

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

# HERALD

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023



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**Visit Grave of Sojourner Truth**  
 BATTLE CREEK, Mich., Jan. 27.—The graves of Sojourner Truth, the famous abolitionist, were visited here today by a party of about twenty persons, including Rev. J. W. McLaughlin, pastor of the Central Church of Christ, and Mrs. J. W. McLaughlin, his wife. The graves are situated on a hillside overlooking the city, and are surrounded by a simple fence. The graves are in good condition, and the surrounding area is well-kept.

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PIECING TOGETHER THE PAST  
**ADVENTISTS  
 AND THE  
 SOJOURNER  
 TRUTH  
 LEGACY**

NARRATIVE  
 OF  
**SOJOURNER TRUTH**  
 A Bondswoman of Olden Time,  
 EMANCIPATED BY THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE IN THE  
 EARLY PART OF THE PRESENT CENTURY;  
 WITH A HISTORY OF HER  
 LABORS AND CORRESPONDENCE  
 DRAWN FROM HER  
 "BOOK OF LIFE;"  
 ALSO,  
 A MEMORIAL CHAPT  
 GIVING THE PARTICULARS OF  
 HER LAST SICKNESS AND DEATH  
 BATTLE CREEK, MICH.:  
 REVIEW AND HERALD OFFICE  
 1884.

The Wo



## About this Issue

At the recent Lake Union year-end meeting, our Communication colleagues from our conferences gathered to reflect on God's goodness and look ahead to fulfilling missional needs. Our discussion turned to assessing the collective strength of the Union and how it can be leveraged for growing the Kingdom of God. If you guessed that one of the Lake Union's strengths is our rich legacy as the birthplace of the organizational church, education and hospital system, you'd be right.

You'll notice in this issue we're leaning into that history. Historian Kevin Burton examines whether former slave and women's rights icon Sojourner Truth was a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It's an old question. However, he uncovers new details about her connection to the church, including the "funeral politics" apparently driven by a desire of those around her to curate a legacy divorced from the denomination. It's a very interesting read you can find starting on p. 14.

Another historical article is about William Hardy and his family (on p. 12). It's a fascinating story, penned by Larry Onsager and James Nix, chronicling what's known of "Adventism's First Black Family." This story was first reported in the *Adventist Review* a little over 10 years ago, but one we believe is worth sharing in our pages. Hardy's rise from sharecropper to first Black man elected to public office in Michigan is certainly compelling. It's an apt reminder of this often-repeated Ellen White quote, "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

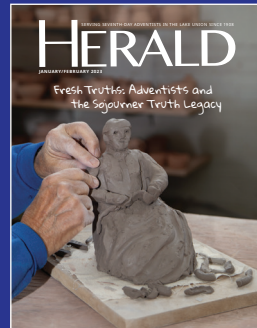
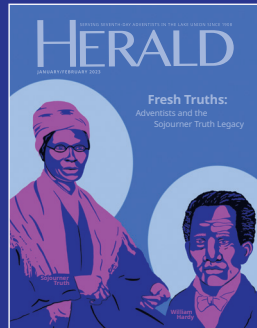
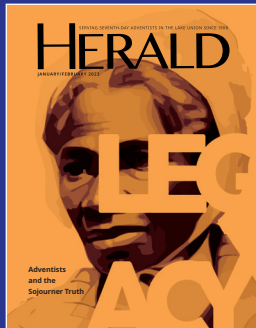
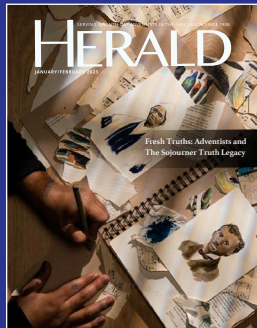
As we reflect on the past, it is our sincere prayer that you enter the new year with renewed hope in the power of God to do exceedingly and abundantly more through you. ■

*Felicia Debbie Katie*

Felicia, Debbie and Katie  
The Lake Union Conference Communication Dept.

### ABOUT THE COVER:

Did we make the right choice? The cover was designed by Andrews University students by Skyler Campbell, illustrated by Jose Silva and photographed by Alina Weber. These were the other options. We really enjoy working with the students, along with their professors, Dave Sherwin and Diane Myers.



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

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By Kevin M. Burton

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# Called to CommUNITY



▲ Ken Denslow

Monday, Jan. 16, we will once again celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. and his contributions to the fight for civil rights, not only for his fellow African Americans but for all minorities.

Who has not heard his famous “I have a dream” speech. If you haven’t heard or read it for a while, now would be a good time to do so. How can one not be moved by the power and the appeal of his words calling people not only to justice but to reconciliation.

In Ezekiel 37, the prophet tells of a powerful vision God gave him. He was instructed by God, in this vision, to take two sticks. On one he was to inscribe the words, “For Judah” to represent the southern kingdom. On the other stick, he was told to write the words, “For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim;” this stick was to represent the northern kingdom of Israel.


Then he was to hold the two sticks end to end with his fist over the joint where they came together in such a way that they became one stick. By this, he was to demonstrate the desire of God that the division of the kingdoms would be abolished and the nation should be united in God’s hand.

It always has been the wish of our Heavenly Father that all of His children would live in harmony with Him and each other. Sin is what stands in the way of that harmonious living. The gospel of God’s grace is the answer to the division that sin has caused.

Ponder these words from the official website of the Seventh-day Adventist Church regarding our Fundamental Belief #14: Unity in the Body of Christ<sup>1</sup>:

“Think about it. If everyone on Earth will one day have a chance to hear the gospel, imagine how many different types of people there’ll be in *Heaven*. Countless people from different countries, cultures and even different times, speaking different languages and having different opinions, personalities and worldviews.

“But one thought is hard to ignore: *How could such a disjointed family possibly work together and get anything done?*”



## THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S GRACE IS THE ANSWER TO THE DIVISION THAT SIN HAS CAUSED.

“Only through the power of the love of God.

“When we accept God’s grace and *choose to live by His ways*, we are brought into His family, the body of Christ. And God commands the Body of Christ to be unified (Romans 12:4, 5, 16; Ephesians 4:3).”

The hand that holds this church together can never be a human hand. It is only the nail-scarred hand of Jesus that can hold us in such a way that our differences disappear. Let us live together in the family of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit and embraced in the hand of Jesus. ■

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*Ken Denslow is Lake Union Conference president.*

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<sup>1</sup> *General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist. Our Beliefs.* <https://www.adventist.org/unity-in-the-body-of-christ/>. Accessed Dec. 5, 2022.

# How to Improve Kids' Learning After the Pandemic

The pandemic caused losses of various kinds for everyone. Many people lost loved ones. Others lost their houses and employment. Our kids experienced learning losses.



▲ Alina Baltazar

Now that we are halfway through the first school year without restrictions, for most, we realize we cannot simply go back to normal.

According to the Nation's Report Card, reading levels decreased by 5 points and math declined by 7 points on average from 2020-2022.<sup>1</sup> Researchers estimate that it will take two to four months of extra learning to catch up.<sup>2</sup>

Beyond the efforts of teachers and researchers, parents and caring adults play a very important role as well. For younger students, learning opportunities at home can be increased. For older struggling students, parents should take advantage of tutoring and summer learning opportunities.

While a lot of learning and social engagement is still happening virtually, those times should be limited. For elementary kids, the recommended daily screen time is one to two hours, for high school students two to three hours, and for college students three to four hours.<sup>3</sup> Humans learn and connect best when interacting with one another.

Children are struggling more emotionally which can impact them academically. When your child says something like, "I just can't do this homework!," these types of statements can lead to despair. Help him shift his focus to look at the situation from a different angle. Show what parts he can do and then examine the causes of his struggles to come up with a plan to address them. Although academic challenges are real, we also can make sure we are paying attention to things that are going well. One could just think back on the day's

events before going to bed and meditatively recall the things for which she is grateful.<sup>4</sup>

We want to continue to nurture our children spiritually so they can grow holistically. "True education means more than pursuing a certain course of study. It has to do with the whole person, and with the whole period of existence possible to human beings."<sup>5</sup> Remember God can do for us in these challenging times, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without approach, and it will be given to him." James 1:5 NKJV.

The burden of catching our children up on lost learning can't rest solely on our teachers. Let us all work together for the sake of our children so this won't be a lost generation. ■

<sup>1</sup> Results from the NAEP 2022 Mathematics and Reading Assessments at Grades 4 & 8 are here! National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

<sup>2</sup> Goldhaber, D., Kane, T.J., and McEachin, A. (2021, December 13). Analysis: Pandemic learning loss could cost U.S. students \$2 trillion in lifetime earnings. What states and schools can do to avert this crisis. 74 Million. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/analysis-pandemic-learning-loss-could-cost-u-s-students-2-trillion-in-lifetime-earnings-what-states-schools-can-do-to-avert-this-crisis/>

<sup>3</sup> Quispe-Condori, S., Goicochea-Malaver, T., and Luz, E.L. (2021). Opportunities for education in times of pandemic and post-pandemic. *Journal of Adventist Education*, 83(2). Retrieved from: <https://jae.adventist.org/2021.83.2.5>

<sup>4</sup> De la Pena, I.C. and Pan, M.C. Optimizing evidence-based Learning Strategies. *Journal of Adventist Education*, 83(2), Retrieved from: <http://circle.adventist.org/files/jae/en/jae202183023907.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> White, E.G. (2000). *True Education*. Pacific Press, pg. 9.

Alina Baltazar, PhD, MSW, LMSW, CFLE, licensed clinical social worker and certified family life educator, is professor of Social Work and co-associate director of the Institute for the Prevention of Addiction at Andrews University.

# Ten Ways to Get Better Sleep

When a person has a chronic illness, they often focus on treating the symptom rather than treating the underlying cause. After doing a thorough health and lifestyle examination on a guest at Lifeline Wellness Institute, we learned that one of the primary factors contributing to their ailment was lack of sleep.

Our bodies are designed for rest and, currently, our world goes on and on, nonstop. There is a sense of pride for those cities that “never sleep” and the 24/7 has become a reality in our society today. Fifty percent of our clients suffer from insomnia, sleeping less than six hours per night.

The importance of rest can't be underestimated as this is the only time our bodies can heal and repair. The body will always prioritize dealing with stress and digestion over healing and repair. And if we can't find time to rest physically, mentally and spiritually, our bodies break down to a point which makes recovery become very difficult.

So, how can we form good sleep habits and get a good night's sleep?

1. **Exercise.** Try to achieve at least 7,000 steps daily and try to do it outdoors.
2. **Get as much sunshine during the morning** as possible. This will reset your “wake/sleep clock.”
3. **Avoid stimulating drinks and foods.** These will overwork your nervous system and eventually make you chronically tired, making it harder to rest.
4. **Use the bed for sleeping only.** Train your system to know that the bed is only for sleeping. If you can't sleep, get out of bed and read something until you feel tired again.
5. **Avoid late dinners.** Remember that the body will always prioritize stress and digestion over rest and

healing. Making the evening meal too heavy will disrupt your deep sleep.

6. **Journaling.** Write down your daily activities, top priorities for the coming day(s), and at least three things for which you're grateful. This will help your brain unwind by pulling you into the present moment and allowing it to process information that keeps you up at night.
7. **Make a relaxing environment for yourself.** Your sleeping area should not be too hot or cold, and you should avoid using any lights at night.
8. **Daytime pauses.** During the day, take five 15-minute breaks to change the pace, get up, walk through nature, talk to someone, pray, or read a Bible verse. This will allow your brain to rest and will pay dividends at night.
9. **Weekly break.** Sabbath was created for our spiritual reset. Don't miss the blessing of finding the intended rest of this day.
10. **Walk step by step with the Lord.** *Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).* ■



▲ Ramon Irizarry

Ramon Irizarry is the director of Lifeline Wellness Institute in Knoxville, Ill.

# Words Matter

Have you ever experienced the circumstance that either you or somebody else agreed with someone else’s statement in content but disliked the wording?



▲ Denis Kaiser

It may feel like it is just about semantics, or that the one disagreeing is a stickler for details. While one can certainly go into extremes, we have to admit that words do matter. An interesting historical example illustrates that point.

Nowadays members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church refer to themselves as “Seventh-day Adventists” and we generally presume that the church adopted that name by vote or common consent at a meeting in Battle Creek, Mich., on October 1, 1860. The facts are nevertheless more complex. David Hewitt (1805–1878), also known as the “most honest man in town,” moved the initial resolution “that we take the name of Seventh-day Adventists,” yet his resolution did not find full support due to its wording. The words “we take the name” sounded too much like “*let us make us a name*,” words chosen by the builders of the tower of Babel (see Genesis 11:4). If there was one thing that the early Adventists wanted to avoid, it was becoming like Babylon. So, Ezra A. Poole (1807–1894) suggested a new resolution—“That we call ourselves Seventh-day Adventists”—which was eventually approved. However, Poole’s resolution applied only to the attendees of the meeting and had no binding force for Sabbath-keeping Adventists in other places. Therefore, Moses Hull (1836–1907) moved that “the name we have chosen” be recommended “to the churches generally.” The motion was carried (*Review*, Oct. 23, 1860).

