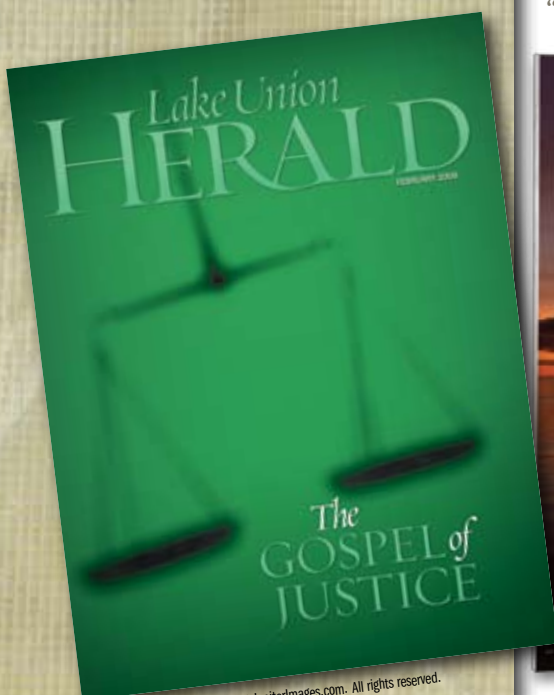


# *Lake Union* HERALD

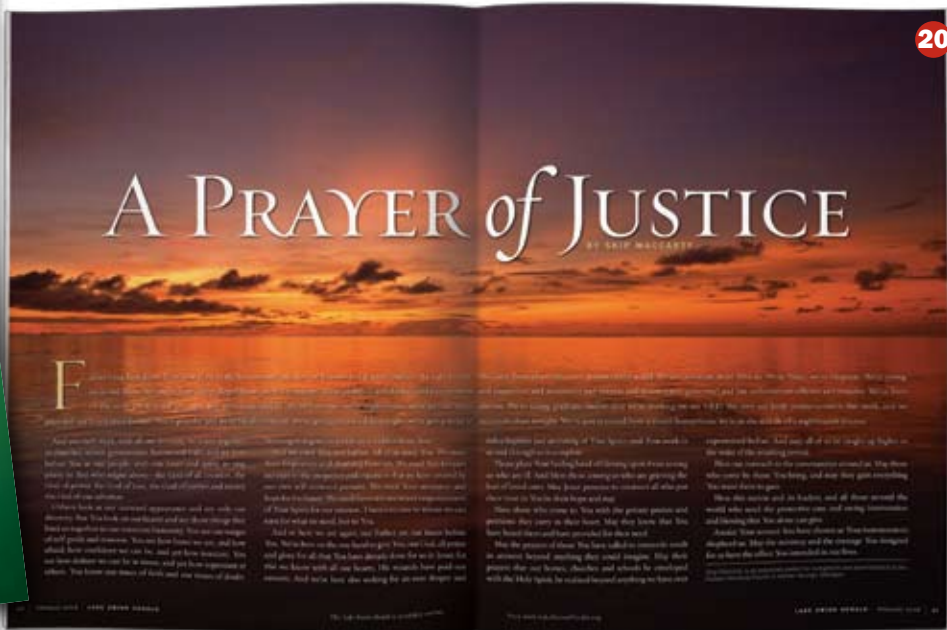
FEBRUARY 2008



*The*  
GOSPEL *of*  
JUSTICE



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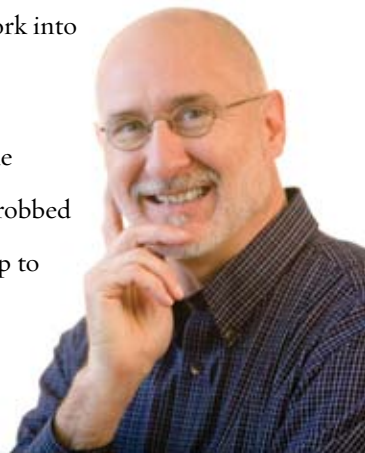
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**J**ustice has been getting a bad rap lately. In the spiritual sense, it seems that many of us only want to hear the message of mercy. In the social-religious sense, some recoil at being identified with intolerant and bigoted fundamentalists who are ready to take God's strange work into their own hands.

Yet, many forget that injustice is the foundation of the enemy's kingdom and the method by which people are robbed of God's intended blessings. We hope this issue will help to restore justice to its rightful place.

  
Gary Burns, Editor



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## Forgive and Forget

**T**hat Jesus taught and subscribed to the gospel of forgiveness is not debatable. He set forth the principle in the model prayer in Matthew 6:9–13. Verse 12 reads, “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” He re-emphasizes the thought in verses 14 and 15 after the closing of the prayer, stating, “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Jesus must have thought it of utmost importance. It is the only portion of the prayer that He re-emphasizes.

Why is it so difficult for us—the followers of Christ—to live by this gospel? (Yes, we call it a gospel because to receive forgiveness is indeed good news.) I think it must be a matter of personal pride. We may have been wronged, and we want the wrongdoer to suffer and “twist in the wind” a bit. Sometimes we even feel that to be in a spirit of forgiveness is to show weakness.

There is a quote that my wife Jackie and I have used in our Marriage Maintenance Seminars over the years. Let me repeat it here: “Forgiveness is bearing the suffering of another’s wrong and letting the wrongdoer go free from our retaliation or grudge-holding. Offered unconditionally, just as we have experienced it from God, forgiveness restores the peace of the wounded one and paves the way for a response from the offender.

“Although some consequences may be so irreversible as to prohibit full restoration, when the offered forgiveness is accepted in a spirit of repentance and change, the relationship stands at the threshold of a new beginning.

“Un-forgiveness is a toxin. It poisons the heart and mind with bitterness, distorting one’s whole perspective on life. Anger, resentment and sorrow begin to overshadow and overwhelm the unforgiving person—a kind of soul-pollution—that inflames evil appetites and evil emotions. Forgiveness is the only antidote.”

Have you ever heard someone say, “I will forgive, but I won’t forget”? I suspect that such forgiveness isn’t really forgiveness at all. God, Himself, forgets our offenses after He has granted forgiveness: “For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:34).

The classic text on forgiveness is so full of hope and encouragement for the faulty one: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). In those few but powerful words I hear forgiveness, healing, restoration and reform.

