills. After receiving acceptance letters from two schools, a friend recommended he choose the invitation from the University of Michigan. This would end his fourteen-year stint in an all-Adventist environment but would open the door to share the Adventist message that he loved in a most urgent mission field: the secular university campus.

Even before he set foot on campus, he was connected to the Ypsilanti Church. Sabbath can often be a lonely place for students, so the church had an active student ministry that provided a place for them to eat and fellowship each Sabbath. He readily continued building friendships with fellow Adventist students each Sabbath and became a regular, active member, playing piano or participating in the Sabbath School discussion time.

However, Lee’s academic career at the University of Michigan did not end with his bachelor’s or master’s degrees. “At that time, in 2001, I knew that the Composition Department only accepted two students into the doctoral program. I had such a strong desire to be accepted into the program that I consistently prayed that I would be accepted. The year I was admitted into the program, the Composition Department accepted six of us.”

During his graduate studies, the students began a church on campus called Campus HOPE. Lee was asked to be the president, and prayerfully accepted. As a doctoral student, it is very easy to make excuses to not be involved in ministry on campus due to the academic rigors of the program, but James knew that, like Daniel, he had an opportunity to reach those in his high sphere of influence. The excellence that attended all his work

attracted both professor and peer. He would often invite those from the music school to play special music at the Campus HOPE Church.

Lee had to be intentional with his time management. Along with the demands of studying music theory, composing and researching, he also led a weekly Bible study on Daniel and Revelation, attended the student Tuesday Bible studies, sundown worship on Friday, chaired leadership meetings on Sunday, organized church, and attended Sabbath outreach singing at the University of Michigan hospital. He also was the first director of music for the former General Youth Conference (now Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC)).

When asked how he managed everything, he said, “Managing the time from Sunday to Friday afternoon was key.” When students give God their lives and seek to bring Him honor in every aspect of their lives, He has a way of organizing their day-to-day life to optimize success for this life and eternity. “The most important graduation is the one from mortality to immortality at the second coming of Christ. It is important to keep that in perspective of our academic pursuits. All the classes and degrees are temporal.”

In 2005, Lee prepared for the doctoral defense of his composition, “Beyond Rivers of Vision.” The piece was written in light of the Three Angels’ messages. During his dissertation, the professors asked many questions about his Adventist faith and the thoughts behind what inspired the powerful composition. The professors on his defense gave him a high pass which is rare.

“Those who have the spirit of God, who have the truth wrought into their very being, should be encouraged to enter colleges, and live the truth, as Daniel and Paul did” (3SM p. 233). Lee understood God’s mission for him as a student at a public university. Like Daniel, he purposed in his heart to be faithful to that call. Lee continues to compose music rich with the Adventist message and regularly gives Bible studies to his students who ask. ■

Alanna Rodriguez is assistant to the director of Center for Adventist Ministry to Public Campus Students.



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JAMES LEE III

Pieter Damsteegt

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS

Wanting input from our conference directors who are overseeing ministry to non-Adventist university students, we asked them to provide some words of advice to either students, faculty, parents or pastors. Note their contact information, and feel free to connect with them about this critical area of ministry to youth and young adults.



▲ **Michael Campos**
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Illinois Conference

It's important to recognize that Adventist faculty and staff are a vital component in our Church's mission on secular and private campuses. You might be wondering what can you do? The answer is, a lot!

Since every student organization must have an advisor to be registered at the university, you can serve as one by ensuring that students are abiding by the university's policy and connecting them to resources. You can post fliers on your office door. Or once during the year or semester,

visit the meeting or lead/give the Bible study for the week. Or pray with and for the leaders. Or mentor the leaders by having lunch in informal settings and encouraging them both spiritually and academically. You might also want to consider sharing your testimony. Hearing of your faith in Christ while still working in a secular environment can be a source of encouragement and strength.

The possibilities are endless! Don't forget we are here to support you on this mission, so please call us for any help.



▲ **John Leis III**
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Indiana Conference

At a luncheon held by Indiana University, I learned that this secular university was interested in helping me and other pastors find students to be part of our faith communities. Why? Because research shows that students who belong to a faith community succeed more often than their peers, both scholastically and socially.

There is a Greek word, *koinonia*, that has been translated in our Bible as "communion." However, *koinonia* is more than just participating in the Lord's supper. It is

about connection and community with God and fellow pilgrims. This is the best way to grow spiritually.

Even on a secular campus, *koinonia* can be found. Students, to do this, you can join or start an Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) chapter. Don't just attend, but also be involved at the local church near your campus. *Koinonia* is about how we relate to each other; it's about building each other up and encouraging each other as we navigate life. You are not alone; God draws us into community with Him and others. On campus and in life, I encourage you to seek out *koinonia*.

Lake Region Conference

New students: If you've been attending high school and are now moving on to junior college or university, you may have some apprehension about what that looks like. Transitions can be difficult, but the addition of the COVID crisis presented new educational challenges.

Keep in mind, everyone faced the crisis—students, faculty and staff. Everyone went through the growing pains to land where we are now, including your soon-to-be professors. As a new student, you'll notice a broad array of mental health counseling options available for everyone—from online and telephone to in-person, all throughout the day.

Flexibility will also continue to be offered in just about every area—from your course schedule with virtual and in-person courses, to the actual academic calendar, to flexibility in a professor's scheduling. These types of wellness and self-care programs have been prioritized to help students, faculty and staff balance their lives. When you need to, take advantage of them but be mindful that your professor may be doing the same. When staff are supported, they can support their students more fully. When students feel supported, they can better navigate this new higher education experience.



▲ **Zakia Jarrett**
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Michigan Conference

Pastors, have you ever considered that perhaps a public university could provide you a flood of ministry opportunities? Perhaps the overwhelming stress to keep up with the demands of ministry has hindered us from acknowledging one of the most effective yet most neglected evangelistic opportunities: public universities. In these universities, we find some of the brightest minds which form an integral part of our society—young people who are not afraid to make decisions that can change the course of their lives. It's a demographic that is open to be challenged and are reframing the foundations of their beliefs and who they are.

Getting involved as a pastor in these public universities gives you opportunities to:

- Train student leaders to give Bible studies
- Be invited to teach in other Christian student groups
- Invite international students who are looking for a church to your own congregation
- Mobilize your congregation to adopt and minister to university students
- Conduct an evangelistic series on a university campus



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Wisconsin Conference

A big question youth and young adults seem to have today is: What does it really mean to follow Christ and how do I make a mark on the world? A few friends and I decided to start a ministry on our college campus to provide some answers to these very questions. Our college ministry aimed at creating a space and creating a community where students could ask hard questions, develop a personal relationship with Jesus, and build a

faith that was real, hands-on and genuine. (See Nov/Dec. 2021 *Herald* for more.)

If you're looking to live your full potential as a young adult and experience Jesus, and want to start a movement on your campus, or if you're a pastor or family that has a heart for this generation and wants to do something, please feel free to reach out. In the meantime, let's pray that God brings people to this ministry who have heart for God and students, and who are faithful and available.



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David Pfeleiderer

▲ Siblings Erin and Joel Gray are third-generation AdventHealth team members and consider AdventHealth to be the “family business.”

AdventHealth Creates Ties That Bind

There’s a good reason why siblings Erin and Joel Gray refer to AdventHealth as “the family business.”

Their paternal grandparents worked at the suburban Chicago hospital, now known as AdventHealth Hinsdale, back when it was called the Hinsdale Sanitarium. Their father and mother later worked at the hospital, as did many of their aunts and uncles.

Several of the siblings’ cousins now work in AdventHealth’s corporate finance department located in Altamonte Springs, Florida.

Both born at the Hinsdale hospital, Erin arrived about 26 months before Joel. They have fond childhood memories of going to work with their father and getting to know the hospital’s kind, compassionate staff. When the time came for the siblings to find jobs, they naturally gravitated toward the facility.