The name “Seventh-day Adventists” had not arisen in a vacuum though. While Sabbath-keeping Adventists had referred to themselves by various autonyms and were identified by others with multiple “names,” the term “Seventh-day Adventists” was in use for years among the ministers and church members in some areas, such as in the vicinity of Jackson, Mich. In March 1853, Samuel T. Cranson (1822–1855) from Tomkins, near Jackson, shared his experience of meeting for the first time “seventh-day Adventists” and embracing the truths of the Sabbath and sanctuary (*Review*, April 14, 1853). More examples could be given for its use in the years prior to 1860, yet its final adoption hinged on the precise wording—“[to] take the name” or “to call ourselves.”

Subsequently, the congregations in various places followed the recommendation and adopted that name so that it eventually became the common name of the denomination at large. Later, Ellen White reminisced that “God [had] ruled in that meeting.” She added, “God’s angels were ministering in that meeting, and when ‘Church of God’ was to be the name of His commandment-keepers, the angels directed the mind of my husband and one or two others in another channel and to fasten upon another name, which was expressive of their faith and which was appropriate for His people” (Ms 8, 1863). ■

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*Denis Kaiser is an associate professor of Church History at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.*





# Somos Elegidos

Por más de un año mi esposa y yo hemos estado mirando un programa en el internet titulado en inglés “The Chosen” (traducido al español: “Los elegidos”); es una dramatización de la vida de Jesús y los discípulos.

He visto varias películas acerca de la vida de Jesús y hasta las he usado en algunas de mis campañas evangelísticas. Este programa es algo diferente de otros por varias razones. En primer lugar se trata de una serie de dramatizaciones que depende financieramente de fondos que aportan personas que apoyan el proyecto. Es diferente también porque se presenta en una serie de siete u ocho episodios por año con el fin de terminar el proyecto en siete años. Pero lo que más distingue esta serie de otras películas es que el énfasis no tiene que ver solo con la vida de Jesús sino también con la vida de los elegidos, los apóstoles.

En el primer episodio de esta serie se presenta a María Magdalena, una mujer poseída por demonios pero que es sanada cuando se encuentra con el Salvador. En el segundo episodio se la presenta como una persona nueva. Y cuando le preguntan qué fue lo que produjo el cambio ella responde: “Yo vivía de cierta manera pero he experimentado un cambio total que se lo debo a Él.” En realidad, lo que ella dijo es que su nuevo modelo era Jesús y que anhelaba lo que él ofrecía. Lo que es de inspiración en los siguientes episodios es ver los cambios radicales de cada uno de los apóstoles cuando Jesús los llama diciendo: “Sígueme”.

Recuerdo muy bien cuando recibí el llamado para ser discípulo de Jesús y que incluía ser parte del pueblo remanente. Ojalá pudiera decir que he sido perfecto en seguir su camino, pero debo confesar que he cometido muchos errores y he tenido momentos en que he seguido mi propio camino en vez de seguir lo que Dios quería enseñarme. Doy gracias a Dios porque es un Dios que perdona, que no me abandona y que continúa

insistiendo a través del Espíritu Santo que lo siga. Los apóstoles eran también pecadores y la Biblia nos demuestra que en algunas ocasiones se manifestaron sus debilidades. Doy gracias a Dios que la mayoría de ellos se mantuvo fiel a Dios.

Al comenzar un nuevo año invito a cada hermano a que piense en el momento en que escuchó por primera vez el llamado de Jesús: “Sígueme.” No importan las veces que uno se haya desviado. Los animo a iniciar este año con un nuevo compromiso de seguir a Jesús y ser parte de sus escogidos. ■



▲ Carmelo Mercado

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



▲ Jesús (Jonathan Roumie) habla a la multitud durante la presentación de un episodio de la serie “Los elegidos.”

# Outside the Comfort Zone

## WHEN A WISCONSIN BAPTIST CHURCH LOST ITS PASTOR, RENEE TITZE FELT LED TO EXTEND THE HANDS OF FELLOWSHIP TO HER FRIENDS.

After much prayer about what to do, Renee, a member of the Watertown Seventh-day Adventist Church, was surprised by what happened next: They asked her if she would speak at their church.

It was tough deciding an answer to their sincere request. Ever since she was a young girl, Renee was so shy and quiet she prayed that the teacher wouldn't call on her. She disliked having to speak in front of others and was so insecure that, at times, she had difficulty articulating her thoughts. But, as the years passed by and her love of Jesus grew, He taught her that He doesn't always call the equipped, but He will equip the called.

The Lord had been impressing Renee to share her faith, something the pastor had been encouraging

every member to do. "I find that there are so many people who are wondering what is going on in the world," Renee says, and she prayed for the Holy Spirit to direct her. "I sincerely want to be the Lord's humble, obedient servant. Jesus came to serve, not be served so it is vital to have the heart of a servant."

With her servant-heart, she mustered the courage to speak to the Baptist congregation.

But nothing surprised her more than when they asked if she would speak again, this time at their women's retreat. "'Me!' I thought, 'Are you kidding?'" Then they told me the theme was 'It Is Well with My Soul!'" She told them she'd pray about the invitation.

She admits that she tried to brush off the assignment and delegate it to others. But that little Voice inside her head said clearly, "*You can do this! You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. I will guide you!*"

◀ Renee Titze disliked having to speak in front of others. But, as the years passed by and her love of Jesus grew, He taught her to face her fears.



Photos by Chelsea Murphy

## “WHEN WE SURRENDER TO THE LORD, HE CAN DO SOME PRETTY AMAZING THINGS.”

So, she whispered, “Lord, if You want me to do this, I will need Your help. This is Your message. You are the potter; I am the clay.”

Inspiration began to flow as she remembered the days when she attended the Medical Missionary Program at Wildwood Wellness Institute in Georgia. She learned about the eight laws of health, natural remedies, and healing the natural way.

So, on June 3–5, 2022, she did her presentation using the NEWSTART program, emphasizing the health benefits of Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Air, Rest and Trusting in God. “I used videos I found online and created a PowerPoint for each session,” she recalls. “I even shared the Sabbath message with them!”

Since she works with special needs children and knows to incorporate engaging visuals and activities, Renee implemented these strategies into the sessions to help people retain more of what they learn. They had a scavenger hunt, played “Spin the Wheel of Positivity” and “Fill Your Bag.”

“I like to be creative!”

“My mother, Gloria Nicotera, was with me and shared her gems of wisdom. One quote she shared was, ‘If God made it, eat it. If man made it, read it. And, if you can’t read it, don’t eat it!’”

Renee says she was humbled by all of the positive feedback. “A couple of ladies said it was the best conference they had attended. They even asked if we could share more at their Baptist churches and if they could share at ours.” She gives God all praise because “He gave me direction every step of the way! The credit goes to Him!”

The lesson in all of this, she acknowledges, is that “When we surrender to the Lord, He can do some pretty amazing things.” She continues, “So, if you desire to have a servant-heart, be willing to say, ‘Lord, send me,’ and He will pour out His blessing on you!” ■

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*Herald staff with Renee Titze, member of the Watertown Seventh-day Adventist Church*

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



# The Man at the Heart of Adventism's First Black Family

By Larry Onsager and Jim Nix



Michigan, in 1827. His father died when William was about seven years old. When he was about fourteen, his mother bound him out for seven years to a farmer near Ann Arbor. Recognizing the young man's exceptional abilities, the farmer released William before the seven-year contract ended.

In 1844 William, then about 21 years of age, married Eliza Watts, a member of a free Black family from Pennsylvania. In 1846, William and Eliza purchased a farm in Gaines Township, Kent County, Michigan (near Grand Rapids). The following August, William and Eliza had their first child, a daughter they named Alice. Eventually five more children—four boys (Eugene D., Asher, W. Loyd, and William H.) and one girl (Mary Ellen)—were added to the Hardy family.

In June 1857, Joseph B. Frisbie, a former Methodist minister, held a series of meetings in Caledonia, Michigan. In a letter William Hardy wrote to the *Review* in 1858, he recalled, "Through the instrumentality of Bro. Frisbie last summer, I was led to see a beauty in what is termed 'present truth,' especially the commandments of God."

Follow-up meetings were held in Caledonia on October 3 and 4, 1857, conducted by Joseph Frisbie, John Byington, and James and Ellen White. On Monday, Oct. 5, Joseph Frisbie baptized eight people. John Byington recorded in his diary that he stayed that night with the Hardy family. Elder Byington noted that Eliza was in the Truth, but that William was not yet decided. Byington described them as a very good and kind mulatto family.

Whether then, or shortly thereafter, William also decided to join the Sabbathkeepers in Caledonia. In his letter in the *Review*, he went on to say that "after being connected with the Free Baptists a number of years, I was led to cast my lot with the Sabbathkeepers of Caledonia; and I have never regretted that step."

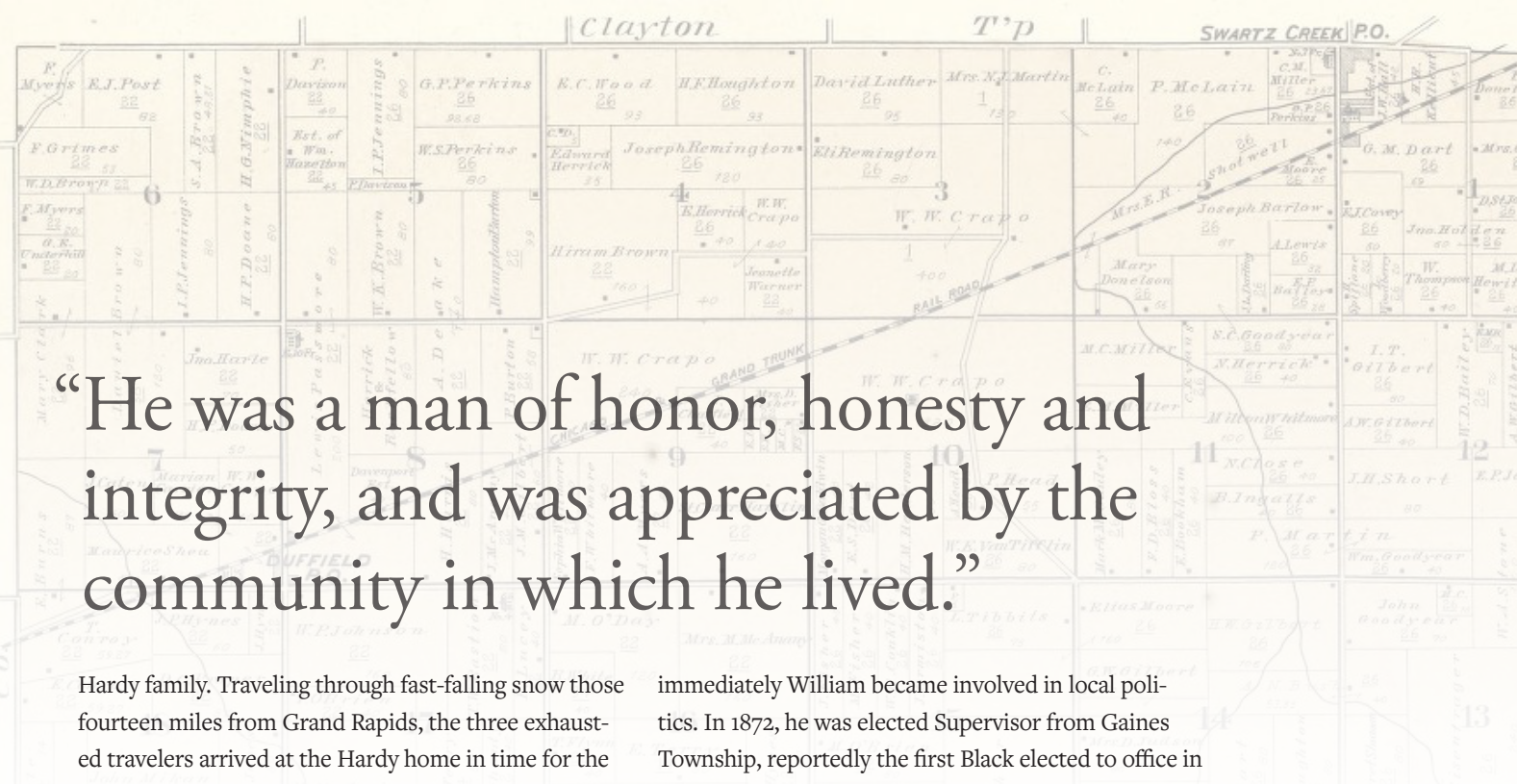
On Tuesday, January 25, 1859, Ellen White, John Loughborough, and his wife, returning home to Battle Creek after an almost three-week trip, visited the

**WILLIAM HARDY IS CREDITED WITH TWO IMPORTANT FIRSTS.** In 1857, William J. Hardy and his wife, Eliza Watts, became the first black family to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 1872, William Hardy was the first Black elected to public office in the state of Michigan.