My sincere belief is that no person or situation is worth my soul salvation. If I cannot forgive, I cannot be forgiven. Whatever it is, my friend, it can’t possibly be worth missing Heaven.

# Welcome NEW MEMBERS

**Michigan** James “Jimmy” Sweet and Mary Sue “Suzie” Crimaldi, brother and sister, are special people to the Urbandale Church family. Their mother Agnes Whitmore provides for their care; however, Melvin and Shirley Smith have become like a second set of parents to these delightful Down syndrome siblings, and they take Jimmy and Suzie to church each Sabbath.

One Sabbath following a baptism, both Jimmy and Suzie left church with tears in their eyes. The Holy Spirit seemed to be tugging on their hearts, inviting them to be baptized. They expressed their desire to also be baptized to the Smiths, so Melvin made arrangements for Terry Nelson, evangelist, to visit Jimmy and Suzie.

The evening of the scheduled visit, Terry drove to the Smith home only to find that no one was there. Then he remembered the visit was to be at Agnes’ house where Jimmy and Suzie live. However, Terry didn’t have an address or telephone number so he could locate their home.

Driving up and down the streets in the area, hoping to stumble upon some clue, Terry pondered, *What shall I do?* He pulled his car over to the shoulder of the road and began to pray. “Lord, you know how important this visit is to

Jimmy and Suzie. The devil would like them to think we forgot them, or that their decision to follow Jesus is not as important as someone else’s. Please don’t let him have the victory. Please have the Smiths call my cell phone so I can find out how to find their house. Thank you, God. Amen.”

*Ring! Ring!* Terry answered the cell phone, and it was Shirley asking where they were. “Praise the Lord!” Terry said to her. “You won’t believe what just happened!” Terry got directions, and in a few minutes he was at the correct address. When he shared the story of how God had intervened to have Shirley telephone, everyone rejoiced.

When Jimmy was asked why he wanted to be baptized, he answered, “Because I want to give my heart to Jesus and be part of the Lord’s army.” Then he stood up and saluted.

Suzie is a bit shy, but her answer came easily as she sat in her stuffed chair. “I love Jesus, too, and want to be baptized!”

It was a joyful Sabbath when Jimmy and Suzie were baptized as special children of God. Their new life was the result of an older church couple who took the time to care for them. Their love drew Jimmy and Suzie into the circle of God’s Church family in Urbandale.

Nancy Nelson, evangelism correspondent, as shared with Bruce Babienko, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent

**Wisconsin** I (Rosann Millonzi) accepted Jesus into my life in 1980. After that, I attended several different churches but never found the one where the Lord spoke to me, and said, “Come in and stay.” One day, a wonderful woman of the Lord moved next door to my home in Oxford.

The first time my new neighbor, Sandi Timm, and I spoke we both felt like we were long lost sisters. I felt so loved and at ease in her presence. The more I talked to Sandi the more I saw the Lord shining through her. She asked



Mary Sue “Suzie” Crimaldi and James “Jimmy” Sweet, sister and brother, are special people to the Urbandale Church family. After witnessing a baptism at church one Sabbath, they left with tears in their eyes and soon requested baptism, also.



Shirley and Melvin Smith have become like a second set of parents to James “Jimmy” Sweet and Mary Sue “Suzie” Crimaldi. Their love drew Jimmy and Suzie into the circle of God’s Church family in Urbandale. From left (back): Shirley and Melvin Smith; (front): Suzie Crimaldi and Jimmy Sweet

if I would like to go along with her to her church. I said “of course,” because I was still searching for my church.

After accompanying Sandi a few times to the Oxford Church, I filled out a card to request Bible studies and baptism. Sandi asked if it was all right with me if she did the Bible study lessons with me. It was difficult for us to get together for these studies, but we worked it out and eventually completed them all.

About three weeks before I completed my studies, Oxford Church elder, Darrel Nottelson, and retired pastor, Wendell Springer, approached me and asked if I was ready to be baptized by immersion. I told them I was, so we decided that I would be baptized on October 6, 2007.



Rosann Millonzi (center) is thankful for her new friends at the Oxford Church. She says, “All of God’s people in this church are the most loving and caring people I have ever met.” From left: Sandi Timm, Rosann Millonzi and Wendell Springer

All of God’s people in the Oxford Church are the most loving and caring people I have ever met. They accepted me with open arms. When I was first invited to join in prayer with them to invite the Holy Spirit into our worship service, I could not pray. But after going into the prayer room with them several times, the Holy Spirit was with me, and I was able to pray. I’m still trying to let the Holy Spirit speak through me. I can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life more and more each day.

I thank the Lord every day for bringing Sandi Timm to me, and for this wonderful church of God’s loving children. Praise the Lord!

Rosann F. Millonzi, member, Oxford Church

**Lake Region** Leo Brewer was exposed to spiritual matters as a child in a church of another denomination. When he was 21, he met Iris Francis. Shortly thereafter, they were married. A new Seventh-day Adventist believer, Iris prayed that her husband would one day embrace Jesus as his personal Savior.

“Leo has always been a good provider for his family,” Iris said, “and I never pressured him to be baptized.” Yet for more than 35 years, Iris prayed for her husband’s salvation, and she never gave up hope. At times, Leo attended church with Iris but was not ready to make a decision for Christ.

Two years ago, Iris decided to get 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network) programming to provide an alternative to Leo’s television viewing choices. Leo soon became interested in the various programs, especially *Amazing Facts*. Concurrently, Leo was often visited by Shiloh (Chicago) Church pastor, Famous Murray, and church elder, Donald Abernathy. “They visited me just to see how I was doing,” Leo said. “They did not try to convert me. They just wanted to be there, and their visits left a lasting impact on me.”

As time passed, it was evident that the Holy Spirit was at work when Leo asked to be baptized in the Adventist Church. There was great rejoicing by Iris and the Shiloh Church family when Leo along with ten others publicly declared their faith in Jesus and were baptized on April 14, 2007.

Leo has experienced some tough and challenging health issues. A two-time cancer survivor and twice transplant recipient, Leo is especially grateful that God has granted him the gift of life so he could experience knowing Him and enter into a loving relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

We truly serve an awesome God, who continues to answer prayer and touch hearts to bring people to Him.