Erin was 18 when she was hired as a file clerk in the hospital’s human resources

department in 2000, just eight days after Joel began working in the hospital’s kitchen. They have remained with AdventHealth in a series of different roles over the years. Joel has worked at the hospital for his entire career, now serving as a mechanic there, while Erin has moved around, working in human resources at all four AdventHealth hospitals in suburban Chicago.

“Dad worked second shifts in maintenance for many years, and we always joked that . . . the hospital was his first home because he worked long overtime hours and it seemed he was there all the time,” Joel said. “The longer I’ve worked here, the more I see how if you look forward to coming to work at a place your whole life and you get along with everyone you work with, they become an extension of your family.”

As sixth-generation Seventh-day Adventists, Erin and Joel relish the

opportunities their jobs present to advance AdventHealth’s mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ by putting into action their faith-based beliefs, including the importance of giving back and always putting others ahead of themselves.

Joel’s duties often take him into patients’ rooms to perform maintenance tasks, where he tries to assess each patient’s state of mind to determine whether they seem lonely or want to talk. “Sometimes you feel like you’re in the right place at the right time to lend an ear to the patients,” he said.

He also is quick to help coworkers, even if it entails work outside his prescribed duties. “With our mission being extending the healing ministry of Christ, I think being Christlike means helping anybody regardless of their situation and whatever they’re going through,” he said. “If you feel a calling to help somebody else, you shouldn’t ignore the calling.”

In her role, Erin furthers the mission by greeting new employees and familiarizing them with AdventHealth’s mission, values and Adventist customs. She also ensures that they and other employees “have access to everything they need so they can help patients with what *they* need to get better,” she said.

Through the years, Erin’s faith has sustained her during times of change and uncertainty at work. “I always tell people I’m not going to worry about it, because I’m just going to leave it in God’s hands, and it’s going to work out for the best,” she said. This strong belief, she added, never has failed her. “It feels like we’re in the right place now,” Joel said. “We’re where we’re supposed to be.” ■

Julie Busch, AdventHealth associate vice president for Marketing and Communications

Andrews University Opens Lifestyle Medicine Clinic & Training Center



▲ The Andrews University Lifestyle Medicine Clinic & Training Center ribbon cutting took place on Monday, April 25.

The Andrews University Lifestyle Medicine Clinic & Training Center opened on Monday, April 25, with the aim to prevent and treat chronic diseases. Its lifestyle medicine practitioners, wellness coaches, primary care physicians and student interns will work together to administer lifestyle interventions, patient assessments and other related services.

“Andrews’ philosophy of education is grounded in a holistic approach that emphasizes the whole person for the whole duration of their lifespan. At Andrews, we care about the body, mind and spirit. And the Lifestyle Medicine Clinic & Training Center calls us back to the fundamentals of our philosophy,” says Christon Arthur, PhD, provost.

The clinic was made possible through a \$97,000 grant awarded in October 2021 by the Ardmore Institute of Health, an organization dedicated to increasing the availability of lifestyle medicine projects through grant-driven efforts.

Padma Tadi Uppala, PhD, MPH, professor and chair of the Andrews University

School of Population Health, Nutrition & Wellness, will also serve as director of the Lifestyle Medicine Clinic & Training Center. Uppala holds a degree in Lifestyle Medicine from Loma Linda University and, with a team of collaborators, applied for the competitive grant that secured funding for the clinic.

The Center, located in the Andreasen Center for Wellness, is integrated with Andrews University wellness initiatives. It includes an exercise and health assessments laboratory and a counseling center for dietary and other non-drug modalities. Plans are underway to have branches of the clinic in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Uppala says creation of the clinic was inspired by a conversation with John Kelly, MD, MPH, who received the American Medical Association’s Excellence in Medicine Award in 2004 for his leadership as founding president of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM). Kelly shared from a historical church document that quoted Ellen White: “In due course of time, a sanitarium will be erected

at Berrien Springs, not to compete with any other sanitarium, but to represent our work in clear straight lines, and to give the students an opportunity of learning how to care for the sick” (Letter to Dr. David Paulson, 1902).

Uppala believes that as the clinic’s services are extended to Berrien County residents, it will not only be a source of physical healing but a place for spiritual healing in the end times as well.

“There is a need for the Lifestyle Medicine Clinic at Andrews University, whose founding principles are to ‘make man whole’ to further the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ, and to spread the Adventist health message,” states Uppala.

In addition, the School of Population, Health, Nutrition & Wellness is preparing to offer a graduate Culinary Medicine Certificate that will take place fully online. The academic certificate program begins this fall. ■

For more information, contact Padma P. Tadi Uppala at padma@andrews.edu.

Moriah McDonald, University Communication student writer



▲ L-R: Dr. Greg Steinke; Sherri Isaak, MS, RDN, director of dietetics internship and associate professor; Shelby Huse, BS; Dr. John Kelly



▲ The cyclists-turned-literature evangelists passed out books during their 1,200 mile trek from Washington D.C. to St. Louis. Their first stop in the Lake Union territory was the town of Madison, Ind. From there, they journeyed to Jasper, Ind.

'I Will Go' cyclists pedal through the Lake Union

LITERATURE EVANGELIST CYCLISTS BIKE FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. TO ST. LOUIS

On May 22, seven church leaders and one lay person, all cycle enthusiasts, began a special 1,200-mile ride from Washington, D.C. to St. Louis, Mo. — the site of the 2022 General Conference Session. They mapped out the journey, committing to ride about 100 miles per day.

But this trip was about more than just cycling and fitness. This trip represented the combination of a favorite hobby — cycling, and literature evangelism. These cyclists were moved to share Adventist literature themselves with those with whom they would come in contact, thus providing a greater purpose to their trip. They purposed to reflect to the greater church community that many hobbies can be used for missionary purposes, thus inspiring more to get involved and reach more souls in a friendly way.

Their Inspiration

During an evening vespers program on June 2 in a rural Huntingburg, Ind., church, Anthony Kent, an associate Ministerial director at the General

Conference and one of the cycling participants, held up a worn-out copy of the *Great Controversy* that his great-grandfather, Thomas Kent, had purchased from a literature evangelist, Phillip Reekie, whose mode of transportation was a bicycle. This book was read not only by Thomas but also by at least six other farmers in community. And they all accepted the Adventist message! It is estimated that more than 20,000 people have been impacted by this one man's ministry and joined God's last-day remnant people.

"I Will Go" Ride

Each morning before embarking on their daily 100-mile cycling mission, the team came together for breakfast and an inspirational worship. Stocked with water, energy granola bars, and literature — a copy of the *Great Controversy*, Arthur Maxwell's *Your Bible and You*, and a small tract retelling the story of the cyclist literature evangelist, they went. They also were accompanied by a service vehicle that would assist them with any maintenance issues.

As they traveled, they met people who were working in their yards, walking in their neighborhoods, or shopping in stores. With these new friends, the cyclists would stop and share the story of Phillip Reekie and then the tract and

books. They also prayed with people, and sometimes the people offered to pray for them and their mission! People were very receptive to the literature.

Cycling Through the Lake Union Territory

Their first stop in the Lake Union territory was the town of Madison, Ind. From there, they journeyed to Jasper, Ind. That evening they came to the Huntingburg Church for a fellowship meal shared with local church members, followed by the inspirational vespers led by the cyclists.

The next morning, Paul Kilroy, an elder from the Evansville First Church, also an avid cyclist, joined them for a day of cycling that ended in Mt. Vernon, Ill. Paul was very impressed with their endurance and remarked, "They were all very strong." They spent their Sabbath in the Thompsonville Church in Illinois, leading out in the church service.

As they rode through Indiana and Illinois, they continued to share tracts, books and prayers with individuals they met. We praise God for the seeds they planted in our territory! Sharing literature with others using a personal touch is one of the most effective ways of sharing the Gospel with others.