William Hardy, the son of Henry and Mary Hardy, was born on January 9, 1823, in New York state. He moved with his parents to Washtenaw County,

▲ Sketch of William J. Hardy. Source: Grand Rapids History & Special Collections, Archives, Grand Rapids Public Library

MAP OF  
**GAINES**  
TOWNSHIP 6 NORTH. RANGE 5 EAST.  
Scale 2 inches to a Mile.



“He was a man of honor, honesty and integrity, and was appreciated by the community in which he lived.”

Hardy family. Traveling through fast-falling snow those fourteen miles from Grand Rapids, the three exhausted travelers arrived at the Hardy home in time for the noon meal. After a hearty welcome by the family, a good meal was enjoyed by all. Ellen White recorded in her diary, “Although the house is poor and old, everything is arranged with neatness and exact order. The children are well behaved, intelligent, and interesting. May I yet have a better acquaintance with this dear family.”

Formal organization of the Caledonia Church occurred during meetings conducted November 17 and 18, 1862, by J.N. Loughborough. Its original membership was 34. The following January a Sabbath school was organized. At the same time, two of the Hardy children gave their hearts to the Lord. By mid-1863, the church had grown to 40 members.

In 1868, the Michigan Conference delegates voted permission for the Caledonia Church to change its name to the Gaines church. Through the years, William was given added leadership responsibilities in this church. By 1876, William was unanimously elected elder of the church. In 1878, it was reported that “The burden of the work here [Gaines Church] now rests almost wholly on Bro. W. J. Hardy.”

In 1870, the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution was passed giving Black men the right to vote. Almost

immediately William became involved in local politics. In 1872, he was elected Supervisor from Gaines Township, reportedly the first Black elected to office in the State of Michigan.

After suffering a stroke around 1882, William sold his farm and moved to a much smaller one near the community of Dutton where later he operated a livery stable. Without William’s leadership, by 1885 the Gaines Church had disbanded. Following William’s death on June 8, 1888, approximately 400 people attended his funeral—indicating the respect of his White neighbors. A local newspaper eulogized him by saying, “He was a man of honor, honesty and integrity, and was appreciated by the community in which he lived.”

On Oct. 10, 2015, officials in Gaines Township dedicated Hardy Pond, located at the Gaines Township Hall/Prairie Wolf Park site, in honor of its 13th township supervisor, William J. Hardy.

Hardy also is honored at the Hardy Exhibit in Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek where visitors are told about this stalwart pioneer Adventist. ■

*Larry Onsager, dean of Libraries, Emeritus, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich. Jim Nix, retired director of the Ellen G. White Estate at the General Conference in Silver Spring, Md.*



# The Adventist Truth AND SOJOURNER'S LEGACY

BY KEVIN M. BURTON

Sojourner Truth, the renowned ex-slave, abolitionist and women's rights activist, died in her Battle Creek, Michigan, home in the early morning of November 26, 1883. Later that same day, the *Battle Creek Moon* announced: "The funeral will be held at the Tabernacle Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Eld. Uriah Smith officiating."<sup>2</sup> The notice referred to the Dime Tabernacle, the Seventh-day Adventist congregation at denominational headquarters which was pastored by the blind Adventist minister, Wolcott Hackley Littlejohn.<sup>3</sup> However, the notice specified that Uriah Smith, the well-known Adventist author and editor of the *Review and Herald*, would officiate.

Illustration by Chloee De Leon

Despite this announcement, the editor of the *Battle Creek Daily Journal* revealed that there was some question about the arrangement of Sojourner Truth's funeral. Also writing on the day of her death, the *Journal* editor affirmed that the funeral would take place on Wednesday, November 28, but stated that the "place and hour will be announced tomorrow." The next day, Battle Creek residents learned that the location and officiant had changed; the funeral would now be in "the Congregational and Presbyterian church, Rev. Reed Stuart officiating."<sup>4</sup> And that is exactly what happened.<sup>5</sup>

The precise details of this abrupt funeral switch are lost, but the broader picture seems clear: some of those closest to the iconic activist were carefully curating her image and legacy. Throughout her life, Truth had remained religiously independent, and it was probably supposed that a close affiliation with any specific denomination would limit her post-death influence. As a result, the Rev. Stuart, who had recently cut all denominational ties to become an independent minister, seemed a better choice for some in Battle Creek. Frances W. Titus was likely the primary controller of these revised funeral arrangements. She was a Quaker activist, Truth's long-time friend and confidante, and manager of Truth's correspondence and physical necessities. Titus was with Truth throughout her final illness and after her death she erected a memorial headstone for her friend in the Oak Hill Cemetery.<sup>6</sup>

Another actor in this drama was Giles B. Stebbins. Like Titus, Stebbins was a social reformer and Truth's close friend. In his report of the funeral, he gave the only known contemporary answer to the funeral switch question: Sojourner Truth had requested the Rev. Stuart to conduct her funeral in his church.<sup>7</sup> This was probably true but does not foreclose the possibility that Truth had been gently coaxed in her feebleness to change her mind at the last minute.

Although no documentation explicitly states that Truth had originally asked Uriah Smith to conduct her funeral in the Dime Tabernacle, it is evident that she did. Two days before Truth died, the editor of the *Battle Creek Moon* came to visit her on her deathbed. Curiously, among other things, he wanted to know what she thought of Rev. Stuart. Barely able to talk, Truth responded, "Mr. Stuart is a wonderful man and God is

working a wonderful work." That was all Truth said, but the question was more important than the answer. It was necessary to ascertain Truth's thoughts on Stuart because the question about her forthcoming funeral hung in the balance. The *Moon* editor knew this, but after conversing with Truth and Titus he left with the understanding that Uriah Smith would conduct the funeral in the Adventist Dime Tabernacle and announced that information two days later.<sup>8</sup>

### A Deepening Relationship with Adventists

Truth's relationship with Adventists had grown steadily after she moved to Battle Creek in 1857. This was particularly true after 1875. Early in that year the Review and Herald publishing house offered to print a new biography of Truth and George W. Amadon, a pioneer of the Sabbath School and publishing work, worked closely with Truth and Titus to make it happen. The Adventists officially took the job on June 29 and on October 12, Amadon delivered the "proofs of the last form" for Titus to review.

But there was a problem. Although little documentation has survived, it seems that Titus wanted to cut out the pages of Truth's "narrative" that related her Millerite-Adventist experience in the 1840s and Amadon wanted that material to remain in the new edition. So, when he delivered the final proofs to Titus on October 12, he "had some talk" with her. Apparently unsuccessful, he returned the next day "to see Mrs. Titus about [the] Second Advent anecdote." She finally relented, and on October 14 Amadon set sixteen final pages of type for what really would be the "last form" of Truth's new biography.

One month later, the book was published with Truth's Millerite experience intact, but the Review and Herald received no credit for its work. Neither was Battle Creek stated as the place of publication. Boston received this honor, apparently at Titus' request, even though neither she nor Truth lived there, and the printing had been done in Battle Creek. In fact, though the Review and Herald printed the last four editions of Truth's biography the Adventist publishing house was not credited as the printer until the final edition appeared shortly after Truth's death. Although Amadon and Titus had a congenial business relationship, she evidently wanted there to be some separation between Truth and Adventism.<sup>9</sup>



NARRATIVE  
OF  
SOJOURNER TRUTH;

A Bondswoman of Olden Time,

EMANCIPATED BY THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE IN THE  
EARLY PART OF THE PRESENT CENTURY;

WITH A HISTORY OF HER

LABORS AND CON-

DRAWN FROM

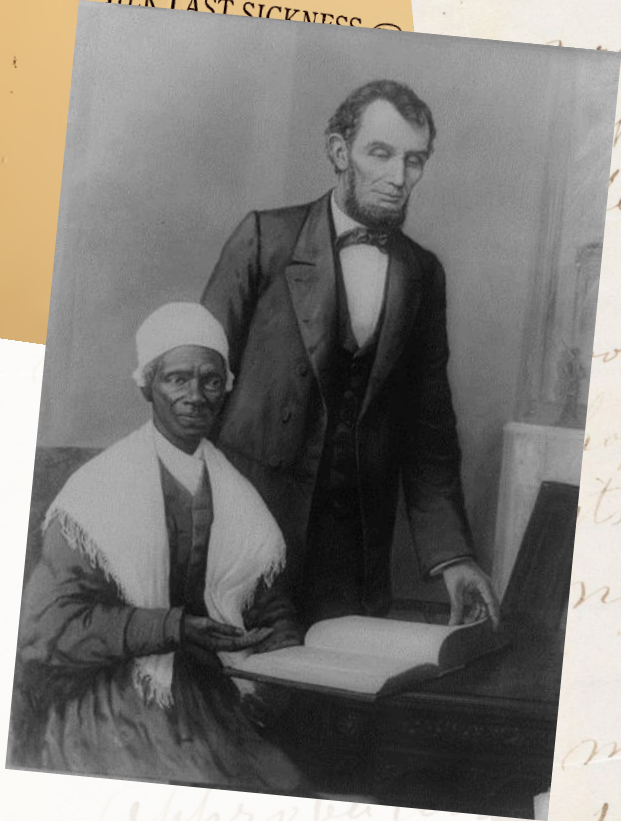
"BOOK OF

ALSO,

A MEMORIAL

GIVING THE PARTICULARS

OF HER LAST SICKNESS



▲ By 1882, Sojourner Truth had grown closer to Adventists, particularly with the doctors and nurses in the Sanitarium who regularly cared for her. This painting of her with Abraham Lincoln hung at the sanitarium until destroyed by a fire.

Image of letter courtesy of the Boston Public Library  
Image of book title page courtesy Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection  
Photo of Abraham Lincoln and Sojourner Truth painting courtesy of U.S. Library of Congress

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

Mr Grandson is also  
repon her for his  
ing rapidly but  
Comfortable.

write the opening Chapter,

Mr Pillsbury has informed you of her illness & that she has no income. Her Grandson is also sick & dependent upon her for his support. He is feeling rapidly but Sojourner is more comfortable.

Her friends are anxious to have the work published as soon as possible, hoping she may realize enough from its sale to supply her most pressing needs.

The Advent Publishers have most kindly offered to print it & will pay for their pay till it is sold & her friends will assist her to sell it.

Should this meet with your approbation will you be so kind as to reply. Very & Respectfully yours,

Francis W. Titus  
for Sojourner Truth

After 1875, published records from the period show that Truth occasionally lectured in the Adventist church, college and sanitarium in Battle Creek.<sup>10</sup> By 1882, she had grown still closer to Adventists, particularly with the doctors and nurses in the Sanitarium who regularly cared for her. Numerous Adventists visited Truth in her home throughout her years in Battle Creek and on one occasion the sanitarium nurses gifted Truth a new dress.<sup>11</sup> After John Harvey Kellogg cut off some of his own skin and grafted it onto Truth's body in a novel procedure calculated to heal her ulcerated leg, Truth gratefully remarked that the Adventists had "lengthened her days." During her last illness, Kellogg and his medical team continued to care for Truth daily and after her death the Sanitarium proudly displayed the famous painting of Sojourner Truth with Abraham Lincoln until the sanitarium was destroyed by fire.<sup>12</sup>

Numerous Adventist residents in Battle Creek later claimed that Truth regularly attended the Dime Tabernacle. Although it is doubtful that this happened "for more than a quarter of a century," as one local historian claimed in the 1970s, it was probably true near the end of Truth's life.<sup>13</sup> The strongest surviving evidence comes from the testimony of James Hannibal Lewis, a Black Adventist barber and resident of Battle Creek for more than sixty years. In the mid-1950s, James E. Dykes, a writer for *Message* magazine who spent about two years interviewing those who had known Truth, talked with Lewis. Now in his late eighties or early nineties, Lewis stated, "I recall that Sojourner Truth was baptized by Uriah Smith, in the Kalamazoo River, at the end of Cass Street."<sup>14</sup> Understandably, many have doubted this account because it was published about seventy-five years after the purported incident and is not substantiated by written sources from the 1880s.<sup>15</sup>

Although the question cannot be definitively settled without contemporary documentation, some evidence seems to support Lewis's claim. First, as Louis B. Reynolds noted in his earlier research, members of the Gage, Smith, Price and Paulson families confirmed Lewis's account, asserting that Truth was a good Adventist.<sup>16</sup> Second, we can understand how Truth's Adventist baptism could fit contextually, as it

would explain why Uriah Smith had been originally asked to conduct the funeral in the Dime Tabernacle. Third, we can confirm that Lewis remembered the correct baptismal location. According to James White, Battle Creek Adventists typically baptized people in the Kalamazoo River and by 1878 more than one thousand Adventists had been baptized there.<sup>17</sup> Fourth, we can document that Lewis lived in Battle Creek during the last months of Truth's life, which supports the common interpretation of Dykes' interview of Lewis that his recollection was an eyewitness account. But he was neither a child nor in his early twenties as has been previously assumed. Born on January 15, 1865, Lewis was in his late teens while he lived in the South Hall boarding house and attended Battle Creek College in the early 1880s.<sup>18</sup> Finally, we can show that Lewis did not wait seventy-five years to reveal his knowledge of Truth's Adventist baptism. Rather, he devoted much of his life to the preservation of Truth's legacy and shared his memories of the Adventist Truth frequently with those who visited Battle Creek.