Dawn M. Johnson

Leo and Iris Brewer are thankful God granted Leo the gift of life following some health challenges so he could enter into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Dawn M. Johnson, communication director, Shiloh Church

Share the Good News!

Do you know of someone who recently made a decision for Christ? Submit your story to the editors at our website: [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org)

## Missionaries at Home

BY MANNY OJEDA

The other day I was sitting in a Bible study with seven members whom we have not seen in church for three years. Four of our members took a spiritual gifts inventory to discover how God gifted them to work for Him. Later on, one of the members asked us to pray because she wanted to begin a prayer group with her neighbors. During Sabbath school, a teenage girl with no religious background asked questions about God and the Sabbath. That same week, I saw ten children from the community with open Bibles at Pathfinders. This Christmas their parents joined us for worship. All of this occurred while 114 people were enrolled in the Discover Bible studies. Who, you ask, is heading up all this?

Let me introduce you to Jonathan Bert (19) of Berrien Springs, Michigan, and Brandon Cain (21), of Noblesville, Indiana—two young men who gave a year of their college education to become student missionaries here in North Vernon, Indiana.



Manny Ojeda

As student missionaries to Indiana, Jonathan Bert and Brandon Cain (back right) are fully immersed in the life of the church. They are building friendships with children and adults in the church and community. The Pathfinder Club has grown since Jonathan and Brandon arrived, and new club members from the community brought their parents to the North Vernon Church for the Pathfinder Christmas program.

In February 2007, we were given the opportunity to be part of the *Mission: IN Possible* program here in Indiana, where two student missionaries come to a local church for a year to do evangelism. We waited and prayed and the thought even crossed our minds that it would not happen. Then Jonathan called, but we still needed one more missionary. Later on, I met Brandon at camp meeting, and from there God reminded us that He had a plan.

I wish you could see what I see. I see two young people living I Timothy 4:12–16 in real time. What is equally impressive to see is how they interact, work and fellowship

with those who are older and more experienced. I have observed in our church young and old working together in a common purpose, people asking questions, and people feeling safe to take ownership.

Working with youth volunteers has taught us to be brave and bold for Christ; it takes boldness to knock on strange doors. There is also a personal investment in our church, evident in their long hours of work. I am tempted to thank the Lord that these guys are doing the dirty work so I can sit back and enjoy some Roma in my lounge chair, forgetting that I am a volunteer as they are. Jonathan's and Brandon's year with us has reminded us that if they could do it, why can't we?

So what have we learned about how God uses young people? First of all, God uses our youth because they tend not to get hung up on outer appearances. Second, in our youth lies fertile ground for new ideas and even recycled old ones. In essence, we have learned not to chuckle away, explain away, or use the excuse of been there and done that, but to recognize that anything can work, as long as it comes from a humble heart led by the Holy Spirit. I think of all the movements in history where young people played a major role—especially one in 19th century New England where a 17-year old girl stepped up, defied the popular current, and told the world that Jesus was coming soon. Are we ready for this?

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Manny Ojeda is pastor of the Columbus, North Vernon and Seymour churches in Indiana.

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For information about the *Mission: IN Possible* initiative in the Indiana Conference, contact Peter Neri, ministerial director, at 317-844-6201 or [rpneri@aol.com](mailto:rpneri@aol.com).



# Christ's Method Observed in the Czech Republic

BY DEBBIE YOUNG

As a speaker for the ASI Czech (Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries) Chapter Convention in Prague, Czech Republic, in November 2007, I focused on the principles that would guarantee evangelistic success. These are succinctly expressed by the inspired counsel of Ellen White: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143). Little did I know that the experiences of our excursion would coincide so well with what was presented.

On our recent trip to Prague, my husband Ray and I visited a few ministries that took to heart Ellen's admonition. About 30 miles outside Prague is the organic farm and main distribution center for Country Life. Organic produce, baked goods and supplies are provided to three Country Life restaurants/stores as well as many other retail stores in and around Prague. Founder and director Otokar Jiranek spoke with conviction as he told us about Country Life and God's blessings on their efforts. At a recent annual event of organic farm organizations, Country Life received an award of top billing for their operation. Country Life restaurants and retail stores have hundreds of patrons daily; massage therapy, cooking classes and other health-related activities have opened doors to discuss spiritual things, resulting in baptisms.

In Liberace, the Generation Community Center provides daily activities and classes for the community. English classes give stay-at-home moms a chance to socialize and pursue personal development goals. In response to their expressed love for music, a gospel choir was formed where they "practice" English. "They don't quite understand all that they are singing, but they will soon," says director Peter Cincala with a smile. Peter attended Andrews University



From left: Debbie Young (ASI International past president) is pictured with ASI Europe president Audrey Balderstone and ASI International president, Donna McNeilus. The ASI Czech Convention offering brought in more than \$221,000—double the target, to fund 18 projects.

and returned home to Prague with a Masters in Social Work, a Ph.D. in Missions, and a passion to reach others for Christ through the ministry of the Community Center.

Radim Passer, ASI Czech chapter president, is a successful developer in Prague. Radim is determined to be a personal witness, and holds Bible studies once a week in his facility.

His claim to fame is not that he is recognized as one of the ten wealthiest businessmen in Prague, rather that his goal is to touch others with the love and mercy of God that he has personally experienced.

"There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Far away or at home, it would be well for us to heed this instruction. Our success would then result in a great number awaiting the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Debbie Young is the past president of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries.

ASI is a lay organization that encourages and motivates its members to strive for a higher level of evangelistic involvement. For more information about ASI, visit [www.asiministries.org](http://www.asiministries.org); read more about Country Life Prague at [www.outpostcenters.org/ministries](http://www.outpostcenters.org/ministries).





# FAMILY TIES

## Restorative Justice

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

**R**estorative justice is a very old concept. The Old Testament “cities of refuge” provided for it, and Jesus modeled it. Perhaps it was His redefinition of criminal justice in that culture that provided the final straw for Jesus’ enemies. Once and for all, His radical voice must be quieted.

For the last 20 years or so, there has been a growing movement to understand and respond to crime and victimization through a lens identified as “Restorative Justice.” It’s being used with juveniles, youthful offenders and adult criminals throughout the world. It’s being used in courts, probation, police departments, court diversion programs, public schools, agencies, organizations and community groups.