In the book, *Gospel Workers*, page 25, Ellen White noted: "There is great need of men who can use the press to the best

advantage, that the truth may be given wings to speed it to every nation, and tongue, and people.”

South Pacific Division president, Glenn Townend, also one of the cyclists, remarked: “We had rain, we had cold, and we had days with over 100 (40c) degrees. But we are doing this in memory of the literature evangelist who rode his bicycle throughout Australia and provided the foundation for the growth of the church in Australia.”

May these cyclists and the work of Phillip Reekie be an inspiration to all of us and let us adopt the General Conference theme, “I Will Go,” in our own churches, in our own families and in our own personal lives. Pastor Townend’s challenge to us is: “Whatever your passion or interest, you can use it to witness for Jesus.” ■

Kamil Metz pastors the Huntington and Evansville First churches.



Mark Froelich



▲ Arriving in Jasper (Ind.), the cyclists stopped at the Huntington Church for a fellowship meal shared with local church members, followed by the inspirational vespers led by the cyclists. L to R: Annette and Kamil Metz, pastor, Huntington and Evansville First churches in Indiana; Glenn Townend, president, South Pacific Division President; Paul and Carol Kilroy. (Paul is an elder at the Evansville First Church and also took a day to cycle with the team.)



Rayno Victor

▲ Pastor Taurus Montgomery reacts to the news that Harbor of Hope received one of the top prizes at the CALLED Pastors and Families Convention in Kentucky on Tuesday, June 21.

Michigan church secures \$20,000 to expand ministry

Harbor of Hope Church in Benton Harbor, Mich., was awarded \$20,000 after participating in the North American Division’s ‘Evangelism Shark Tank’ at the CALLED Pastors’ Family Convention in Lexington, Ken.

Taurus Montgomery, senior pastor of Michigan Conference’s Harbor of Hope Church, says he is excited to receive these funds which will allow them to expand their basketball ministry and reach more people, starting in September.

“We’re looking forward to using the game to win men and women to the Master!” said Montgomery.

The expansion dubbed “Beyond the Game” will facilitate several programs, including:

- Launching character development programs at local public schools in small groups.
- Mobilizing 100 at-risk youth to participate in seven compassion projects organized in collaboration with city leaders.
- Conducting a Christ-centered, sports-themed evangelism series with an average attendance of 200 pre-Adventist guests with at least 50 making decisions for Christ.

In addition to the ministries, a manual will be produced to help other churches duplicate this ministry.

Harbor of Hope has a long history of using innovative means to reach the inner-city neighborhood just 14 miles north of Berrien Springs. Last summer, the church held “The Final Play,” an event that brought families together to set the tone for a positive, productive and peaceful summer in the city of Benton Harbor. Over 70 were baptized in 2021.

In his pitch at the CALLED Convention on Tuesday, June 21, Montgomery explained that being one of the finalists is confirmation of God’s call on his life and ministry. “I didn’t have the privilege of growing up in the church. I got into drugs, crime and fast money at a young age. But when my house burned down and we were homeless, an Adventist family welcomed my family into their home and into their church. That church had a basketball ministry. They planted the seeds that led me to Christ.”

Harbor of Hope was one of three ministries receiving the top prize of \$20,000 each at the CALLED Pastors’ Family Convention sponsored by the NAD Ministerial Association. Others received amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$2,000.

At the close of the presentations on Wednesday, June 22, Jose Cortes Jr. said they received 100 applications but only 15 finalists were invited to give a final pitch to a panel of judges. ■

Debbie Michel, Lake Union Herald editor

Three teachers with a combined 100 years of experience retire

The Michigan Conference is deeply grateful for the service that these teachers have given on behalf of young people across our field.

Denise Curnutt was born to Fred and Doris Grundset Schaller two days after Christmas (but whose mom always had a birthday celebration separate from Christmas). The oldest sibling of Greg, John, Ann and Anthony, she grew up on the St. Joseph River, exploring, swimming and sledding. Teaching was her goal from a young age.

She attended schools in Berrien Springs and, after graduating from Pacific Union College, started teaching at a two-teacher school on the Oregon Coast. In Tillamook she met and married her husband, Charlie; after teaching seven years, Denise stayed home for seven years with the arrival of Willy, followed by daughter, Kelsey.

Moving to Michigan in 1992 to teach at Ruth Murdoch Elementary turned into a 30-year experience, five years teaching grades 1 through 3, followed by 25 years in kindergarten.

Always energetic, creative, cheerful and organized in her teaching, Denise guided young children in a hands-on, developmental, whole-child program, treating students as the deep, creative thinkers they could be. There wasn't a subject she didn't enjoy delving into with her class. Five years were spent on the development team for the new NAD kindergarten curriculum, *Stepping Stones*. She was known as the plant and card lady, and a Chicago Cubs fan, at RMES.

In retirement, she's looking forward to writing, reading, hiking, traveling, painting, gardening, doing 562 house projects, more family time, and getting a dog.



▲ Denise Curnutt



▲ Tamie Hasty

Tamie Hasty was born in Sioux City, Iowa, to Raymond and Viola Bailey. She has three older sisters and one younger brother. In fourth grade she laid sod, and helped her mom prepare food for the men building the new church. A few years later, she was given permission to paint a Noah's Ark mural on the Sabbath school wall.

Tamie graduated from Oak Park Academy; during the summers, she worked at camps in Iowa, North Dakota and Minnesota as the head cook for 7 out of the 10 years of working at camp. She graduated from Union College, teaching at Dakota Adventist Academy for three years, getting married to Adam Hasty the summer before her last year at DAA.

The couple moved to Pipestone, Minn., where Tamie taught in a one-room classroom. During those six years they welcomed their three children, Matthew, Sara and Emily. The family then moved to Lincoln, Neb., where Tamie was a stay-at-home mom for the next six years, teaching two classes at College View Academy the first year of their move.

For the past 26-1/2 years, Tamie has taught in Cadillac, Lake Orion and Ionia, Mich. Most of these years were in a



▲ Karen Johnston Gotshall

one-room classroom. The couple plans to retire in Colorado where they will be closer to two of their children and grandchildren.

Karen Johnston Gotshall is retiring after 20 years of teaching ministry in the Michigan Conference. Karen knew early on that God was calling her to be

a teacher. During her elementary school years in South Lancaster, Mass., she ran “summer school” for her siblings and neighborhood children. During academy, Karen was involved in children’s Sabbath school divisions and vacation Bible school programs.

While in college at Andrews University, she spent two years as a student missionary in Hong Kong, teaching English to junior high students. After completing a double major in Elementary Education

and General Science, Karen taught in Flint before returning to Andrews University to complete a master’s degree in Reading.

Karen stayed home for almost a decade to raise her young children. She then re-entered Adventist education as a teaching principal in Coldwater, Cedar Lake and Warren schools. Next, Karen taught at Ruth Murdoch Elementary in Berrien Springs and, most recently, Holland.

Two challenging but valuable experiences during Karen’s career were teaching

in a one-room school and providing education online during COVID.

Karen is married to retired pastor, Dave Gotshall. They have three married children and three grandchildren. Retirement plans include travel both in the U.S. and internationally, spending more time with family, gardening, biking, boating and, of course, substitute teaching. ■

Jeremy Hall, superintendent of Education, Michigan Conference



Academy students recognized for ‘Caring Heart’

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

Through the Caring Heart Award, the importance of witnessing and service activities is emphasized and given appropriate recognition along with academic, athletic, music and other school awards and honors. An additional purpose of this award is to foster increased awareness and participation in witnessing and service activities by all students.

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

Read about the recipients for the 2021–2022 school year on the next page.