Lewis' first wife died in 1926 and two years later he married Alice Beatrice Turner.<sup>19</sup> Alice was a civil rights activist and in the late 1920s she co-founded the Sojourner Truth Memorial Association. She served as president of this association until her untimely death in 1943 and its meetings were typically held in the Lewis home at 77 Wilkes Avenue in Battle Creek. Under her leadership, Alice actively collected written materials and living memory statements about Truth, organized programs and mass meetings devoted to promoting Truth's legacy, attempted to place a biography of Truth in every Black school in America, and actively raised funds to erect a new monument for Truth in Battle Creek. Unfortunately, the Great Depression halted Alice's efforts and she did not live to see her dream fulfilled. Three years after her death a marble monument—much smaller than she had envisioned—replaced the deteriorating tombstone that Titus had erected. That monument still stands today.<sup>20</sup>

Under Alice's leadership, the Lewises also inaugurated the still-practiced Adventist tradition of visiting Truth's gravesite, which lies near that of Ellen G.



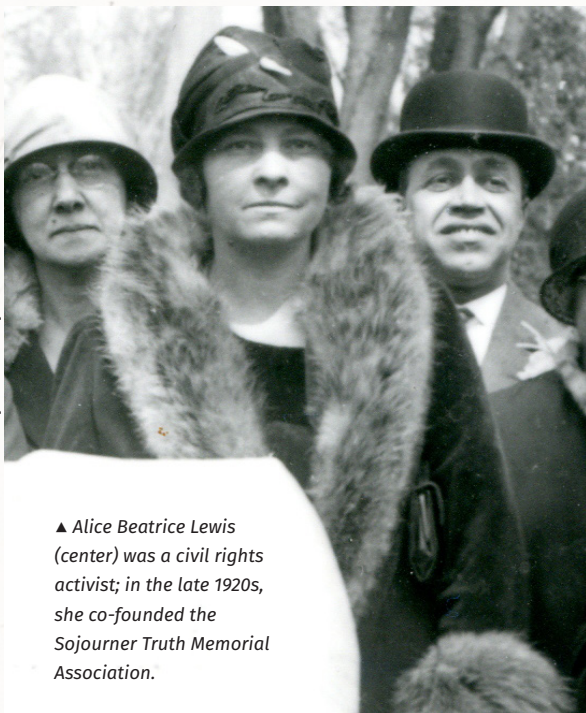
Courtesy Center for Adventist Research

◀ The 1932 delegation from the Lake Union that stood before Sojourner Truth's memorial in Battle Creek.



Courtesy Willard Library, Battle Creek

◀ Officers of the Sojourner Truth Memorial Association in 1929 standing before Truth's grave.



Courtesy Willard Library, Battle Creek

▲ Alice Beatrice Lewis (center) was a civil rights activist; in the late 1920s, she co-founded the Sojourner Truth Memorial Association.



Courtesy Center for Adventist Research

J. H. LEWIS, FIRST BEREAN ELDER.

▲ James Hannibal Lewis, a Black Adventist barber and resident of Battle Creek for more than sixty years, told a *Message* magazine writer that Sojourner Truth was baptized by Uriah Smith in the Kalamazoo River.

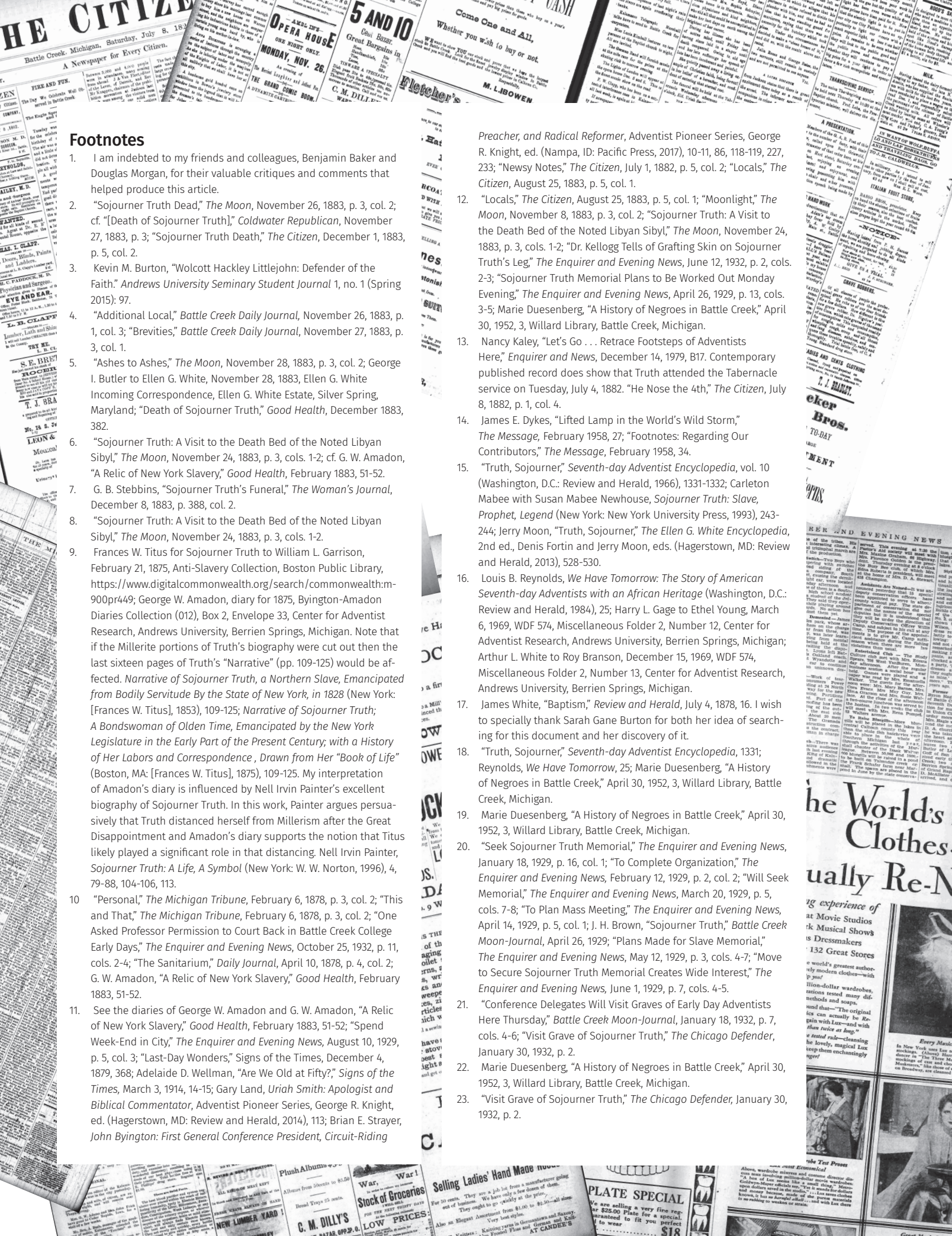
White and her family. Beginning in the late 1920s, the Lewises led countless visitors to the Oak Hill Cemetery and in front of Truth’s monument informed their audiences that she had been baptized into the Adventist Church and regularly attended Tabernacle services. Such visits were occasionally newsworthy, like the delegation of three hundred Adventists from the Lake Union in 1932. In covering this event, the *Moon-Journal* reported that Truth was an “adherent to the Adventist faith” and the *Chicago Defender* noted that as the Adventists placed “wreaths upon the graves of several outstanding denominational leaders, they lingered long to eulogize the memory of this great woman.”<sup>21</sup> Although James Lewis’s memory of Truth’s baptism was not printed until 1958, this information was widely disseminated long before that time.

James Lewis’s frequently recalled memory has credibility. Although Sojourner Truth’s faith was too eclectic to be considered exclusively Adventist despite her probable baptism, it is crucial that we uphold the Adventist Truth. Truth remains a powerful symbol of anti-racism, women’s rights, and God-ordained equity, and the Adventist Truth has rallied and strengthened many church members in the cause of social justice for almost one hundred and fifty years. Take, for example, the 1932 delegation from the Lake Union that stood before Truth’s memorial. They learned of Truth’s Adventist

experience at a crucial moment—a time when Jim Crow segregation and White supremacy flourished in America and the Adventist Church. This was, in fact, the very year that the Battle Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church split along racial lines. The Lewises themselves were a part of the split, co-founding the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church, which often met in their home or in James’ barbershop. Alice Lewis was elected the first elder of the congregation.<sup>22</sup>

Yet despite their frustrations, the Lewises led the Black and White delegation back to Truth with hope for Adventism and America. As White supremacy was breaking apart their own congregation, denominational leaders came to affirm the Adventist Truth before a cloud of witnesses.<sup>23</sup> This interracial service of reconciliation, inspired by the Adventist Truth, came at a crucial time and remains a powerful testimony against White supremacy within the Adventist Church today. If we do not intentionally and persistently fight against racism both within and outside of the Adventist Church, we will forget the Adventist Truth and fail to live it. ■

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# Footnotes

1. I am indebted to my friends and colleagues, Benjamin Baker and Douglas Morgan, for their valuable critiques and comments that helped produce this article.
2. "Sojourner Truth Dead," *The Moon*, November 26, 1883, p. 3, col. 2; cf. "Death of Sojourner Truth," *Coldwater Republican*, November 27, 1883, p. 3; "Sojourner Truth Death," *The Citizen*, December 1, 1883, p. 5, col. 2.
3. Kevin M. Burton, "Wolcott Hackley Littlejohn: Defender of the Faith," *Andrews University Seminary Student Journal* 1, no. 1 (Spring 2015): 97.
4. "Additional Local," *Battle Creek Daily Journal*, November 26, 1883, p. 1, col. 3; "Brevities," *Battle Creek Daily Journal*, November 27, 1883, p. 3, col. 1.
5. "Ashes to Ashes," *The Moon*, November 28, 1883, p. 3, col. 2; George I. Butler to Ellen G. White, November 28, 1883, Ellen G. White Incoming Correspondence, Ellen G. White Estate, Silver Spring, Maryland; "Death of Sojourner Truth," *Good Health*, December 1883, 382.
6. "Sojourner Truth: A Visit to the Death Bed of the Noted Libyan Sibyl," *The Moon*, November 24, 1883, p. 3, cols. 1-2; cf. G. W. Amadon, "A Relic of New York Slavery," *Good Health*, February 1883, 51-52.
7. G. B. Stebbins, "Sojourner Truth's Funeral," *The Woman's Journal*, December 8, 1883, p. 388, col. 2.
8. "Sojourner Truth: A Visit to the Death Bed of the Noted Libyan Sibyl," *The Moon*, November 24, 1883, p. 3, cols. 1-2.
9. Frances W. Titus for Sojourner Truth to William L. Garrison, February 21, 1875, Anti-Slavery Collection, Boston Public Library, <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:m-900pr449>; George W. Amadon, diary for 1875, Byington-Amadon Diaries Collection (012), Box 2, Envelope 33, Center for Adventist Research, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. Note that if the Millerite portions of Truth's biography were cut out then the last sixteen pages of Truth's "Narrative" (pp. 109-125) would be affected. *Narrative of Sojourner Truth, a Northern Slave, Emancipated from Bodily Servitude by the State of New York, in 1828* (New York: [Frances W. Titus], 1853), 109-125; *Narrative of Sojourner Truth; a Bondswoman of Olden Time, Emancipated by the New York Legislature in the Early Part of the Present Century; with a History of Her Labors and Correspondence, Drawn from Her "Book of Life"* (Boston, MA: [Frances W. Titus], 1875), 109-125. My interpretation of Amadon's diary is influenced by Nell Irvin Painter's excellent biography of Sojourner Truth. In this work, Painter argues persuasively that Truth distanced herself from Millerism after the Great Disappointment and Amadon's diary supports the notion that Titus likely played a significant role in that distancing. Nell Irvin Painter, *Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1996), 4, 79-88, 104-106, 113.
10. "Personal," *The Michigan Tribune*, February 6, 1878, p. 3, col. 2; "This and That," *The Michigan Tribune*, February 6, 1878, p. 3, col. 2; "One Asked Professor Permission to Court Back in Battle Creek College Early Days," *The Enquirer and Evening News*, October 25, 1932, p. 11, cols. 2-4; "The Sanitarium," *Daily Journal*, April 10, 1878, p. 4, col. 2; G. W. Amadon, "A Relic of New York Slavery," *Good Health*, February 1883, 51-52.
11. See the diaries of George W. Amadon and G. W. Amadon, "A Relic of New York Slavery," *Good Health*, February 1883, 51-52; "Spend Week-End in City," *The Enquirer and Evening News*, August 10, 1929, p. 5, col. 3; "Last-Day Wonders," *Signs of the Times*, December 4, 1879, 368; Adelaide D. Wellman, "Are We Old at Fifty?," *Signs of the Times*, March 3, 1914, 14-15; Gary Land, *Uriah Smith: Apologist and Biblical Commentator*, Adventist Pioneer Series, George R. Knight, ed. (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2014), 113; Brian E. Strayer, *John Byington: First General Conference President, Circuit-Riding*