If you aren’t personally involved in this process at one of the above levels, it might be helpful to understand the four key values of restorative justice initiatives:

**Encounter:** Creating opportunities for victims, offenders and community members who want to do so to meet and discuss the crime and its aftermath.

**Amends:** Expecting offenders to take steps to repair the harm they have caused.

**Reintegration:** Seeking to restore victims and offenders to whole, contributing members of the society.

**Inclusion:** Providing opportunities for parties with a stake in a specific crime to participate in its resolution.

This is a powerful movement. It moves towards restoration rather than shame, blame and punishment. It builds hope. Restorative justice is a very real need in our society, and I invite you to consider what this concept means for you personally, for your family, and what your responsibilities are as a member of your own community.

The beauty of restorative justice is that it is God’s way, and we don’t need to wait for legal or community organizations to organize these

initiatives in our own homes. The messiness of daily living provides many opportunities for restorative justice. It is the responsibility of the adult caregivers to offer opportunities for safe dialogue about what has happened between family members, to teach them how to offer and make amends, and to restore members back into the family.

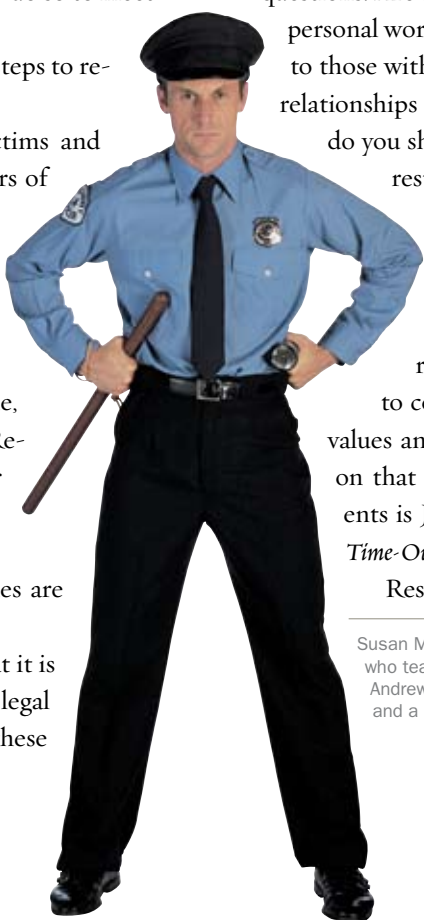
It almost goes without saying that if the home were the place where restorative justice and redemptive discipline was practiced, we would not have many of the social ills of today. However, we do live in this messy world. There are powerful forces for evil, and powerful forces for good.

You can be a force for good. I invite you to consider these questions: Are there things you can change in your own personal world that will bring more dignity and value to those with whom you reside? Do you believe that relationships are more important than power? How do you show that? What is your role in fostering restorative justice in your home, with your work associates, in your church, and in the broader community?

To learn more about the restorative justice movement visit [www.restorativejustice.org](http://www.restorativejustice.org). I encourage you to consider Kay Pranis’ work on restorative values and confronting family violence available on that website. A suggested resource for parents is Jean Illsley Clarke’s book, *Time-In: When Time-Out Doesn’t Work*.

Restorative justice does begin at home!

Susan Murray is an associate professor of family studies who teaches behavioral science and social work at Andrews University. She is a certified family life educator and a licensed marriage and family therapist.





Dark chocolate has health-promoting properties.

## Xocolatl

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Dark chocolate lowers the risk of stroke and heart disease.

Chocolate is one of the most popular flavors in the world today. It is a common item in holiday treats, and is a popular gift on Valentine's Day. While chocolate tastes so good, could it also be possible that it is good for you?

Recently, elderly Germans who were borderline or mildly hypertensive experienced a modest drop of two to three mm of mercury (Hg) in their blood pressure after eating only one-quarter ounce of dark chocolate every day for 18 weeks. This corresponded to an eight percent reduction in relative risk of stroke mortality, and a five percent reduction in coronary artery disease. The flavanols in cocoa promote nitric oxide production leading to improved vasodilation and better blood flow. Dark chocolate, with at least 70 percent cocoa, is the most beneficial. White chocolate, containing no cocoa powder, has no effect.

The flavanols in chocolate also cause a decline in LDL cholesterol levels, inhibit blood clot formation, stimulate anti-inflammatory processes, and delay cognitive decline in the elderly. Studies reveal that dark chocolate also improves insulin sensitivity. The proanthocyanidins in cocoa are similar to those found in blueberries and cranberries.

Nevertheless, chocolate is not a health food and should be consumed in moderation. It has substantial amounts of sugar and fat. While much of the fat is saturated, the high stearic acid content has a neutral effect on blood cholesterol levels. However, a typical serving size of 40 grams (1.4 ounces) of dark chocolate contains 220 calories, and 11 grams of sugar. Milk interferes with the absorption of



the polyphenolic antioxidants in dark chocolate and therefore negates the health benefits of the chocolate.

Chocolate also contains various amounts of caffeine, depending upon the amount of cocoa in the product. Dark chocolate has 12–18 mg caffeine/ounce, milk chocolate has six to seven mg caffeine/ounce, while white chocolate has no caffeine.

Cocoa beverages average about five or six mg caffeine/cup. This compares with Coke or Pepsi with 35–40 mg caffeine/can, Red Bull with 80 mg/can, coffee with 65–130 mg/cup, and 40–80 mg/cup for regular tea.

Chocolate is derived from seeds of a pod that grows on the tropical tree *Theobroma cacao*, which means “food of the gods.” The Aztecs associated chocolate with Xochiquetzal, their goddess of fertility. The early Aztecs made a beverage from cocoa called *xocolatl*, or “bitter water,” due to its bitter taste. This popular “chocolatl” drink of the Aztecs became the forerunner of our modern chocolate.

Those not wishing to eat chocolate find the powdered seeds of the carob tree a safe alternative. Carob has no caffeine and contains less sugar than cocoa, since it does not possess the bitter principles of cocoa. Carob is useful for lowering blood cholesterol levels due to its soluble fiber (carob bean gum) content.

Winston Craig, Ph.D., R.D., is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.



# EXTREME GRACE

## May I Wash Your Feet?

BY DICK DUERKSEN

“May I wash your feet?”