Nevaeh

ANDREWS ACADEMY

Nevaeh Hippler recently graduated from Andrews Academy. She has been a stage designer and director of a youth-led vespers group for three years. She has been on two mission trips to Texas and Utah. Last year she was involved in helping organize the office of a teacher who had been injured. Serving food for the homeless at Hope ministries and volunteering at VBS for the duration of two summers have been other activities in which Nevaeh has been involved. During her freshman and sophomore years at the academy, she was involved in a mentoring program where she visited two senior women and cleaned, talked or just gave them company.

BATTLE CREEK ACADEMY

Esther Huai has taken on more responsibility as Student Association president than we have asked previous presidents to shoulder, including organizing chapel, community service and Monday assembly activities, and she has done so with determination and positivity. She leads the Student Association to plan activities with the mission of the school in mind. She is a responsible worker, even using her study hall time in the afternoons to help her teachers and classmates whenever she can. Esther also tutors students who are struggling in math and science, translates for language learners, and encourages other students to do their best, both as scholars and as citizens. She volunteers as a leader for her church and encourages other young people in their walk with Christ. Due in part to her influence, all the youth in her church will attend a youth conference this month.



Esther



Jason

Through the Caring Heart Award, the importance of witnessing and service activities is emphasized and given appropriate recognition along with academic, athletic, music and other school awards and honors.

GRAND RAPIDS ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Jason Kahari has shown the ability to go out of his way to assist others, no matter who they are. He consistently demonstrates a kind, caring and patient attitude towards others, and the entire Grand Rapids school has taken notice. This rising senior is a born leader, and it is his consistently strong character and heart-led interactions with others that inspire students to do their best. Jason has a heart for God, and has demonstrated this by praying in chapel, leading out in worship, and using his God-given talents to praise the Lord, not only at our school, but also at church. Elected by his peers as the Student Association pastor this school year, he has tackled every task given to him.

GREAT LAKES ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Lenisa Garcia is a servant leader. She always prioritizes the wellbeing, comfort and feelings of others before her own. She looks for ways to affirm others in a genuine, thoughtful and meaningful way. She is sweet, loving and nurturing, and

her personality is welcoming and inviting to all. Perhaps it is for these reasons that she was elected to serve her GLAA family as the Student Association president, yet she often waves away the prestigious title as she exhibits humility and meekness. Through Lenisa's character and actions, it is evident she has a close walk with Jesus and simply reflects His character as she cares for and humbly serves her GLAA family on a daily basis.



HINSDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Kevin Gabriel embodies what it means to be a friend. Throughout the years, teachers and students alike always smile when others inquire about him. His kind-heartedness, jovial spirit and quirky sense of humor allow young and old to find a point of connection. This gift of connectivity allows him to win the hearts of the people around him. He may be somewhat quiet but it is not because he is not paying attention. He is taking notice of the things that are important to his friends and peers. In his own way, he references these details to let you know he understands you. Many students have trusted his friendship and confided in him. Teachers see him as a student that can be trusted. Like Christ, people and their needs take a higher position than procedures and personal aspirations. If you need help, Kevin is there to lend a hand.

INDIANA ACADEMY

Over her four years as a student at Indiana Academy, **Alexis Nennich** has repeatedly demonstrated her commitment to sharing the gospel message with everyone with whom she interacts. She has held multiple positions of spiritual leadership, actively coordinated Bible studies with her peers, and intentionally sought to cultivate a culture of spiritual enrichment on Indiana Academy's campus. We are excited

to see how God continues to use Lexi as she seeks to serve Him with the diverse talents and passions with which He has blessed her.

WISCONSIN ACADEMY

The "strong, silent type" is the perfect description of senior **Zane Taitano**. This class president is always ready to lend a hand or to speak up when he sees injustice. One staff member said that Zane is "a constant, unassuming, positive influence on our campus. He is always willing to serve others. His calm and thoughtful demeanor are a continuous witness, and his diligence in work or schoolwork is admirable. When I grow up, I want to be like Zane." Coming from a family that values service to others, Zane is always willing to hand out *GLOW* tracks, shovel snow, help in a pinch, or do whatever needs to be done. He plans to attend Southern Adventist University to study animation, but he is open to doing something else if God calls him to do it. ■

Compiled by Sherrie Davis, Lake Union Education administrative assistant





▲ The Lake Union administrative team was reelected to serve for an additional four years. Left to right: president, Ken Denslow, with wife, Patricia; executive secretary, Elden Ramirez, with wife, Jenny; treasurer, Glynn Scott, with wife, Donna Mae; and general vice president, Carmelo Mercado, with wife, Rosanne. Please continue to pray for them as they support our 88,000 members in the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Lake Region and Wisconsin conferences.

Katie Fellows

Delegates at Lake Union constituency session vote to affirm the leadership

“TOGETHER IN MISSION: I WILL GO” FORMALLY ADOPTED AS THEME FOR NEXT FOUR YEARS

On Sunday, May 15, delegates to the 23rd Lake Union Quinquennial Session voted by an overwhelming margin to reelect the current slate of officers to a term to last four years.

President Kenneth Denslow was first elected to this role on June 9, 2021. Prior to his presidency, he held several roles in the Lake Union, including president of Illinois Conference, and was assistant to the president of the North American Division.

“Thank you,” said Denslow to the more than 300 delegates gathered at Pioneer

Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. “We’ll work hard to fulfill the obligation and responsibilities you’ve voted today,” he said, referencing an earlier report which listed his three top priorities which are: growth in Adventist education, mission to the four largest cities in the Union, and leadership development. “We’re glad to be here and look forward to getting acquainted even more than we have already.”

Elden Ramirez was re-elected as executive secretary, a position held since Sept. 14, 2021. He joined the Lake Union from the North American Division where he served as undersecretary and previously was president of the Montana Conference.

“Thank you for the vote of confidence,” Ramirez said. “This is the beginning of a partnership. We ask that you keep our family in prayer as we serve you. If there’s anything we can do, please feel free to

reach out and we’ll be more than glad to visit your territory.”

Glynn Scott, who has served as Lake Union treasurer for more than 20 years, thanked the constituents for their faith in his treasury team. “It’s an honor to serve this Union, hence my tenure,” he said. “I don’t think I need to convince you that we’re living in unusual times which requires wisdom beyond human wisdom. I solicit your prayer on behalf of my treasury team that we will be in tune for whatever God wants to do, recognizing His soon return.”

Carmelo Mercado will continue to serve as vice president of Multicultural Ministry. Mercado has served at the Union since 2004 and said that it’s been an honor and privilege. “When I first took this job, I didn’t think I’d last this long. Praise God, it’s been a wonderful, wonderful journey working with different people groups and working with everybody.”

In addition to the administrative team, delegates voted to continue the leadership of the directors and associate directors. Additionally, they voted to promote Vicki Thompson from assistant to associate Human Resources director.

With the imminent retirement of Education director, Linda Fuchs, a new Education director was elected. Ruth Horton, Ed.D. has served as associate director since 2015 and will fill the director’s role effective July 1. Sue Tidwell, the Union’s certification registrar and Early Childhood Education coordinator, was elected to fill the role of associate director. Nicole Mattson, former Arizona and Indiana superintendent, will serve as an associate.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee presented the following item, which was voted down:

“The members of the Organizing Committee shall be appointed by their respective conference’s executive committee



Katie Fellows

▲ The Lake Union Conference team voted at the 23rd quinquennial constituency session on Sunday, May 15: vice president, Carmelo Mercado; treasurer, Glynn Scott; executive secretary, Elden Ramirez; associate treasurer, Jermaine Jackson; associate treasurer, Richard Moore; Youth director, Ron Whitehead; Human Resources associate director, Vicki Thompson; Information Systems director, Sean Parker; Education director, Ruth Horton; Communication director, Debbie Michel; president, Ken Denslow. (Missing: Education associate directors, Nicole Mattson and Sue Tidwell.

not less than sixty (60 days) prior to the constituency session. The organizing committee shall meet not less than thirty (30) days prior to the constituency session."