12. "Locals," *The Citizen*, August 25, 1883, p. 5, col. 1; "Moonlight," *The Moon*, November 8, 1883, p. 3, col. 2; "Sojourner Truth: A Visit to the Death Bed of the Noted Libyan Sibyl," *The Moon*, November 24, 1883, p. 3, cols. 1-2; "Dr. Kellogg Tells of Grafting Skin on Sojourner Truth's Leg," *The Enquirer and Evening News*, June 12, 1932, p. 2, cols. 2-3; "Sojourner Truth Memorial Plans to Be Worked Out Monday Evening," *The Enquirer and Evening News*, April 26, 1929, p. 13, cols. 3-5; Marie Duesenberg, "A History of Negroes in Battle Creek," April 30, 1952, 3, Willard Library, Battle Creek, Michigan.
13. Nancy Kaley, "Let's Go . . . Retrace Footsteps of Adventists Here," *Enquirer and News*, December 14, 1979, B17. Contemporary published record does show that Truth attended the Tabernacle service on Tuesday, July 4, 1882. "He Nose the 4th," *The Citizen*, July 8, 1882, p. 1, col. 4.
14. James E. Dykes, "Lifted Lamp in the World's Wild Storm," *The Message*, February 1958, 27; "Footnotes: Regarding Our Contributors," *The Message*, February 1958, 34.
15. "Truth, Sojourner," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, vol. 10 (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald, 1966), 1331-1332; Carleton Mabee with Susan Mabee Newhouse, *Sojourner Truth: Slave, Prophet, Legend* (New York: New York University Press, 1993), 243-244; Jerry Moon, "Truth, Sojourner," *The Ellen G. White Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed., Denis Fortin and Jerry Moon, eds. (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2013), 528-530.
16. Louis B. Reynolds, *We Have Tomorrow: The Story of American Seventh-day Adventists with an African Heritage* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald, 1984), 25; Harry L. Gage to Ethel Young, March 6, 1969, WDF 574, Miscellaneous Folder 2, Number 12, Center for Adventist Research, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan; Arthur L. White to Roy Branson, December 15, 1969, WDF 574, Miscellaneous Folder 2, Number 13, Center for Adventist Research, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.
17. James White, "Baptism," *Review and Herald*, July 4, 1878, 16. I wish to specially thank Sarah Gane Burton for both her idea of searching for this document and her discovery of it.
18. "Truth, Sojourner," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, 1331; Reynolds, *We Have Tomorrow*, 25; Marie Duesenberg, "A History of Negroes in Battle Creek," April 30, 1952, 3, Willard Library, Battle Creek, Michigan.
19. Marie Duesenberg, "A History of Negroes in Battle Creek," April 30, 1952, 3, Willard Library, Battle Creek, Michigan.
20. "Seek Sojourner Truth Memorial," *The Enquirer and Evening News*, January 18, 1929, p. 16, col. 1; "To Complete Organization," *The Enquirer and Evening News*, February 12, 1929, p. 2, col. 2; "Will Seek Memorial," *The Enquirer and Evening News*, March 20, 1929, p. 5, cols. 7-8; "To Plan Mass Meeting," *The Enquirer and Evening News*, April 14, 1929, p. 5, col. 1; J. H. Brown, "Sojourner Truth," *Battle Creek Moon-Journal*, April 26, 1929; "Plans Made for Slave Memorial," *The Enquirer and Evening News*, May 12, 1929, p. 3, cols. 4-7; "Move to Secure Sojourner Truth Memorial Creates Wide Interest," *The Enquirer and Evening News*, June 1, 1929, p. 7, cols. 4-5.
21. "Conference Delegates Will Visit Graves of Early Day Adventists Here Thursday," *Battle Creek Moon-Journal*, January 18, 1932, p. 7, cols. 4-6; "Visit Grave of Sojourner Truth," *The Chicago Defender*, January 30, 1932, p. 2.
22. Marie Duesenberg, "A History of Negroes in Battle Creek," April 30, 1952, 3, Willard Library, Battle Creek, Michigan.
23. "Visit Grave of Sojourner Truth," *The Chicago Defender*, January 30, 1932, p. 2.



Tim Brown

▲ *"I commend you. You are already doing so much for the whole person. My question is, 'What haven't you tried yet?'"*

# AdventHealth, Adventist Church Leaders Challenged to Deepen the Wholeness Agenda

"I commend you. You are already doing so much for the whole person. My question is, 'What *haven't* you tried yet?'"

This was the closing statement that Chris Oberg, CEO of Path of Life Ministries, gave to a room of AdventHealth board members and executive leaders, key representatives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and local community leaders who attended AdventHealth's 32nd annual Conference on Mission held in Orlando. Oberg challenged attendees to live up to the AdventHealth brand promise: "feel whole."

Over the course of the three-day conference, presenters responded to that

challenge through a deep exploration of what wholeness is, how it's quantified and how to help communities feel whole.

Hosted by AdventHealth, this annual event brings together key leaders from the Adventist Church and AdventHealth to discuss foundational issues, industry trends and the delivery of transformational whole-person care to millions of individuals. For the last five years, AdventHealth has been on a journey to understand and live its brand promise in a way no other organization has done. In this multi-year process, attendees have grappled with what wholeness looks like for the body, mind and spirit. Previous

years of the event invited attendees to work through key issues such as mental health, spiritual care and health equity.

The 2022 Conference on Mission, with the theme "Guided by Purpose," gave attendees the opportunity to explore the results of the years-long research that AdventHealth has dedicated to defining wholeness.

"When you put wholeness in your brand, you're taking on a big responsibility," said Terry Shaw, president and CEO of AdventHealth. "We started this journey by putting spiritual care in the outpatient setting and adding mental health services into primary care. Now we have a wholeness model to help us look at, from a business perspective, what it means to feel whole. And we have our diversity, equity and inclusion councils to better enable us to help people feel whole."

To close out the event on Sabbath morning, attendees heard an inspiring message from Sam Leonor, Jr., Mission and Spiritual Care executive at Adventist Health. Leonor spoke on the unchanging mission of Adventist health care and how it connects to wholeness. The message highlighted how the healing miracles performed by Jesus during His time on Earth did more than just heal a broken body, but rather His miracles healed the mind and spirit of the recipient, too.

"We must choose to see the real need, what people *actually* seek: belonging, fulfillment and meaning," said Leonor. "Once our eyes are open to that, it is impossible to ignore. This will make AdventHealth an organization more closely aligned with the mission and values of our founder: Jesus." ■

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*Elizabeth Camps is a senior Communications specialist at AdventHealth.*

# Changing the World Right Next Door



Courtesy Nicholas Gunn

▲ Nicholas Gunn visited area schools in his role as Mr. Benton Harbor.

During the past few years, as freshman Nicholas Gunn looked around his southwest Michigan community, his first response was to find ways to serve.

One initial opportunity came with Berrien Springs High School Afterschool Rocks, where Nicholas assisted senior citizens with yardwork and assembled care bags for those in need. He also stayed attuned to the role of God in his life, explaining, “I took it upon myself to strengthen my relationship with God by organizing an afterschool Bible study with over 100 students.” Together, those students volunteered and created important change in nearby Benton Harbor.

Later, Nicholas began work as a reporter/columnist/photographer for the *Benton Spirit Community Newspaper*. He trained to become a volunteer firefighter cadet in St.

Joseph, too. “Volunteering and helping my community as a first responder is very dear to my heart. Helping people who can’t help themselves in a time of need is something I love to do,” he expressed.

Nicholas also runs a YouTube channel and website to review businesses and educate area youth about local government. He co-chairs the Fresh Start Children’s Gardens in Benton Harbor and serves on several boards, including Spectrum Health Lakeland Community Advocates and the Steering Committee for the City of Benton Harbor Master Planning. Nicholas writes for *Moody on the Market* with Midwest Family and is the community and media engagement ambassador for Benton Harbor Team Solutions, which assists local residents in coping with lead contamination in their water.

In recognition for his passionate community involvement, Nicholas was crowned Mr. Benton Harbor 2022 and included in this year’s *Moody on the Market*’s “40 Under 40” award.

When Nicholas graduated from high school, he faced an unknown future. He found an opportunity to move forward at Andrews University through the Bridge to Success program, which provides additional mentoring for first-year students, and decided to attend. He ultimately declined the financial aid loans, however, to avoid debt. He recalled, “I had no idea how I could possibly pay for college, but I knew, deep down inside, that God would make a way, even though it seemed to me there were no other options. I prayed and prayed . . . for some type of miracle.”

He met Bridge to Success director Randy Graves, who refused to give up. Sensing something special in Nicholas, Graves submitted his Bridge to Success application essay to the University’s George Floyd Scholar program, which supports students who seek to actively create positive change in their communities. In July 2022, Nicholas received the news that he had been awarded the full tuition scholarship. “I was completely shocked,” he conveys, “but I am extremely happy to see what God has in store for me here at Andrews University.”

Currently, Nicholas is pursuing a degree in social studies and secondary education for teaching in high school. He looks forward to impacting and serving his new communities in the future, affirming, “I would like to continue to be a leader in and out of school while I study at Andrews.” ■

*Isabella Koh, University Communication student writer*



▲ Pastor Dennis Page from Village Church provides instruction to volunteers for Christmas Behind Bars.

## Former inmates orchestrate spiritual prison break

Restrained behind bars, with contact rarely initiated by those in the free world, how do inmates find encouragement and hope? Christmas Behind Bars is one solution to share hope with those locked away. Started by former inmate Lemuel Vega, this ministry uses goody-packed Christmas bags to introduce the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The prisoners who receive these bags may remain behind bars of iron for years. Nevertheless, this program is designed to release those prisoners from the invisible bars of guilt and shame.

The bag packing event involved hundreds of participants at the sixth Change Day event at Andrews University. Pastor Dennis Page from Village Church, a former federal inmate, orchestrated the stuffing of 8,600 bags to send to prisoners behind bars. The bags were sent to four state prisons and one county jail.

Andrews University students, faculty, staff, Village Church staff, and Village Elementary School fifth and sixth grades all teamed up on five production lines and filled thousands of bags in only a few hours. The bags included sweet treats,

nutritious delights and sweet words of courage. Literature placed in the bags included spiritual books and pamphlets, free book offers and encouraging “thinking of you” cards written by children.

Christ told his disciples: *Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: Naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me* (Matthew 25:34–36).

Years ago, one small church reached out to Lemuel when he was in prison and introduced the gospel that changed his life. He now actively works to free others who need light shown in the darkness. Please pray that these packages work to bring hope to the minds of those who are physically restrained but still have the opportunity to become spiritually unshackled.

To find out more about Christmas Behind Bars, you can visit its website at [christmasbehindbars.org](http://christmasbehindbars.org). There is a section on the website where you can request a free information packet be sent to a loved one who is in prison. ■

Robert Rice, Ph.D., Bible worker at Village Church

## Illinois holds 34th constituency session

### FAMILIAR FACE ADDED TO ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Delegates of the Illinois Conference elected executive officers and departmental directors during its 34th quadrennial constituency session on Oct. 23, 2022. John Gryss who had been serving as the executive secretary for the past five years was voted as the new conference president. “My wife and I are humbled and thankful for the vote of confidence to serve His people in the Illinois Conference. It is my prayer that God will grant us the wisdom to lead this conference, side-by-side with my fellow officers, with a spirit of humility, compassion and Christian love,” says Gryss.

After the election of the president, delegates voted Michael Campos to serve as the executive secretary. No stranger to the Illinois Conference, he previously served as director of Youth, Young Adult, Pathfinders, Adventurers and Camp Ministries. “My family and I will miss the Youth Department greatly, but we trust in God’s leading in our lives. We are committed to continue to support the Youth Department from my new area of responsibility and look forward to serving the rest of my Illinois Conference family,” says Campos.