“NO!” And my heart added, “That’s a definite NO with three exclamation points!!!”

He had been hanging around the camp meeting tent all week—listening to my sermons from just inside the canopy, filling his notebook pages with more words than I had spoken, grimacing at the humor, and triple-checking each text against the notes in his brightly-underlined Bible.

I recognized him as a bad memory from camp meetings past, a Christian who had been absent at the distribution of humility but who had instead accepted a divine assignment to develop patience in others.

My heart bore bloody wounds from thrusts of his acerbic tongue, and my kindness was calling for backup.

“May I wash your feet?”

His question was insistent, grating like sharpened fingernails across everything I had been saying about grace.

Thursday evening was communion, “in memory of the supper Jesus had hosted the evening before His death.” Large pieces of communion bread had been baked into the shape of hearts, “ready to be broken.” Plastic cups were filled with the pure juice of purple Concord, “His blood, shed for us.” All were stacked like layers of a wedding cake, ready to be distributed to the worthy and unworthy.

But first we were to wash feet, “in remembrance of Him.”

“May I wash your feet?”

The men, women and families were scattering to rooms where water, towels and basins were awaiting their celebration of humility.

I had waited, not wanting to be first, and secretly hoping that I’d be needed elsewhere for the next 20 minutes.

“May I wash your feet?”

His request was more insistent now, like the thunder of a dripping faucet.

I searched the stage and the tent, hoping for deliverance. None came.

“May I wash your feet?”

“NO!” My heart commanded.

“Why certainly. Thank you for offering,” my vocal chords responded.

He nodded, and led my wary feet into the room designated for humble men.

Our conversation quickly traversed the traditional topics—weather, family, traffic and shoelaces. But all the while the room grew smaller, squeezing all oxygen out under the door.

We were last, and the basin’s water had just arrived from a glacier. Every cell in my feet screamed for protection from the frigid water and his approaching hands.

Then, kneeling before me on the shabby carpet, he reached out, took both my hands in his, and looked directly into my eyes. I smiled, and prayed for God to grant me temporary deafness so I would not have to deal with the glib criticism I knew was coming.

“I have been looking forward to tonight, and especially to this moment,” he began.

His eyes glittered with eagerness, blinked twice, and then filled with a tsunami of tears.

“I have fallen in love with Jesus.” He wiped his eyes and face with the white cotton towel that was there for my feet. “And I need to tell you how sorry I am for the person I have been.”

He wiped again, soaking the towel with a flood of repentance.

“Please pray for the person I am becoming.”

We prayed, and he washed, each stroke a miracle of glacial warming, and each pat of the soggy towel eloquent with confession.

I washed, and we prayed again, arm in arm, hearts in tune with the Master Washer.

“Please pray for the people we are becoming.”

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Dick Duerksen is the official “storyteller” for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact Dick at [dduerksen@maranatha.org](mailto:dduerksen@maranatha.org).

# Love's Best Expression

BY CYNTHIA AND J.W. WARREN

**D**uring the month of February, minds and hearts turn to notions of romantic love. For married couples, Valentine's Day expressions of affection reinforce commitment vows made years earlier. Tokens of admiration may be a fancy card, a box of chocolates, a quiet dinner for two or an especially memorable gift.

Whatever the medium of expression, the givers understand that the memento has no value except it represents a gift of their very selves. Love expressions must be sacrificial, irreplaceable and uniquely suited to the receiver.

Seventh-day Adventists and other Christians rejoice when they reflect on the inestimable Love Gift given by the Holy Trinity. Perhaps no Bible verse is more familiar than "For God, the Father, so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV). Embedded in this passage is a revelation of God's character and His most sacrificial gift. Long before Adam and Eve were formed and made "living souls," the Godhead willingly set in motion the plan to redeem humankind from the consequences of sin. The Lord Jesus Christ's willing decision to come to Earth to live among and die for the human family represents the Trinity's highest expression of universal and unconditional love.

The Godhead could not accept the angels' offer to redeem humanity because a created being's sacrifice is a lesser gift. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can be the perfect Love Gift because "in the beginning He was the Word that already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1 NLT). Logic demands that the Holy Trinity give the Love Gift far beyond what humanity can imagine or pray for.

The proof that Jesus is the perfect Love Gift was confirmed often as He reflected perfectly "God is love" (1 John 4:8 NIV). One night Nicodemus, in secret, learned that one must be born again of the Spirit from above (John 3). To her great and joyous surprise, the Samaritan woman, who challenged His prerogative to ask her for a drink of water, discovered the Living Water (John 4). The desperately discouraged woman who "had been subject to bleeding for twelve years" received instant healing by secretly touching the hem of His cloak (Matthew 9 NIV).

Moreover, Jesus joyfully demonstrated that He is the perfect Love Gift by wholesale healing and deliverance. The Gospel of Mark records an instance when Jesus healed an entire town of various diseases and drove out many demons (Mark 1:33-34 NIV).

Millions of Seventh-day Adventists share in the joys of Jesus through our worldwide obedience to Jesus' command, "As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:7-8 NIV).

As we express our love for humankind in word and deed, we joyfully bear witness that we love Jesus because "Jesus is love."

Cynthia and J.W. Warren co-founded Spring Hope Ministries to celebrate and promote the joys and benefits of the Adventist lifestyle. They have three adult children and reside in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

## Chicago Connections

BY HERALD STAFF

**M**any college students are active in service and ministry and feel a real connection to their home church. When they graduate, some find it difficult to make the transition to a professional life in a new environment without the support of family and friends. In addition, they are challenged to find the diversity of quality spiritual options that were available to them on campus.

A growing number of these Adventist young adults are finding career opportunities in major cities like Chicago. The Illinois Conference has begun to explore creative ways to provide support and encouragement for these young professionals and help them transition from college life to becoming successful professionals with a vibrant and active faith. MyTown Ministries was created with that objective in mind.

Kenneth Denslow, Illinois Conference president, has provided leadership and cast a vision to embrace the challenge of *Touching Every One for Jesus* in the city of Chicago and throughout the state of Illinois during the next five years. He sees MyTown Ministries as an integral part of achieving that goal by encouraging young Adventist professionals who live and work in Chicago, and providing support and resources to help them make a difference in the lives of their co-workers and members of their community.