After a robust discussion, delegates voted to keep the current rule of selecting

members of the organizing committee on the same day as the constituency session.

The following 39 executive committee members were elected to serve from 2022 until 2026. ■

Debbie Michel, Lake Union Communication director

Lake Union Executive Committee

The list below is comprised of 11 who are appointed by virtue of their office (Union administrators and the presidents of Andrews University and AdventHealth Great Lakes), leaving 28 seats, of which 14 are employees (indicated by "E") and 14 lay persons (indicated with "L").

Kenneth Denslow	Jonathan Fetrick – E	James Micheff Jr.
Ron Aguilera	Garth Gabriel	Rijenna Murray – L
Eddie Allen Sr. – E	Deirdre Garnett – L	Onais Muza – L
Marcia Bedney – L	John Gryns – E	Titus Naftanaila
Eric J. Bell Jr. – E	Mirely Guerrero – L	Rita Pusey – L
Jesus Beltre – L	Abraham Henry – E	Elden Ramirez
Mike Bernard – E	Paulina Janevski – L	Doug Reeves – E
Bryce Bowman – E	Gary Loster – L	Justin Ringstaff – E
Eva Cruz – L	Andrea Luxton	Glynn C.W. Scott
Kenneth Denslow	Nereida Martinez – L	Brian Stephan – E
Kameron DeVasher – E	Floyd T. Mathis – L	Yolanda Stonewall – E
Mark Eaton – E	Gerardo Medina – L	Thor Thordarson
Julius Everett Sr. – E	Carmelo Mercado	Vic Van Schaik

New faces and incumbents elected as General Conference officers at 2022 Session

DELEGATES AFFIRM ROLE OF THE BIBLE AND SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

In addition to voting to reelect Ted N.C. Wilson to his third term, the 2022 General Conference (GC) in session, through the course of several days, voted to reelect the world church executive secretary, treasurer, undersecretary and undertreasurer.

Both executive secretary Erton Köhler and treasurer Paul Douglas have served in their roles for about one year, after their predecessors retired.

The undersecretary, Hensley Mooroooven, and undertreasurer, J. Raymond Wahlen II, have had four and seven years in their roles, respectively.

General Conference Session Delegates Vote to Elect General Vice Presidents

The seven names include five current vice presidents, Abnor De Los Santos, Geoffrey Mbwana, Thomas Lemon and Guillermo E. Biaggi, and two new names, Audrey Andersson and Maurice Valentine.

Delegates Reaffirm Role of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy

The resolution on the Bible states, in part, that delegates to the GC Session express their "conviction that the Bible is



▲ Delegates to the 61st General Conference Session in St. Louis, voted to reelect Ted N.C. Wilson as president of the General Conference on June 6.



Pieter Damsteeg

▲ Vice presidents elected are Guillermo E. Biaggi, Artur Stele, Abnor De Los Santos, Geoffrey Mbwana and Thomas Lemon, and two new names, Maurice Valentine and Audrey Andersson.

the inspired and revealed Word of God.” It also states that “through the Holy Scriptures, God has revealed Himself and His will to humanity,” adding that “the whole Bible is inspired and must be understood as a whole in order to arrive at correct conclusions as to the truth on any revealed topic.”

In another part of the resolution, delegates emphasize that they “believe that the Bible is the prophetic Word of God,” and add, “We commit ourselves to prayerfully study and follow the Bible, the living and effective Word of God.”

Statement of Confidence in the Writings of Ellen G. White

Likewise, delegates voted to approve the Statement of Confidence in the Writings of Ellen G. White, which, among other items, emphasizes the connection between the Bible and her writings. In it, delegates state that they “express ... deep gratitude for God’s prophetic guidance of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” adding, “We believe that the writings of Ellen G. White were inspired by the Holy Spirit and are Christ-centered and Bible-based.”

Delegates also state that they commit themselves “to prayerfully study the

writings of Ellen G. White with hearts willing to follow [her] counsels and instructions,” adding, “We believe that the study of her writings brings us closer to God and His infallible Word — the Scriptures — providing us a transforming and faith-uplifting experience.”

Compiled by Rachel Scribner, NAD Communication, and Katie Fellows, Lake Union Communication



Pieter Damsteeg

▲ The Lake Union was represented by 13 delegates, including executive secretary Elden Ramirez, president Ken Denslow and treasurer Glynn Scott.

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

ANNIVERSARIES



Norman and Janet Clear celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Sunday, June 12, at their daughter, Vickie Russell’s home in Sheridan, Ind. They were married on June 8, 1952, in the Anderson Adventist church.

After graduating from Indiana Academy in 1951, Norman went to work at the National Tile Factory in Anderson. There he met Janet Cobb, a secretary for the company who took messages out to the foreman in the plant. After dating for a while, Norman proposed, but Janet said she would never marry him unless they had the same religion. Norman started Bible studies with her and, a week before they were married, Janet was baptized into the Adventist church.

Three days before their first wedding anniversary, Norman was inducted into the army. Sent first to Camp Pickett, Vir., he was then transferred to Ft. Sam Houston in

Texas for dental training, spending the rest of his service in Ft. Benning, Ga., as a dental assistant. After his army service, Norman hired on at the Finance Center in Indianapolis. He operated the first big computer, an IBM 65, for the army. He continued working for them for 35 years, which included a 3-year stint in Okinawa, Japan.

Janet followed him around, working as a secretary for the army personnel until their first child, Brenda, was born. Together they had four children: Brenda Sales, Anthony "Tony" Clear, Vickie Russell, and Penny Clear. Their son Tony died in 2018. After the children were all in school, Janet also started working for the finance center where she continued for 20 years, traveling around the world, cleaning up their computers for them. In addition to the children, Norman and Janet have 11 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Janet quilts as a hobby and has made a quilt for each family member, 45 in all; the last one, No. 46, was made for Norman for their 70th wedding anniversary. Norman and Janet winter in North Fort Meyers, Fla., in the winter, and back to Westfield, Ind., during the summer. They are long-time members of the Cicero [Ind.] Church and have served their church family well. Janet served as church treasurer and clerk for 20 years, both were Sabbath school superintendents, and Norman served as the Ingathering leader and deacon.

OBITUARIES

BOEHMKE, Emma (Foster), age 89; born in 1932 in Eau Claire, Wis.; died in April 2022, in Eau Claire. She was a member of the Chippewa Valley Church in Altoona, Wis. Survivors include her daughter, Betsy (Jeff) Sajdak; and two grandchildren. A private family inurnment will be held at a later date. Memorials may be directed to Hope Gospel Mission of Eau Claire.

BOELTER, (Drozewski) Ruth, age 97; born July 10, 1924, in Milwaukee, Wis.; died May 10, 2022, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Lyle Boelter; daughters, Faith (Doug) Gregg, and Wendy Godfrey; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A private

service was held in Michigan. Condolences, photos and memories may be left for the family at <https://bit.ly/3tStlRB>.

BROWN, Robert V., age 88; born Feb. 14, 1933, in Coldwater, Mich.; died Jan. 31, 2022, in Fremont, Ind. He was a member of the Angola Church in Angola, Ind. Survivors include his wife, Norma J. (Carpenter) Brown; sons, Ronald L. Brown, and Rodel J. Rickerd; daughter, Robin K. Northam; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life service was held; interment was in the Old Cemetery, Fremont.

CARTER, Barbara J. (Cashmore), age 85; born Aug. 6, 1933, in Hastings, Mich.; died July 20, 2019, in Springfield, Mich. She was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Mich. Survivors include her sisters, Viola Willard, Alberta Payne, and Mary Houseman. Private inurnment.