The third executive officer elected was Douglas Reeves. The only officer returning to his administrative role, he has been serving as Conference treasurer since May 2020. “I thank God for the opportunity to continue serving the Illinois Conference in my current role. My commitment to the Adventist Church is to continue to serve with integrity and focus our resources and energy to the proclamation of the gospel,” says Reeves.

After election of executive officers, delegates proceeded to elect the following departmental directors: Katrina





▲ Michael Campos was elected executive secretary at the Illinois Conference constituency session on Oct. 23, 2022. He previously served as Youth director.

Katie Fellows

## Wisconsin leaders re-elected at constituency meeting

CONFERENCE IS EXPERIENCING UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH

The 39th constituency session of the Wisconsin Conference convened on Oct. 16, 2022, at the Wisconsin Academy chapel.

All six names recommended by the nominating committee were elected to serve for the 2022–2026 quadrennium: Titus Naftanaila, president; Brian Stephan; executive secretary/treasurer; Adam Case, Ministerial director; Sue Nelson, superintendent for Education; Zack Payne, Youth director; Bill Ochs, Planned Giving and Trust Services director.

Upon his election, Naftanaila said he was humbled by the call to serve alongside the rest of the team. “It is not about me; We are here, together, by God’s grace,” he said. “We pray and hope that God won’t be disappointed and the great conference of Wisconsin will be satisfied.”

Highlights from the President’s Report include:

God has blessed Wisconsin in 2021 with the highest number of baptisms in the last nine years — 225!

Schools in Wisconsin have an enrollment of 400 students, the highest in the last five years. One new school, Frederic Adventist Christian School, opened.

The Planned Giving and Trust Services Department is currently responsible for 400 estate plans and has initiated more than 120 new or updated wills, trusts and charitable gift annuities. In the last four years, a total of \$992,601 has benefited the Wisconsin Conference.

Club Ministries is on the rise. Over 200 young people attended the 2022 Wisconsin Conference Pathfinder Fair. The department made history by hosting the conference’s first Master Guide Camporee. Public Campus Ministries has



▲ Left to right: Ministerial director, Pete Braman, with wife, Susie; Education director, Katrina Braun, and husband, Ryan; Hispanic Ministry coordinator, Ruben Bullón, with wife, Leni; President, John Grys, and wife, Cristina; Executive Secretary, Michael Campos, and wife, Erika; Treasurer, Doug Reeves, and wife, Cheryl.

Katie Fellows

Baum, superintendent of Education; Pete Braman, Ministerial director; and Ruben Bullón, Hispanic Ministries director. The Youth director position will be filled by the newly elected executive committee.

After hearing the ministry reports from each department, the delegates reviewed the proposals coming from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Among the approved changes, the delegates voted to extend the term between sessions to five years, to make provisions for an online session should circumstances require such a gathering, and to strengthen the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. ■

Illinois Conference Communication Dept.

Felicia Tonga



▲ All six names recommended by the Wisconsin Conference nominating committee were elected to serve for the 2022–2026 quadrennium. **Left to right:** Brian Stephan; executive secretary/treasurer; Titus Naftanaila, president; Bill Ochs, Planned Giving and Trust Services director; Adam Case, Ministerial director; Zack Payne, Youth director; Sue Nelson, superintendent for Education.

grown and now has local chapters on four public campuses.

A link to view the report booklet is available at: [bit.ly/3hc1oRR](https://bit.ly/3hc1oRR).

During his report, executive secretary/treasurer Brian Stephan presented a recommended change on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws committee. Delegates voted to allow the possibility of conducting the constituency session online in the event of extenuating circumstances, as determined by the executive committee.

Although there has been a decline in the last few years, the membership report indicates 2021 was a banner year — the highest membership in nine years. With the 559 baptisms in the last four years, and accounting for professions of faith, transfers and removals, Wisconsin Conference current membership is 7,681.

In 2019, the conference had a tithe decrease. However, multiple blessings during the unprecedented COVID lockdown brought the Conference to an even better position, including an increase in tithe over the last two years.

A detailed report of the constituency meeting is available at: [bit.ly/3HiQFiX](https://bit.ly/3HiQFiX). ■

*Laurella Case, Communication coordinator*



▲ Wisconsin President Titus Naftanaila (right) pictured with Lake Union President Ken Denslow. In his report, Naftanaila outlined the strategic plan for the Wisconsin Conference over the next four years: 1) Revitalization and Discipleship; 2) Leadership Development; 3) Educational Excellence: Mentorship, Growth and Service; 4) Wakonda: Wisconsin Conference Youth Evangelism, and 5) Proclamation Evangelism and Community Involvement.





▲ The top officers were elected at the Lake Region constituency session. Eddie Allen, vice president for Multilingual Ministries; Abraham Henry, executive secretary, with his wife, Rebecca; Yolanda Stonewall, chief financial officer and treasurer; Garth Gabriel, president, with his wife, Rosita.

## New Youth and Young Adult Ministry directors selected for Lake Region

At the Lake Region Conference constituency session held on July 17, 2022, delegates voted a leadership team for the next quadrennium. The three top officers elected are President Garth Gabriel, Executive Secretary Abraham Henry and Chief Financial Officer Yolanda Stonewall.

In a bold move, Lake Region separated its Youth and Young Adult ministries into two positions and elected Earl Baldwin to serve as Youth director and James Doggette Jr. as Young Adult director. Influencing this decision is a Barna study which points to an alarming trend. Nearly two-thirds of U.S. 18- to 29-year-olds who grew up in church report that they have withdrawn from church involvement as an adult after having been active as a child or teen, a trend Baldwin and Doggette will work to change.

### 'Excited to serve'

For over 15 years Earl Baldwin has served in pastoral ministry: five years at All Nations Church in Berrien Springs, five years at Muskegon Heights Wood Street and Idlewild churches, and five years at Praise Fellowship in South Bend and Bethany Chapel of Elkhart (Ind.).

"My wife, Jennikka, and I are humbled and excited to serve in this capacity," says Baldwin. "We are excited about the

opportunity to impact the lives of our youth and their families."

In keeping with Lake Region's theme for 2023, "Deeper Roots," Earl says his goal is to provide greater opportunities for youth to deepen their relationship with God and each other. "Through connecting, engaging and equipping, we plan to bring awareness to better facilitate young people and they families to dig deeper, trust deeper, serve deeper and enter into a deeper relationship with God and with others, while having tremendous fun."

As Youth director for Lake Region Conference, Baldwin leads a large team of federation officers and club ministries directors. However, he says, his most important team members are in his family. He serves with his wife and their five children: Gabriel, 14; Michael, 12; Ariel, 10; Isabel, 9; and Zion, 6.

### 'Service and outreach a priority' for young adults

James Doggette Jr., the new Young Adult director, has more than 15 years of experience in pastoral care, youth ministry, chaplaincy and teaching ministry. Prior to this, he served as senior pastor of the First Church of Riviera Beach and the Deerfield Beach Church in South Florida where he led community development efforts.

Doggette says he envisions the five-state conference filled with young adults leading local churches and fully engaged in building the Kingdom of God. "Our mission is to



▲ Earl Baldwin



▲ James Doggette Jr.

disciple our young adults by facilitating connection experiences, building community and facilitating collaboration opportunities."

He continues, "Our young adult ministry plans to make service and outreach a priority by inviting our young adults to stretch their benevolent muscles and serve our communities in numerous ways: visiting our geriatric community, helping our homeless, ministering in our shelters, mentoring troubled youth, providing financial blessings to the economically insecure, and much more."

Doggette is married to Damia, and they have three children: a daughter, Noa Lily, and two sons, James Doggette III and Legend. ■

*JeNean Lendor, Lake Region Conference Communication director*

## New Lake Union PARL director and legal counsel named

JENNIFER GRAY WOODS  
SPENT FORMATIVE YEARS IN  
MICHIGAN

After gone for more than 20 years from Michigan, Jennifer Gray Woods is heading home. The former General Conference attorney, who served the church in a variety of roles, has accepted the call to serve as lead counsel as well as Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Lake Union Conference.

"It is such a blessing to be able to serve in this capacity using my background in both law and PARL work," says Woods. "I'm also excited that my sons will be able to go to the schools that I attended growing up and be raised around the same love and support that I was."

Growing up in the Berrien Springs area, Woods attended Ruth Murdoch Elementary and Andrews Academy, and has many fond memories of her time here.

One highlight she says was the sense of community she experienced at Highland Church in Benton Harbor. "Most of my treasured memories revolve around church activities, whether it was being part of the children and youth choir, Pathfinders or other activities that helped me grow as a young person in the church."

After graduating from Andrews Academy in 1998, Woods received her B.S. (Biology) from Oakwood College in 2002, her J.D. from Harvard University in 2005, and her M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins in 2007. She is a member of the Illinois and California bar associations.

She joined the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 2015 as an associate general counsel where she focused on the areas of trademark,



Stacey Veeth photography

▲ Jennifer with husband, Eddie, and their boys, Declan and Emil

copyright and data privacy. In 2021, Woods joined the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty as an associate director.

Before joining the General Conference, she worked in Washington, D.C. at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of General Counsel where her focus was legal issues concerning health operations and health administration.

She also has worked as an attorney in Los Angeles, Calif., where she provided complex healthcare regulatory guidance, litigation assistance, transactional advice, and more.

Lake Union president Ken Denslow says, "We are incredibly blessed to have someone with Jennifer's talent and experience joining us in the Lake Union."

The hardest part of deciding to come back home, says Jennifer, was leaving the new home she had established in the Washington, D.C. area. "For the last seven years I have been able to serve at the General Conference in both the legal

and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Departments and those years have been a blessing to me and my family.

"But, as a colleague told me the other day, seven is a year of completion so when I was called to Lake Union, I knew, after Eddie (my husband) and I prayed, that this is where God wants us to be at this time for our family. Also, the chance to live near my mom, and to raise our boys where I was raised made the decision a lot easier."

Readers might be familiar with Jennifer because of her father, Lynn Gray, M.D., who was one of the first Black family medicine physicians to serve in Benton Harbor. Between his family practice office and his time working as an emergency room physician, Gray practiced in the area for over 40 years. During that time, he was active in his local church, health ministry work and as an alum of Andrews University, where he served on the Board for many years, until he passed in 2020. ■

*Debbie Michel is director of Communication for the Lake Union Conference.*

## Lake Union votes to affirm 11 in their pastoral calling

After extensive examination by church leadership and the pastors' congregations, the following individuals were approved for ordination, as voted by the Lake Union executive committee, as confirmation of God's calling in these pastors' lives. Ordination services were held in their respective conferences in 2022.

### ILLINOIS CONFERENCE



**Paul Desmonde Lowe** pastors the Broadview, New Heights, New Jerusalem and Vernon Memorial churches. He received a B.S. in Aviation Management from St. Francis College, Brooklyn, N.Y., with aspirations for becoming a mission pilot. Paul received his M.Div. from the Seventh-day Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He is married to Jacqueline, and they have a daughter, Avia.



**David Quilátan** started his ministry journey in 2014 with the Bolingbrook Church as an intern Youth director. He became a full-time Illinois Conference pastor in 2016. Married in 2019, he and his wife, Nikki, have a passion to see discipleship happen in Children and Youth Ministries and a desire to see churches become more intentionally missional in their communities.

### INDIANA CONFERENCE



**David DeRose** is a physician holding board certifications in both Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine. He has worked at some of the nation's most innovative health centers including over six years as a founding physician, and later medical director, of the Lifestyle Center of America. David currently serves as pastor of the Fort Wayne First Church.



**Christopher M. Clark Sr.** pastors the Independence Boulevard Church. In June 2016, he received a call to pastoral ministry and went on to Andrews University where he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. He is married to Ebony Clark, and they have a son, Christopher M. Clark Jr.

### LAKE REGION CONFERENCE



**Pastor Eric J. Bell** serves as senior pastor of the Hyde Park Church in Chicago. He is an alumnus of Oakwood University and earned his Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University's Theological Seminary, with a focus on Systematic Theology. Eric is married to the former TonyaMae Ross.



**Juan Rivas** pastors the Green Bay Three Angels and Colby Nueva Jerusalem II Hispanic churches in Wisconsin. He has a B.A. in Theology from Venezuelan Adventist University and a M.Div. from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Juan is married to Carmen Avila, and they have raised two children, Veronica and Samuel.

## MICHIGAN CONFERENCE



**Garhett Morgan** currently serves in the Sparta and Three Angels Fellowship churches.

After graduating from college, Garhett traveled to Australia to attend the ARISE training school, where he fell in love again with Christ and the Word of God. While serving as a Bible worker in Lansing, Mich., Garhett proposed to his childhood sweetheart, Dakota, and they were married in 2016.