José Bourget, a pastor in the Illinois Conference and a graduate of Andrews University, is based near the heart of Chicago and serves as the director of MyTown Ministries. The ministry has a two-dimensional approach. One is to provide support for those who already have established careers in Chicago, and the other is to work with college students in discipleship training to help them prepare for the transition into a career.

Ron Whitehead, assistant to the president for spiritual life and director of the Center for Youth Evange-



*In September, MyTown Ministries volunteers teamed up with Campus Kitchen (a Northwestern University organization) to feed underprivileged individuals in Evanston, Ill.*

lism at Andrews University, has partnered with the Illinois Conference and MyTown Ministries to give Andrews University students the opportunity to participate in this initiative. Known for its rich variety of culture, art and progressive advances in social initiatives, Chicago presents a unique opportunity for Andrews students to make an impact in meaningful and practical ways. The people of Chicago come from nearly

every country and represent a broad spectrum of economic class, culture and faith for which Andrews students are perfectly matched.

Not content to express their faith by warming benches, a number of Andrews students have expressed their spirituality by engaging the Chicago community through acts of service. For example, students are involved in feeding programs and work with disabled and disadvantaged children. They are in the process of identifying other community needs and partnering with young Adventist professionals, institutions and local churches to plant community centers of ministry in Chicago proper. Future plans include developing an internship component with job placement for students who have made MyTown Ministries part of their college experience.

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For additional information, you may e-mail José Bourget, director of MyTown Ministries, at [jrbourget@gmail.com](mailto:jrbourget@gmail.com) or Youssef Khabbaz, ministry leader, at [mytown@andrews.edu](mailto:mytown@andrews.edu).



## LA IGLESIA SIGUE AVANZANDO EN INDIANA

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*La obra hispana en la División Norteamericana es apoyada y dirigida por pastores asignados por las asociaciones locales como coordinadores hispanos. Este mes comenzaremos una serie de artículos presentando a los coordinadores hispanos que dirigen la obra hispana en nuestra Unión.*

**M**i primer encuentro con la obra hispana del estado de Indiana fue en el año 1976 cuando fui invitado por el presidente de la Asociación para ser obrero bíblico en la Iglesia Hispana de East Chicago, Indiana. En aquel tiempo esa iglesia era la única iglesia hispana adventista en todo el estado. Además, éramos sólo dos obreros hispanos empleados por la Asociación. Han pasado más de 30 años desde entonces y no hay duda que han ocurrido muchos cambios.

El cambio más reciente fue la llegada del pastor Antonio Rosario para ser pastor de la Iglesia Hispana de Indianapolis y coordinador de la obra hispana de la Asociación de Indiana. El pastor Rosario viene a Indiana junto con su esposa Wanda y tiene más de 28 años de experiencia. Empezó su ministerio en Puerto Rico después de graduarse del Colegio de las Antillas. En 1986



*De derecha a izquierda: Antonio Rosario, su esposa Wanda, su hija Keila y su yerno Samir Sánchez*

comenzó a trabajar en la Asociación Northeastern en el estado de Nueva York, primero como pastor de distrito y luego como coordinador hispano. En el año 2000 aceptó un llamado de la Asociación de Michigan para trabajar como pastor de distrito, donde permaneció por seis años. Ha servido además, como profesor adjunto en el Seminario de la Universidad de Andrews por más de siete años.

El pastor Rosario tiene una clara visión que comprende varios elementos. Primero, su plan es establecer un Instituto de Entrenamiento en el cual los miembros recibirán instrucción mensual con el propósito de desarrollar líderes espirituales. Segundo, su deseo es ver a su iglesia impactar a la comunidad ofreciendo servicios comunitarios. Tercero, ve la necesidad de fortalecer los ministerios para familias y jóvenes. Por último, su plan es enseñar principios

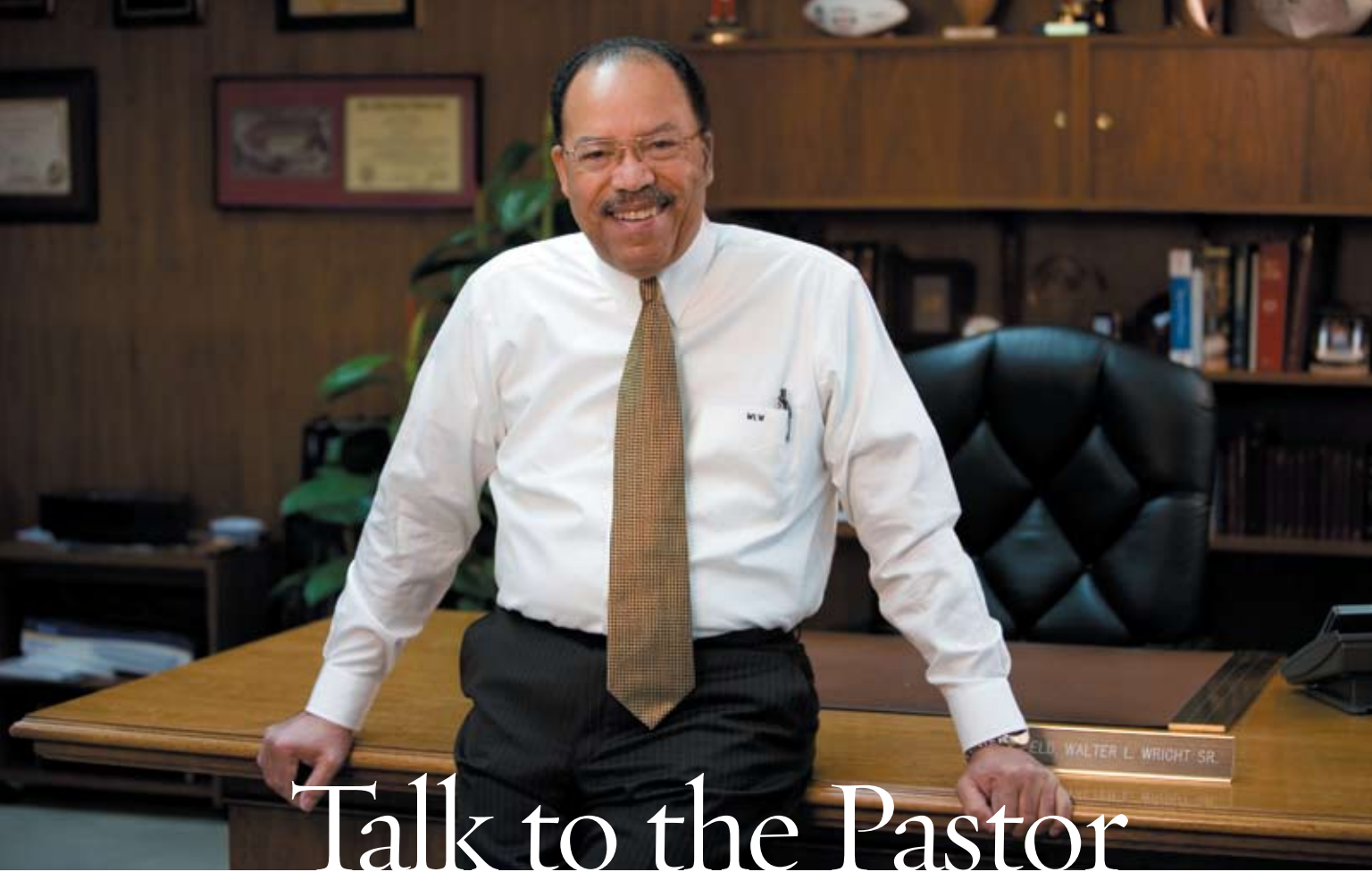
de mayordomía para fortalecer a las familias y a la iglesia.