CASHMORE-SMITH, Mary (Houseman) E., age 90; born Dec. 24, 1929, in Assyria Township, Mich.; died Nov. 6, 2020, in Petoskey, Mich. She was a member of the East Lansing Church in East Lansing, Mich. Survivors include sons, Michael Houseman, David Houseman, Mark Houseman, and Jason Houseman; daughter, Diana Knapp; sister, Viola Willard; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted; private interment in Hastings Township Cemetery, Hastings, Mich.

COSTON, Carolyn (Siefka), age 88; born Dec. 12, 1933, in St. Louis, Mich.; died March 2, 2022, in Alma, Mich. She was a member of the Alma Twin Cities Church in Alma. Survivors include her son, Dennis Coston; daughters, Sheila McElhany, and Julie Fuentes; and six grandchildren. A private graveside service was conducted in Beebe Cemetery, Emerson Township, Mich.

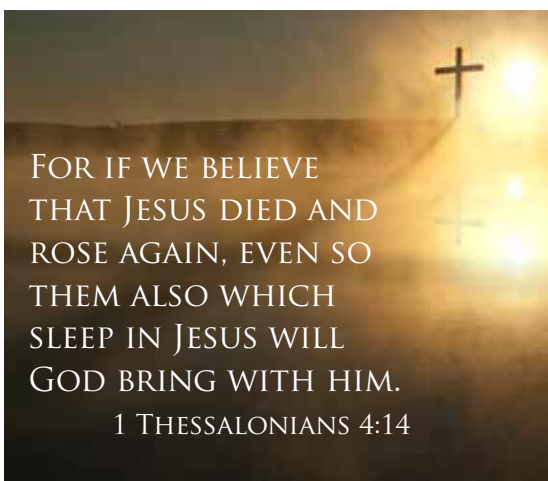
GREEN, Grace (Oldham), age 90; born March 21, 1931, in Arlington, Ohio; died March 5, 2022, in Stevensville, Mich. She was a member of the St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, Mich. Survivors include her sons, Ted (Connie) Green, and Rick (Emi) Green; daughters, Jan (Don) Krpalek, and Audrey (Roy) Castelbuono; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. A private inurnment will be held in Colorado. A gift in memoriam may be sent to the Adventist Disaster Relief Agency.

IVES, Kevin P., age 66; born Oct. 7, 1955, in Lansing, Mich.; died Feb. 1, 2022, in Apopka, Fla. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Forest City, Fla. Survivors include his wife, Vikki Ives; stepson, Jason (Kristina) Busch; daughters, Hope (Jonathan) Cruz, Heather (Jim) Skiver, and Autumn Ives; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held; inurnment.

PEDERSEN, Luella J. (Westby), age 98; born May 26, 1923, in St. Paul, Minn.; died Feb. 19, 2022, in Minocqua, Wis. She was a member of the Clearwater Lake Church in Eagle River, Wis. Survivors include her daughters, Gail S. Wichser (Ray) Cress, and Jeanne C. Wichser (Franklin) Fowler; two grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; 22 step-great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Private inurnment with graveside service in Clearwater Lake Cemetery, Eagle River.

RUMSEY, Virginia F. (Griffith), age 95; born Sept. 27, 1926, in Lansing, Mich.; died March 13, 2022, in Ooltewah, Tenn. She was a member of the Sharon Church in Charlotte, N.C. She is survived by her sons, Greg (Shirley Voss) Rumsey, and Mark (Susan Kelley) Rumsey; sister, Gloria (Griffith) Jones; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Cherie Smith; private inurnment was held in Sunset Memory Gardens in Charlotte.

VELTING, Robert "Bob" Wayne, age 64; born Sept. 30, 1957, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Feb. 20, 2022, in Tavares, Fla. He was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle Church in Battle Creek, Mich. He is survived by his sisters, Cynthia Velting-Kidder, and Cheryl Velting. Inurnment was held in Florida.



FOR IF WE BELIEVE
THAT JESUS DIED AND
ROSE AGAIN, EVEN SO
THEM ALSO WHICH
SLEEP IN JESUS WILL
GOD BRING WITH HIM.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:14

Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* website at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org> and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org>.

OCTOBER 14–15 — Andrews Academy invites alumni (those who attended/graduated, and/or worked at EMCA/AUA/AA) to a reunion on the third weekend in October. Honor classes this year end in '2 and '7. The class of **1972** will celebrate its golden (50th) reunion. The class of **1997** will celebrate its silver (25th) reunion. Alumni, please watch your email, our website at andrews.edu/aa/ Instagram (@andrews_academy_alumni), and Facebook (@andrewsacademyaa) for any updates. If you don't receive emails from us, please contact us at AAalumni@andrews.edu so we can add you to our list. You also can call us at 269-471-3138 for updates.

LEGAL NOTICE — Notice is hereby given that the **thirty-ninth regular quadrennial session of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the Wisconsin Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, Wisconsin on Sunday, October 16, 2022.** The organizing committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. with the first meeting of the session convening at 10:00 a.m.

Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to elect officers, directors of departments/services, and members of the executive committee, constitution and bylaws committee, and nominating committee for the new quadrennial term, along with corporation trustees for the ensuing quadrennial term. Delegates will also transact such other business as may properly come before them. Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof.

Titus Naftanaila, President
F. Brian Stephan, Executive Secretary

LEGAL NOTICE — Notice is hereby given that the **34th regular constituency session of the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hinsdale, Illinois, with the first meeting called at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, October 23, 2022.** This session is for the purpose of receiving reports of the quadrennium which ended December 31, 2021; to elect officers, departmental directors and an executive committee for the ensuing term; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the constituency, including possible changes in the Constitution and Bylaws. Delegates are those duly elected by the churches of the conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the constitution. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 50 members or fraction thereof, based on actual church membership as of September 30 of the year preceding the meeting. The Organizing Committee for this meeting met at the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists office, on Sunday, July 10, at 10:00 am.

John Grys, Executive Secretary

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS AUGUST

- Aug. 6** Local Church Budget
- Aug. 13** Christian Record Services (NAD)
- Aug. 20** Local Church Budget
- Aug. 27** Local Conference Advance



All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$36 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$46 per insertion for all others. A form is available at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org> for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org>.

REAL ESTATE

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

LAW PRACTICE AND BUILDING — For sale in **Berrien Springs, Mich.**, located directly across from the Andrews University entrance. If interested, please contact Bonnie Perry via email at bperry9199@sbcglobal.net or call 312-953-5871.

EMPLOYMENT

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY EXPANDS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS ONLINE — A new Adult Education Center supports mature students advancing their career or retooling to go where God leads. Earn an online certificate in Christian Discipleship, Missions and Global Awareness, Ministry (in Spanish), English as a Second Language, Technologist in Microbiology, Chemistry or Hematology. Complete a degree in Business, Religion, Christian Discipleship, Public Health, Medical Laboratory Science, Nursing or General Studies. Learn more at www.andrews.edu/distance/degrees/undergrad/.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY ADDS GRADUATE CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES ONLINE —

Responding to the needs for professional development online, degrees in Medical Laboratory Science (MS MLS), Social Work (MSW), Nutrition and Wellness (MS), Nutrition & Dietetics Graduate Certificate, Occupational Therapy (DScOT), Physical Therapy (DScPT), Healthcare Administration (MHA), Business Administration (PhD) and Discipleship in Lifespan Education (MA) will be available online from Fall 2022.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY - COMPUTING (EMPHASIS IN CYBERSECURITY) —

The position holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the Department of Computing and of Andrews University. The Department of Computing has programs in Computer Science, Information Systems, Informatics, Data Science and Cybersecurity. Link: https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_4

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS VICE-PRINCIPAL - ACADEMY GENERAL —

Reporting to and supporting the principal, the vice principal has responsibility for daily operations involving academics, student life and administrative functions for Andrews Academy. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_1

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY - MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE —

The Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences at Andrews University is seeking a highly skilled and innovative individual for a full-time (12-month) tenure track Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) faculty to teach in an NAACLS-accredited MLS Program. The candidate should demonstrate competence in both didactic and clinical education as well as curriculum development. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_9

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS EXERCISE SCIENCE FACULTY & FITNESS DIRECTOR AT ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE LEVEL —

The Assistant/Associate Professor of Population Health, Nutrition and Wellness holds a faculty appointment which will entail 25% of the time serving as the Director of Fitness and Exercise Science, and 75% of the time teaching undergraduate and graduate exercise science

classes. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_12

FIELD DIRECTOR, ASAP MINISTRIES, INC.