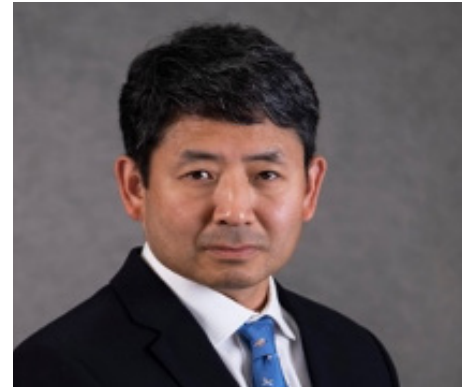
**Nathaniel Oregon** currently serves as the pastor of the Alma and Ithaca churches. After marrying his wife, April, in 2006, Nathaniel, an Army medic, was sent overseas to Iraq, where his wavering faith was challenged. When he returned in 2008 for his grandmother's funeral, he found a new longing for Scripture and the comfort of prayer. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Weimar in 2017, Nathaniel accepted a call to serve in Michigan.



**David Pano** is the director of the Literature Ministries Department since November 2021, and also serves as pastor of the Williamston company. The Lord led him to GYC Espanol, and then to Ouachita Hills College where he switched his major from Christian Media to Theology. David led a canvassing program in Ann Arbor, Mich., and then worked as a Bible worker in Battle Creek.



**Mario Reategui** currently serves in the Hillsdale and Pittsford churches. While watching "Final Events" by Doug Batchelor, Mario was impressed to rededicate his life to the Lord. He met and married his wife, Milagros, and they had two children. In 2013, the Reateguis moved to Collegedale, Tenn., where Mario completed his Theology degree.



**Hyunho Suh** pastors the Ann Arbor Central Korean church and the Battle Creek Korean company. Hyunho graduated from Sahmyook University before going to Andrews University to attain a Master of Divinity degree. However, he had to pause his studies and return home to serve in the military for two years which is a requirement for all Korean males. After his military service, Hyunho returned to the United States, where he and his new wife, Haejin, served in many churches around the country. ■

*Katie Fellows is the Lake Union Conference assistant Communication specialist.*

**"The foundational model of ordination is Jesus appointing the twelve apostles (Matt 10:14; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16), and the ultimate model of Christian ministry is the life and work of our Lord, who came not to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45; Luke 22:25-27; John 13:1-17)."**

**- General Conference statement (Oct. 14, 2014)**

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Donald “Don” and Patricia “Pat” (Griesman) Bunker** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022. The couple celebrated their anniversary at home with family in Green Bay, Wis. They have been members of the of the Green Bay Church in Wisconsin for 64 years.

Don and Pat met while working together in the laundry department as students while attending Emmanuel Missionary College. They were married on Monday, Sept. 1, 1952, in Green Bay, Wis. Don’s career included working as a sixth-grade teacher and then 28 years as an elementary education principal. Pat’s career included working as a teacher mainly with students in second and third grades. They have four children, 14 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.



▲ **Del and Carol Esh** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 12, 2022, at their home in Bloomingdale, Mich. The Eshes were married in Anderson, Ind., but have been members of the Gobles (Mich.) Church for 48 years.

In June of 1965, Del and Carol, along with his parents, founded the Bethany Care Center, a 78-bed skilled nursing home, in Bloomingdale. Eventually they took over the business after Del’s parents retired. Del retired as administrator in 1991 and Carol continued on as business manager until 1993.

Carol and Del enjoyed traveling and being a part of ASI. After retiring, Del spent his time dealing in antiques, even running Cody Creek, his own auction house for a number of years. He loved being outside birding, and digging for rocks, antique bottles and Indian artifacts.

The Eshes have two daughters, Michelle (Jay) Brand of Pullman, Mich.; and Lisa (Michael) Strohauer of Bloomingdale, Mich. They have two grandsons, Jakob (Kathryn) Strohauer, and Jesse Strohauer, a very special great-granddaughter, Isabel, and another great-grandchild on the way.



▲ **Reino and Marie (Tolonen) Ketola** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, in L’Anse, Mich. They were surrounded by their children and three grandchildren while enjoying a lasagna dinner with cake. They have been members of the L’Anse Adventist Company for 60 years. They were married

on Saturday, June 21, 1952, in Hancock, Mich. Reino was a logger and Marie was a housewife.



▲ **Ramon and Bonita (Barfield) Mayoral** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022. They celebrated their 50 years together by spending the night at one of their favorite places—beautiful Mackinac Island. They have been members of the Manton Church in Michigan for 39 years.

They were married on Saturday, Sept. 16, 1972, in Glenwood, Cook County, Ill. Ramon worked as a design draftsman for 37 years, 29 of which were at Wilcox Professional Services. Bonnie was a homemaker through and through, raising their children as well as caring for other children throughout the years. After their children were raised, she started Bonnie’s Helping Hands, cleaning and organizing for other busy people.

Ramon’s hobbies include drawing, building, studying, keeping fit, and family; Bonnie enjoys gardening, genealogy, reading, and family.

Ramon and Bonnie are looking forward to spending eternity together with their family and friends. Their family includes Heather (Stephen) Horvath from Cadillac, Mich.; Clint (Lauren) Mayoral from Grand Ledge, Mich.; Rebecca (Isaac) Mitchell from Chattanooga, Tenn.; and eight grandchildren.

## OBITUARIES

**BAUMAN, Shirley Ann (Nestle)**, age 87; born June 2, 1934, in Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; died Dec. 14, 2021, in Bend, Ore. She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in North Aurora, Ill. She is survived by her sons, George Paul Bauman IV, Frederick Earl (Carolyn) Bauman, and Charles William (Loretta) Bauman; daughter, Lisa Ann Bauman; brothers, Bill, and Tom; sister, Mary; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. A memorial inurnment was conducted by Pastor Josh Voigt on Nov. 5, 2022, in Illinois. A card of sympathy or a gift in memoriam can be sent to the Bauman family at 304 View Ct., Apopka, FL 32703.

**DRUMM, Steven "Steve" J.**, age 53; born Sept. 12, 1968, in Alma, Mich.; died Dec. 21, 2021, in Alma. He was a member of the Cedar Lake Church in Cedar Lake, Mich. He is survived by his wife, Dawn Drumm; sons, Nathan (Becca) Drumm, and Jason (Miranda) Drumm; father, Edward "Ed" (Dee) Drumm; mother, Lana Houghton; stepbrother, Johnny (Jasmine) Vaden; sisters, LaShelle (Geoff) Greene, and Kristy Drumm; stepsisters, Kris Lahti, and Kathy (Mike) Sias; and three grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Jacob Gibbs on Dec. 27, 2021, in Michigan.

**DUNCAN, Carroll "James,"** age 51; born July 28, 1970, in Tillamook, Ore.; died Dec. 25, 2021, in Indianapolis, Ind. He was a member of the Shelbyville Church in Shelbyville, Ind. He is survived by his wife, Connie (Sleeth) Duncan; son, Andrew Duncan; and mother, Carolyn (Dyer-Adams) Duncan. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor Erik Frecking on Dec. 31, 2021; interment at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Edinburgh, Ind. A card of sympathy or a gift in memoriam can be sent to Connie Duncan: 729 E. 600 N., Shelbyville IN 46176 or Carolyn Duncan: 1373 E. 425 N., Shelbyville, IN 46176.

**FOX, Lois E. (Morris)**, age 100; born Jan. 18, 1921, in Bristol, Ind.; died Dec. 31, 2021, in Dowagiac, Mich. She was a member of the Dowagiac Church in Dowagiac. She is survived by her son, Kenneth Fox; daughters, Rita (Galen) Pusey, and Nancy (Dale) Gooden; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor Ted Toms and Pastor Tom Shepherd on Jan. 7, 2022, with a graveside service in South Wayne Cemetery in Dowagiac.

**HUFFMAN, Oliver "Earl" E.**, age 75; born Nov. 22, 1946, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died Feb. 2, 2022, in Indianapolis. He was a member of the Bloomington Church in Bloomington, Ind. He is survived by his wife, Sherry (Beaumont) Huffman; daughters, Tammy (Bobby) Prather, Angela Burnette, Heather (Mike) Spicer, and Courtney (Keith) Hickman; sister, Alice O'Shall; 10 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. A memorial inurnment was conducted by Rev. Tom Knight on Feb. 27, 2022.

**KETOLA, Marie**, age 88; born June 8, 1934, in Painsdale, Mich.; died July 12, in L'Anse, Mich.; She was a member of the L'Anse Company in L'Anse. She is survived by her husband, Reino Ketola; sons, Kenneth Ketola, Steven (Ailen) Ketola; daughters, Trudy Ketola, Corinne (Edmund) Fetengis, and Karen (Mike) Dault; brother, Charlie (Karen) Tolonen; and three grandchildren. A private inurnment was conducted by Pastor Brian Hamilton on July 23, 2022. A private graveside service was held at the Evergreen Cemetery in Michigan.

**RODIE, Joyce E.**, age 85; born July 22, 1936, in Timken, Kan.; died Dec. 27, 2021, in Mishawaka, Ind. She was a member of the Niles Westside Church in Niles, Mich. She is survived by her father, John Rodie; mother, Elma (Kaiser) A. Rodie; brother, Larry Rodie; sister, LeAnna (Rodie) Herbel; and sister-in-law, Beverly Rodie. A memorial service was conducted and a

graveside inurnment service was held at the Bison Church Cemetery in Bison, Kan. A card of sympathy or a gift in memoriam can be sent to LeAnna (Rodie) Herbel at 26 Hemlock, Niles, MI 49120.

**SHILLING, Jerry T.**, age 78; born Sept. 14, 1943, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died April 24, 2022, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Village Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn L. (Shipp) Shilling; son, Jerry D. Shilling; brother, James M. Shilling; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. A memorial inurnment was conducted on May 5, 2022, by Pastor Dennis Page with interment at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Mich. Please send gift in memoriam to Battle Creek Academy worthy student fund.

**VIXIE, Dr. Donald K.**, age 91; born Oct. 11, 1930, in Cape Town, South Africa; died Aug. 22, 2022, in Dimondale, Mich. He was a member of the South Flint Church in Burton, Mich. He was survived by his wife, Flora L. "Lee" (Thompson) Vixie; son, Keith (Jeannie) Vixie; daughter, Donna (Jeremy) Hall; sister, Joyce Rigsby; five grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren. A funeral interment was conducted by Pastor Chad Bernard on Aug. 29, 2022. A graveside service was held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Mich. A card of sympathy or a gift in memoriam can be sent to 6320 Pleasant River Drive, Dimondale, MI 48821.

**WAGTOWICZ, Lois Pauline (Howell)**, age 75; born Jan. 25, 1947, in Cheboygan, Mich.; died July 25, 2022, in Ooltewah, Tenn. She was a member of the Glenwood Church, in Dowagiac, Mich. She is survived by her husband, Thomas P. Wagtowicz; daughters, Melissa (Dave) Williamson, and Jennifer Wagtowicz; four nieces; one nephew; several great-nieces and -nephews; and grandsons, Benjamin and Ryan Williamson. A memorial service will be held in the summer of 2023 at the Glenwood Adventist Church in Dowagiac.



# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jan. 6	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Jan. 27	Feb. 3	Feb. 10	Feb. 17	Feb. 24
Berrien Springs, Mich.	4:29	4:37	4:45	4:54	5:03	5:12	5:21	5:30
Chicago, Ill.	4:35	4:42	4:50	4:59	5:08	5:17	5:26	5:35
Detroit, Mich.	5:15	5:22	5:31	5:40	5:49	5:58	6:07	6:16
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:35	5:42	5:50	5:58	6:07	6:15	6:23	6:31
La Crosse, Wis.	4:43	4:51	4:59	5:09	5:18	5:28	5:38	5:47
Lansing, Mich.	5:20	5:27	5:36	5:45	5:54	6:03	6:13	6:22
Madison, Wis.	4:38	4:46	4:54	5:03	5:13	5:22	5:31	5:40
Springfield, Ill.	5:49	5:56	6:04	6:12	6:21	6:29	6:37	6:45

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY

### ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

#### GENERAL EVENTS

Jan. 25–28: *Newmyer Classic*

Feb. 16–18: *20th Annual Music & Worship Conference*

#### HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVENTS

For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, call 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or visit [howard.andrews.edu](http://howard.andrews.edu).