La obra hispana en Indiana ha avanzado y ahora cuenta con más de 700 miembros en ocho iglesias y ocho grupos o compañías. Además del liderazgo del pastor Rosario, la obra hispana cuenta con los siguientes líderes: **Gilberto Bahena**, recién nombrado como asistente en la coordinación de la

obra hispana y pastor de las iglesias de Fort Wayne, Markle y Hartford City; **Roberto Giordana**, pastor de las iglesias de Elkhart, Mishawaka, South Bend y Hammond; **Luis Beltré**, con las congregaciones de Logansport, Anderson, Frankfort y la segunda iglesia de Indianapolis; **Luis Evia**, con las congregaciones en Huntingburg y Evansville, y **Anthony Nix**, como asistente de pastor al pastor Rosario con las iglesias de Columbus y Jeffersonville.

Con más de 240,000 hispanos que viven en el estado de Indiana es obvio que hay mucho que hacer. Tanto los pastores como la hermandad están unidos en el cumplimiento de su misión que es: ganar a las multitudes para el reino de los cielos.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente general de la Unión del Lago.



# Talk to the Pastor

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT

**T**hose of you who are regular readers of the *Lake Union Herald*, or those of you who have read my boyhood stories in *My Daddy Told Me So*, know that I consider my family to be very special. We're a large family, and when we get together for family reunion every May, there can be as many as 155 of us.

My parents grounded all seven of us in our faith. It was the driving force in our lives, and church was the center around which everything else revolved. Church wasn't just an eleven o'clock appointment. Not only were we at church from Friday night to often times late into Saturday night with worship, and programs for youth, and musical concerts, we took church with us through the week.

As our family grew to include grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and everyone began to spread out over the nation, we cherished special times when we would gather at the church again for Thanksgiving services and family reunions.

Today, we're one more generation away from those fond and humble beginnings, and what we once knew and loved are only memories. Our family, though large, is still active and close, thanks to technology. We have our own website, and members of the family login to dialog and share what's

on their hearts. Recently, I've been part of a discussion initiated by some of the younger members of our family, many of whom have only heard stories about our heritage in the little church on the hill in Germantown, Ohio.

The discussions have centered around church, the worship service, the Sabbath school programming, attendance and participation. Questions have been raised about some of our traditions and forms, and their value and meaning.

Many, while strong in faith, are not so strong in loyalty to custom or tradition, and question the legitimacy of things I find familiar and comfortable. Young and old alike are weighing in on the discussion. It has been challenging, exhilarating and inspiring. It's even stretched me to my own benefit.

It has included telling stories of how things used to be and how some things came to be. We've had opportunity to share those things that have had deep meaning and significance in our spiritual walk.

It has included the imagination to explore the possibilities of “what if.” Along with the imaginations is a spirit of creativity and excitement about the possibilities. We have found our discussions to be very helpful and engaging, to the point that the family has asked that we come together at our next family reunion to have a series of talks from “Uncle Walt” from a biblical perspective about the issues raised. I am looking forward to it.

For the first time, I see evidence of a desire among this generation to make a commitment to forge new territory, as my parents did when they established the Dale Wright Memorial Church as a tribute to my oldest brother. It has spiritually revitalized our family, and we are eagerly anticipating the outcome.

It occurred to me that we would do justice to our members of the Lake Union family to provide an opportunity to experience what the Wright family has experienced. Well, I am wondering: *Can we, as a very diverse Union family, have an honest, just, non-judgmental and calm discussion? Can we risk examining ourselves, while being open to listening to others? Do we dare allow expression to questions precipitated by a fresh, honest look at Scripture?* I think the answer to all of the above questions is, “Yes.”

Here’s what I would like to know from you: Would you be willing to join me in this conversation? Would you be willing

to share your faith and those experiences that have helped you in your walk with Jesus? Would you be willing to listen, I mean really listen to the point of understanding, to others’ experience and ideas?

What I am not looking for is a debate, or taking sides. I am not looking for hysterical, accusative screeching at one another or pulling away in defense of some cherished notion. I am not inviting our Union family, old and young, to a gripe session, but rather to a loving family forum.

If you would be willing to do that, we will present a full and open discussion of your thoughts in the *Lake Union Herald*, with a plan to process those things we should address and incorporate into the dynamic life of the church.

I am reminded of how the Seventh-day Adventist Church got its beginning. It was not a political process as many institutions are accustomed to today, but rather, it was a synergistic process of believers coming together under the direction of the Holy Spirit to pray over and affirm those things that were clearly in harmony with Scripture. I believe we can rediscover that process and it will help us move into the next phase of our preparation for the Lord’s return. Will you join me?

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Walter L. Wright is the president of the Lake Union Conference.