— ASAP Ministries is seeking a full-time Field Director. We are looking for a Seventh-day Adventist individual who has leadership and office experience, has worked with a variety of cultures, works well with others and has a passion for Jesus and missions (reaching the unreached). This person needs to have a working knowledge of technology, project management, agriculture, and knows how to develop small businesses. Please contact us at: office@asapministries.org, Amy Montevilla: amy.montevilla@asapministries.org or 269-471-3026, to submit your résumé or to request an application if you are eligible and interested.

EXEC. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, ASAP MINISTRIES, INC. —

We are looking for an experienced executive administrative assistant for our organization who will report to the Executive Director. This is a full-time position. Salary will be commensurate with experience. If you are interested in working in a Christian ministry organization that serves the marginalized, persecuted, poor and unreached and shares the good news about Jesus, and you are gifted in organization, event planning, and editing, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us at: office@asapministries.org, Amy Montevilla: amy.montevilla@asapministries.org or (269) 4713026, to submit your résumé or to request an application if you are eligible and interested.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, ASAP MINISTRIES, INC. —

ASAP seeks an experienced Chief Financial Officer who has his/her CPA. It is a full-time position. Salary will be commensurate with experience. If you are qualified and interested in working in a Christian ministry nonprofit organization that serves the marginalized, persecuted, poor and unreached, and shares the good news about Jesus wholistically, we would like to hear from you. We are looking for an experienced individual gifted in leadership, HR, accounting, forecasting, financial reporting, fiscal/budget management, proficient with Quickbooks and office software (Excel spreadsheets, etc.). If you're interested in applying or have any questions, please call -269-471-3026 or email your résumé along with contact information for two professional and two personal references

to office@asapministries.org and Julia O'Carey: julia.ocarey@asapministries.org.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, ASAP MINISTRIES, INC. —

ASAP is looking for an experienced Development Director for our nonprofit organization who will report to the Executive Director. It is a full-time position. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Please contact us if you are qualified and interested in working for a Christian nonprofit organization that serves the marginalized, persecuted, poor and unreached, and wholistically shares the good news about Jesus. We are looking for a committed individual gifted with interpersonal relationship skills, strategic planning, experience interacting with donors, event planning, organizing, passion for missions, and willingness to travel. If you're interested in applying or have any questions, please email your résumé along with contact information for two professional and two personal references to office@asapministries.org and Julia O'Carey: julia.ocarey@asapministries.org.

UNION COLLEGE'S BUSINESS PROGRAM SEEKS MARKETING/MANAGEMENT TEACHER

— Master's degree, excellent communication/interpersonal skills required. PhD, teaching/business experience highly desirable. Interested applicants may apply online at ucollege.edu/employment or contact Lisa L. Forbes at lisa.l.forbes@ucollege.edu or call 402-486-2600 x2300 for more information.

EDUCATION

KINDERGARTEN DAILY WORK FOR HOMESCHOOLING AND CLASSROOM TEACHERS —

Kindergarten Daily Work is an easy to use, teacher-friendly, kindergarten curriculum developed by a kindergarten teacher of 18 years. It is a complete school year of phonics-based reading, writing, handwriting and arithmetic lessons. Included are 119 Student Reader Booklets, 52 Picture Prompt Student Writing Books and over three months of daily, independent, academic Center Time Activities. To view and download FREE examples, visit teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Kindergarten-Daily-Work.

HELLO

August

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

- Aug. 5-7:** Summer Graduation Weekend
- Aug. 22-24:** New undergraduate student registration and orientation
- Aug. 25-28:** New Student Orientation
- Aug. 28:** Registration for University-level students
- Aug. 29:** Fall semester begins for University-level schools

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

- Aug. 20:** Hispanic Women's Retreat & Youth Event, Yellow Box, Naperville
- Aug. 26-28:** Adventurer Family Camp, Camp Akita

INDIANA CONFERENCE

- Aug. 1-3:** Pastors' Retreat, Timber Ridge Camp
- Aug. 5-7:** Pathfinder Master Guide Campout, Timber Ridge Camp

- Aug. 15:** First day of school, statewide
- Aug. 27-Sept. 1:** Hispanic Caravan of Evangelism, local participating churches

LAKE REGION CONFERENCE

- Aug. 13:** NAD Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Conference, Shiloh Church

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

- Aug. 3-5:** Michigan Conference Teacher's Convention, Camp Au Sable
- Aug. 12-14:** iShare Conference, Great Lakes Adventist Academy
- Aug. 19-21:** Adventurer Leadership, Camp Au Sable
- Aug. 21-26:** Public Campus Ministry Bible Boot Camp, Camp Au Sable
- Aug. 26-28:** Pathfinder Leadership, Camp Au Sable

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

- Aug. 3-7:** Hispanic Camp Meeting, Camp Wakonda
- Aug. 26-28:** Hmong Camp Meeting, Camp Wakonda

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Aug. 5	Aug. 12	Aug. 19	Aug. 26
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:00	8:51	8:41	8:30
Chicago, Ill.	8:05	7:56	7:46	7:53
Detroit, Mich.	8:48	8:39	8:29	8:17
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:55	8:46	8:37	8:26
La Crosse, Wis.	8:25	8:15	8:04	7:52
Lansing, Mich.	8:55	8:46	8:35	8:24
Madison, Wis.	8:15	8:06	7:55	7:44
Springfield, Ill.	8:09	8:00	7:51	7:40

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Now is The Time

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. Romans 13:11 (NKJV)



▲ Paulette Taylor

Have you ever thought to yourself, I wish I had more time to _____. I am sure you could fill this space with a myriad of items. But God, in His wisdom, only provides us 24 hours in any given day. There are events set in motion now to usher in the fulfillment of prophecy.

Now is the time. *As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work (John 9:4, NKJV).* In *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, 6.1*, as Ellen G. White wrote, “. . . It began to be clear that this work could never be finished unless the laity vigorously united with the ministry in carrying the message to the world.”

The opportunity to reach out and touch someone for the Lord is easier than you think. Call to check in on a friend; or send a card or note to a neighbor; or text a family member needing encouragement; or share a “thank you” for a job well done to the ministry team. While standing in line, share how the Lord leads you; or maybe mentor new members to your church family—befriend them, and make them feel like Jesus would. Don’t give up or give in when Satan tells you otherwise. **Now is the time.** There are so many ways to show God’s love and share His light with others. Remember, all David had was faith and a rock. All you need is faith in the Rock! Be enlightened by the God who covers us all. *The Lord is my rock, and my fortress and my deliverer. . . . (Psalm 18:2, KJV).* But before you do any of the above, seek the Lord in prayer. He will direct your path.

The COVID-19 virus has challenged and changed much in our lives, but we no longer have the luxury

of time. His coming is so much closer than we think. Don’t delay whatever the Lord leads you to do or say—do it with all your heart. **Now is the time** to appreciate someone else, in God’s name. The very presence of the shadow of the Cross should mindfully move us forward in our Christian walk. God’s love for us was and is so intense that He sent His only Son to die for each of us. Just that thought should humble our very souls, empowering us to move from our comfort zones and share the joy we personally have found in the salvation of Jesus Christ.