Jan. 21, 7 p.m.: *Howard Presents: Rich Aguilera—The Creation Adventure*

Jan. 22, 4 p.m.: *Sunday Music Series: Geoffrey Duce, piano*

Jan. 28, 8 p.m.: *Wind Symphony Winter Concert with SMC Brass Band*

Feb. 4, 8 p.m.: *Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition Concert*

Feb. 5, 7 p.m.: *Howard Presents: Charles Reid & Friends—Isn't it Romantic?*

Feb. 10, 7 p.m.: *Great Lakes Adventist Academy Vespers Concert*

Feb. 11, 8 p.m.: *University Choirs: "Chasing the Blues Away"*

Feb. 26, 4 p.m.: *Sunday Music Series: Eun-Jung Ah, soprano*

### ILLINOIS

Jan. 22–25: *Pastors' Winter Retreat*

### INDIANA

Jan. 9–11: *Pastors' Winter Retreat*

Jan. 20–22: *Pathfinder Winter Campout, Timber Ridge Camp*

Feb. 4: *Area Pathfinder Bible Experience Testing*

Feb. 24–25: *Conference Youth Rally, Indianapolis Junior Academy*

### LAKE REGION

Jan. 17: *LRC Connects — A Communication Live Program, Virtual*

Jan. 21: *Youth Leaders Dedication and Orientation, Location TBD*

Jan. 21: *Better Health for You Program, Virtual*

Jan. 27: *Family Ministries — Ministry to and with Older Adults, Virtual*

Feb. 1–7: *Youth and Young Adult Virtual Devotional Series, Virtual*

Feb. 3: *PARL Black History Virtual Celebration (also on Feb. 10, 17 and 24)*

Feb. 18: *Better Health for You Program, Virtual*

Feb. 21: *LRC Connects — A Communication Live Program, Virtual*

Feb. 28: *Urban Ministries Network Currency webinar*

### MICHIGAN

Jan. 13–16: *CAMPUS Staff Retreat*

Jan. 13–15: *Teen Snow Outing, Camp Au Sable*

Jan. 14: *Women's Ministries, Great Lakes Adventist Academy*

Jan. 27–29: *Father-Son/Man Camp, Camp Au Sable*

Jan. 27–29: *Pathfinder Area Coordinators Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

Feb. 3–6: *Adventurer District Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

Feb. 4: *PBE Area Level, Location TBA*

Feb. 17–20: *CAMPUS Winter Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

Feb. 24–26: *Teen Impact, Camp Au Sable*

### WISCONSIN

Feb. 6: *Education Fair*

Feb. 28: *Wisconsin Academy Blood Drive*



**POWER TO HEAL  
HEALTH SUMMIT  
2023**

April 2-8, 2023  
Lexington, KY



[nadhealth.org/events](http://nadhealth.org/events)

"The power of the Lord was with Jesus, enabling him to heal." Luke 5:17

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**LEGAL NOTICE—Please take notice that a quinquennial meeting of the members of the Andrews University Corporation (commonly known as a “constituency meeting”) will take place on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Garber Auditorium of Chan Shun Hall on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. At the meeting, the members will receive reports from Andrews University administration, elect a portion of the Andrews University Board of Trustees, and consider minor amendments to the bylaws and/or other business deemed necessary.**

Theresa C. Popp  
Secretary of the Corporation

## CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

### JANUARY

- Jan. 7 Local Church Budget
- Jan. 14 Religious Liberty (NAD)
- Jan. 21 Local Church Budget
- Jan. 28 Conference Advance

### FEBRUARY

- Feb. 4 Local Church Budget
- Feb. 11 Adventist Television Ministries Evangelism (NAD)
- Feb. 18 Local Church Budget
- Feb. 25 Local Conference Advance

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

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## EMPLOYMENT

**ADVENTIST HERITAGE MINISTRIES** is seeking to fill three positions in Battle Creek, Mich., for the Historic Adventist Village: site director, office manager and Heritage Shoppe manager. Positions will be open this Spring. Go to the website [www.adventistheritage.org](http://www.adventistheritage.org) for details, job descriptions and application forms.

**ADVENTIST MEDIA MINISTRIES** is seeking a full-time Information Systems Department Director to oversee the daily operation of the IS Department. The IS Department supports the IS functions of the seven ministries served by AMM Support Services. For more information, email [hr@sdamedia.com](mailto:hr@sdamedia.com) or apply at <https://www.adventistmediaministries.com/available-positions/>.

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**PROGRAM** is searching for applicants for a Communication Professor. This is a full-time, faculty, exempt position starting June 1, 2023. Please see the full job description and instructions for application at [www.ucollege.edu/employment](http://www.ucollege.edu/employment). Contact Bruce Forbes at [bruce.forbes@ucollege.edu](mailto:bruce.forbes@ucollege.edu) for more information.



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# Never Doubt the Power of Prayer

*The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers . . . 1 Peter 3:12 (KJV)*



▲ Paulette Taylor

A few years ago, while doing outreach at an abuse shelter, one dear soul recalled to me that while she was incarcerated, she prayed for a job. Like the prophet Samuel, she heard a voice in the middle of the night calling her name and, in this particular case, telling her she would be blessed with a job. Although she passed this information on to naysayer fellow inmates, her prayers were answered later that day. “God got [my] attention,” she told me. She began believing in the power of the Almighty. “Be not afraid to trust God. Rely upon His sure promise, ‘Ask and ye shall receive.’” (E.G. White, *Prayer*, Ch. 8, p. 70)

How about you? Do you believe in the awesome power of the Savior? Answered prayer can change you, your Christian walk, and your strength in the Divine Redeemer. “Strength and grace can be found in prayer.” (E.G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 127)

Actually, it is hard to imagine a day without prayer. Waking up and talking to the Lord all throughout the day is a *must!* Keeping prayed-up and leaning on His everlasting arms can get you through so much. *And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.* Isaiah 65:24 (KJV)

If we were to stop and just think about the life situations our Heavenly Father has brought us through, we’d be praising His Holy name more and more. And when we praise Him, the worry of those situations will begin to diminish. “Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish.” (E.G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 509)

You realize it is only by His hand that we are sustained. He lifts you up and has kept you from slithering farther in the pit of despair, depression and doubt. Life on earth is anything but simple. Complicating this fact, the devil continues throwing everything he and his angels can at us.

Saints, those times when our anguish is so intense, as we kneel to pray, sometimes, the words just don’t come, or cannot be expressed. Let the Holy Spirit do the talking for you to the Father. “When we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, a deep inner desire will begin to well up within us to be more in prayer to our Heavenly Father.” (Dennis Smith, *The Baptism of the Holy Spirit*, p. 65)

We need to remember that our churches are sanctuaries for the soul. God is there waiting to meet us . . . in prayer. Whether your spirit is broken, you are hurting, or just have a need—let go and let God handle it all. As the lyrics state, “O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.” (Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #499)

As we welcome 2023, reflecting on the unimaginable depth of Christ love for each of us, may we continue to be changed by His power through prayer. ■

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Paulette Taylor is Indiana Conference’s Prayer Ministries coordinator.



# Stewardship Is You!

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10 NIV).*

Stewardship is more than money; stewardship is **YOU!** In everything you do, in everything you say and in every way you give, you embody a form of stewardship. Stewards are who God created us to be. He simply asks that we are faithful stewards, by giving back in however way He has given unto us.

As the final chapter of the year 2022 has come to a close, we want to say **Thank You!** For your sacrifices, dedication, support and generosity, no matter how great or small, we appreciate you! Through your giving of time, talents and treasures, you have blessed the lives of many, both near and far. By showing God our trustworthiness with little, He will begin to trust us with so much more (Luke 16:10).

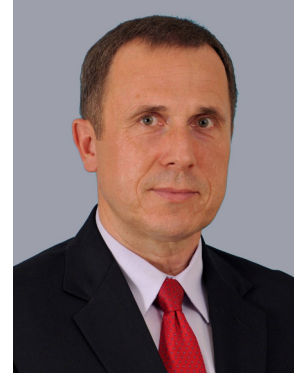
Open the year of 2023 with renewed joy and excitement, expanding the ways to be a blessing to God's mission and His ministry. Through your gifts of time, talents and treasures, lives will be saved, hope can be restored, and God's mission will continue to go forth. Again . . . **We Thank You!** ■

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

## The Stewardship Team



▲ **Jermaine K. Jackson**  
Lake Union Conference



▲ **Arkadiusz "Arek" Bojko**  
Illinois Conference



▲ **Vialo Weis**  
Indiana Conference



▲ **Nikolai Greaves**  
Lake Region Conference



▲ **Joel Nephew**  
Michigan Conference



▲ **Bill Ochs**  
Wisconsin Conference

thank you

# Forever Cheerleaders

**“YOUR TEST RESULTS SHOW THAT YOU ARE PREGNANT.”** Hearing those words, as I sat in my doctor’s office, my heart sank. This couldn’t be true. I’m only 18 years old, a senior in high school, and had dreams of going away to college like every other senior anticipates. I graduated that summer of 2009, five months pregnant. As my friends were all packing up and moving into their college dorms come August, I was rummaging through garage sales picking up everything I could to welcome my soon-to-be son in October. One would think that this major life event—and the uncertainty of where my life was headed—would be my greatest challenge, but it wasn’t.

At this time, I was attending a relatively small church with my family, the same one that I was born and raised in. We did not have many youth, as many had moved away throughout the years, so the church was filled with an older generation. It was there that I met my biggest challenge face-to-face: the opposition of being pregnant—not only out of wedlock but also at the tender age of 18. I was embarrassed; I was ashamed; and the overwhelming anxiety I faced each Sabbath on my way to church and while I was there was unbearable. It eventually came to the point where I noticed my anxiety slowly creeping up on Friday evenings, lasting until I walked out of those church doors on Sabbath afternoons. Like clockwork, it forced me to stop going to church for a period of time. Luckily

Courtesy, Meaghan Yngsdal

for me, I was able to persuade my parents to let us attend another church that had more young children, and youth, so both my son and I could find a sense of belonging and community. I thank the Lord every day that that’s what we found.

I won’t lie and say that I walked into Madison Community Church the first Sabbath with no anxiety or fear that I was going to be judged, but every ounce of it vanished the moment I was greeted with warm smiles, hugs and acceptance. Nobody asked for my backstory, how I ended up a single teen mom, or treated me like I was an outcast. I felt accepted for who I was, rather than what the Church expected me to be.

My church members have seen me laugh, cry, struggle, but most importantly, thrive. As much as I owe appreciation to God for all His blessings and my family for their never-ending support, there’s a lot to be said about a strong, accepting and encouraging church family. Ten years later, they have supported

me through prayer, check-ins, words of encouragement, and more. I have even had a few write letters of recommendation that awarded me with scholarships and internships throughout my academic course.

I share this mini-version of my story to encourage churches to reach out to the single parents—not only in their church but also their communities—who may feel an

◀ *Meaghan Yngsdal at her MBA graduation with her son, Levi.*



*Congratulations  
and best wishes  
for a future bright with promise.*

*We're here to be your  
non-stop cheerleaders!*

enormous amount of embarrassment and shame. But I don't believe we should stop there. As a church member, I have read articles and spoken with young people about a very prevalent issue within the Adventist Church. It's not a secret that we are seeing young people leave more than ever before. And I'd be lying if I said I didn't understand why that is.

Just this past May I was blessed enough to graduate with an MBA. Statistically, I should have never even received my high school diploma, yet alone an MBA. Only 2 percent of teen mothers earn a college degree by the time they turn 30. I'm not discrediting my own dedication and hard work by any means, although I would like to recognize the large impact my church family had on my success. It was not up until I was reading my graduation cards that I really started to see the impact my church family had on my life. The number of Bible verses, encouraging words and positive thoughts that filled those cards was heartwarming, although one in particular stuck out. It was signed, "We're here to be your nonstop cheerleaders!"

Nonstop cheerleaders. Not, "Cheerleaders until you're finished" or "Cheerleaders until you mess up", but your "nonstop cheerleaders." Young people don't need referees to scold them every time they slip up; they need cheerleaders who love and cheer for them even after those slip-ups are made, and regardless of what those slip-ups may be. Young people don't need judgment for what they choose

to wear to church, how they may wear their hair, or even the music that they listen to. They need church members who accept them with open and loving arms.

Can you imagine where we would be if God said to us, "I'll love and accept you, but only on certain conditions, or only under this one condition"? What a relief it is to know that God loves and accepts us unconditionally. Zero strings attached. We don't owe Him anything for the overwhelming love He shows for the most unworthy people.

So, I ask you this: Are you a cheerleader or a referee? Is your congregation a group of cheerleaders or a group of referees? I leave you with these two quotes that I happened to stumble upon while writing this article:

"What we don't need in the midst of struggle is shame for being human."

"A word of encouragement during a mistake is worth more than an hour of praise after success."

Challenge yourself and your congregation to start being cheerleaders, not only to fellow church members, but to those who walk through your church doors, those struggling to figure out where they belong in this world. It's not our job to change them or make them who we want them to be. Instead, it's our job to love and cheer for them, allowing God to do the rest. ■

*Meaghan Yngsdal recently graduated with her MBA, and lives near Madison, Wis. She and her son are members of the Madison Community Church where she serves as the community outreach director.*

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