Our praise and thanksgiving to our God can serve as a testimony to our brothers and sisters in a world hostile to the truth. Saints, **now is really the time** to let the light of the Lord propel you to serve, teach, speak and enhance the lives of our fellow man.

May our prayerful actions, for the time we have left on this Earth, bless the hearts of others as we await His glorious return. ■

Paulette Taylor, Prayer coordinator, Indiana Conference



Google Me!

During the past two decades, we have moved into a society that has the ability to obtain substantial information at our fingertips. By logging onto a computer or merely picking up a smart device, we can quickly find information on any person, place or product in seconds.

Many computer users simply “Google it” to read collected data on any given topic searched. On the contrary, very recognized individuals or companies will say “Google me” to imply their popularity or that there is significant amounts of data available.

One prominent reason to utilize web searches is to gather personal knowledge from consumers’ reviews. This practice is commonly known as social proof, which has become the new “word of mouth” mechanism used in marketing. Social proof (considered opinions) is equivalent to asking thousands of friends for their thoughts on a particular company or product they have used in the past. Positive reviews or 4 and 5 stars, can bring more business while negative reviews or less stars can cause consumers to change their mind. One’s opinion or personal testament can prove very valuable and often reliable in assisting another with an important decision.

Let’s imagine if we took this modern-day concept and applied it in the days of Christ on earth. When people asked, “Who is this Man that calls Himself the Son of God?” or “Are these miracles people speak of true?”, what if the response was simply “Google Me!” What type of reviews or testimonials would be posted about Jesus, regarding His performed miracles, turning little into much?

How would the testimonial read from the poor widow that gave her last two mites for offering and Jesus declared, *All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live*

on (Luke 21:4). Would Job write a 5-star review after *the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before* (Job 42:10)? Moses would surely post a positive comment after being told, *I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing* (Genesis 12:2). Later in Genesis 13:2, the promise was delivered as he *had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.*

It’s often questioned whether one can afford to return a faithful tithe and offering. To that, many have given the rebuttal, “You can’t afford not to” or “You can’t beat God’s giving, no matter how hard you try.” Returning only 10 percent of what we receive, while retaining 90 percent, seems like a no-brainer based on percentages. However, individuals struggle with this concept for various reasons. God asks us in Malachi 3:10 to *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. . . Test me (“prove me” in the KJV) in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*

In next month’s edition, we will take a deeper dive into the concept of tithing, considering the purpose of returning a faithful tithe and offering, the distribution process once an individual gives, and when God has been *tested*, has He been proven to deliver on His promises. What is the social proof? ■

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



▲ Jermaine Jackson

Love Under Fire

ANGEL PIMENTEL DOVE HEADFIRST INTO A RELATIONSHIP HE KNEW WAS BAD NEWS. All that mattered was that he was in love and felt happy. Anyone who warned him that he was heading in the wrong direction was cut off, family notwithstanding. What he didn't realize at the time was that his love interest was taking him away from God.

As so often happens when we turn our backs on God, things soured quickly. He soon found himself single and in dire straits. He couldn't afford electricity or even running water. Like the prodigal son of the parable, he lived like this for a while, too ashamed to let anyone know.

He recalls how he sensed God wooing him to pray about his situation, but he refused to do so. This went on for months. Fed up with his situation one afternoon, he decided it was worth at least a try.

He whispered a short prayer. No immediate change came.

One day, soon thereafter, he sat on his floor to call his mom for the first time in a long time, just to see how she was doing. But as soon as she said, "Hello," he found himself weeping. The tone of her voice gave him the confidence to tell her what he'd been going through. Through tears, he related his tale of hardship. Not long after that call he moved to Wisconsin to be with family.

After rebuffing his relatives' invitations to attend church, he finally

► Angel Pimentel

acquiesced, yet wasn't expecting anything to change. That was his first mistake: thinking God wouldn't love someone like him. It was there that God touched his heart. He finally surrendered and was baptized in November 2021 at Iglesia Adventista Redención de Milwaukee.

The 25-year-old now finds himself more involved in young adult programs, focusing on God-centered activities, such as helping his mom in fundraising activities for those less fortunate in different parts of the world. He shares his faith by weaving Christ into just about every conversation, whether it's with a co-worker or a stranger at the supermarket. He says he has found so much comfort and solace in Jesus that he can't help but share the Good News. One year from now he wants to look back and see that he was able to lead someone to

Jesus, showing them that even when they hit rock-bottom, they, too, can experience hope.

For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights (Psalms 18:31, NIV). ■

Josue Peralta is a writer and founder of Attractive, a web design and storytelling studio based in Wisconsin. He's also host of the podcast, "Oatmeal at Dawn," a collection of sermons he has written and preached throughout the country.



Josue Peralta

Craving Community



Josue Peralta

▲ *Kassandra Gonzalez*

IT WASN'T UNTIL HEADING TO WISCONSIN ACADEMY IN COLUMBUS, WISCONSIN, THAT KASSANDRA GONZALEZ' PERSONAL SPIRITUAL LIFE TOOK A BREATH OF LIFE.

There's something about being around people your age that makes you feel not so alone in the issues you go through. Whereas back home, the only spiritual meetings outside of main services were small groups, here she had vespers and multiple activities to strengthen her faith and build relationships with other like-minded young people.

Then the pandemic hit.

Suddenly she found herself again in that loneliness which had tormented her before, only this time it was worse. The mission trip to the Philippines she had been anticipating was canceled and, after having tasted what it meant to be with like-minded people her age, this time felt worse. Depression became a reluctant friend and the faith that once blossomed was withering.

By the time she was at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh that fall, those who

surrounded her were students "enjoying" their newfound freedom through elaborate parties. She noticed that, after these parties, friends would crash the next day. Ironically, it was scenes like these that rekindled her faith. For comfort, she turned to Christian music and her devotions, ties that reminded her of a Christian life.

It was then that a friend from home encouraged her to visit her church. Out of the reach of weekly visits due to the distance between school and home, she ventured whenever she could. With time, she became more involved at church in areas such as music. The more she was around godly people, the more she, too, sensed a change, a change towards that vibrant and happy girl she once knew.

Her experience has taught her the power of a Christ-like community. After transferring schools to one closer to home, she's more often experiencing the warmth of a family-oriented church, Hayes Spanish in Milwaukee, and now takes the initiative to provide that warmth for others. That has meant the 20-year-old makes sure to go out of her way to make everyone feel welcomed and show them what Christ's love can feel like. She reaches out to those who haven't made their presence felt in a while, emphasizing that they're welcome there.

Knowing what it means to be and feel lonely, she now actively works so no one has to feel the same way. As she puts it, "Both God and this church will welcome you with open arms." ■

Josue Peralta is a writer and founder of Attractive, a web design and storytelling studio based in Wisconsin. He's also host of the podcast, "Oatmeal at Dawn," a collection of sermons he has written and preached throughout the country.

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 Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index



AdventHealth representatives kick-off international partnership during 2022 visit to Paraguay

Faith-based Care in Paraguay

Just a five-hour drive from the capital of Paraguay lies a small city called Hohenau. For almost 60 years, the Sanatorio Adventista de Hohenau has served the people of Hohenau by providing faith-based health care. But people from outside of the city have benefitted from the faith-based care of the hospital, and have come to really appreciate the service. That was the case with a couple from another town (pictured right). They loved the Christian, faith-based care they received at the Sanatorio Adventista de Hohenau so much that they were willing to drive two hours to come to this hospital.

The Sanatorio Adventista de Hohenau is one of two hospitals in Paraguay which make up the newest international partnership from AdventHealth Global Missions. Through these partnerships, AdventHealth can provide support and help to further their work so that others like this couple can benefit from quality faith-based care.



Learn more at [AdventHealth.com/AdventHealth-Global-Missions](https://www.adventhealth.com/adventhealth-global-missions)