# LAKE UNION FAMILY FORUM

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR UNION PASTOR

*This is an open invitation to all members of our Lake Union family.*

If you belong to one of our churches in the Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan or Wisconsin conferences, you are invited to participate in a Family Forum. Please send letters, e-mail or submit online, with your questions, observations, insights, musings and experiences regarding issues facing the church today. No subject is off-limits; however, there are some guidelines.

1. Our purpose is to encourage spiritual health and growth in the context of unity (not uniformity).
2. We will employ the principle found in Matthew 18 by not accepting complaints from individuals who have not first taken the prescribed steps to reconciliation.
3. “Love always protects.” We want to discuss principles rather than personalities. Respect demands that things of

- a private and confidential nature are not to be submitted.
4. Controversial or apparently threatening topics may be addressed if presented in a loving, honest way with a willingness to be challenged.
5. Only entries that identify the person submitting will be accepted.
6. No telephone calls, please.

**Address:**

Family Forum  
Lake Union Conference  
P.O. Box C  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

**E-mail:** [FamilyForum@luc.adventist.org](mailto:FamilyForum@luc.adventist.org)

**Online:** [www.luc.adventist.org](http://www.luc.adventist.org)



# Painting

BY HEATHER THOMPSON

**G**rowing up, I never noticed people are different. There's something so innocent within the heart of a child, so undaunted by the troubles of the world around them. It's funny how children are blind to color, unable to see what separates us until it is pointed out to them.

America is a melting pot built off of different cultures and colors, all blended together to make a country so divine from any other. Who would ever imagine a world so educated and profound could ever tear through the eyes of a child, opening them to a portrait designed to separate them by the differences, which ultimately unite us?

I am biracial. My mother is White and my father is Black. Living within the confined walls of my colorful family, I was safe. Growing up, I was unaware of racial prejudice and hate. I was not scuffed by the realization that people who harbored hatred for me simply because I was "brown" even existed.

When I was four, I was finally able to begin school. Perhaps not really school, but what I interpreted to be school as I bragged to my sister who was a much older and matured seven-year-old, and able to enter the second grade. School would bring much more meaning to my life, as the previous nap times in daycare had begun to bore me.

The night before I remember tossing in my bed, unable to stifle my tiny body into the yellow covers, which smothered me and made it hard to breathe. When I picture it now, I'm wearing my pink silk pajamas. I wore them every night because my mother wore silk pajamas, and I would have given anything to resemble my mommy who, to me, was my twin. Whether I really wore those pajamas has escaped me now. Time often finds its way into your head, smoothing out the edges of the past, leaving you with key memories trapped in your mind of how you interpreted the event.

The day preschool started I willingly adventured off to a daunting new era. I could have sworn I was a woman as my father walked me down the hallway and past those glass doors which would, in the end, teach me more than school work ever could. Once in those doors, I was independent.

As a kid I was very creative. My best childhood memories are of me in my room, probably talking to myself, as I became the commander of a large army, or the conductor of a





great symphony, as I wailed my arms back and forth feeling the imaginary music within the depths of my soul. For me, friends were just a bonus not a necessity, since I had always been just fine creating magical worlds and illusions on my own.

Being social, I was excited at the possibility of making new friends. After all, my sister had friends who sometimes even called to invite her over, which always made me cringe with jealousy. Now, in retrospect, I don't know if I was jealous because she received those phone calls, or if the idea of strangers stealing my only friend left me in the dust.

As my father gave his final good-bye kisses, I was left alone with 20 other children just like me. The nervousness flew from me as if I gave it wings, as soon as I was able to talk to my first peer. My new friend quickly became my confidant as we giggled while we were supposed to be napping. The few hours I was there felt like an eternity as the thought of being away from my mom and dad began to scare me.

If I close my eyes tightly, I can still see the doorknob turning as the first parents began to come in and collect their children. Then there she was—my hero and savior—swooping down over me with kisses as she swung me in her arms before going to talk to the teacher.

“Who’s that?” My new friend questioned me.

“My mom!” I responded, the words bolted out of me, and it was evident I was shocked she didn’t know who this very important woman was.

“That can’t be your mom,” she said. “She’s White.”

Puzzled, I stared at my friend in disbelief, my eyes shooting from her to my mother, who to me seemed to be a mirror image of myself. I was reassured when my mother grabbed my hand to walk out of the room. The girl must have been mistaken. Tomorrow she would recant, apologizing for her blatant misunderstanding.

I said not a word of the incident to my mother. To me the child was delirious, and I decided in the car ride back to school the next day that somehow I would correct her. As the morning left as quickly as it came, I was beginning to become upset at the idea of not yet proving my relationship with my mother to the girl. Then, we were able to paint.

I watched as the other children began their finger-painting portraits. Most of the colors cluttered their hair and clothes rather than the paper itself. Reaching for a bowl, I snatched the black container. The stained plastic felt cold as I fastened my small fingers around its handle. The paint passed as tar as its thick contents consumed my bowl.

Reaching for the white paint, I copied my previous motions as I blended the two colors to form one.

“Black and white makes gray, Heather,” my foolish friend snapped. I just smiled and began to stir, not even acknowledging her. I became a scientist as I threw myself into my work. The noisy room around me grew silent as I began to slowly mix the paints. I stirred vigorously as I bit my lip and waited for my master plan to unfold. Tears began to stream down my cheeks as I stared at the deep gray sky that sat on my table. *It’s not true*, I thought to myself. *You just have to keep stirring, she’ll see*. For an hour I sat, refusing to move or break my gaze.

“Honey, black and white does make gray; she’s right,” my teacher said. My eyes became bowls as they held my tears in place. Not a muscle in my body moved except the hand that just kept stirring. As parents began to collect their children, I closed the eyes that had for so long never really been open at all.

Sitting there, the room began to spin as my heart pounded rhythmically to my sobs. Then she came, compressed me into a tiny ball, and I collapsed in her arms. I begged her to never bring me back to this place; never again could I show myself to these people who had stolen my mother from me.

Once back at home, I told my mommy of the terrorizing ordeal I had faced on my own. I could see in her eyes the agony she felt at not being able to save me, as she always had done in the past.

“You can’t paint people,” she said. The words cut at me as I waited to hear whether she was truly mine or not.

*Had I been lied to all along? Was my sister telling me the truth when she taunted me with stories of being found on the doorstep? I began to run my eyes along the walls, grasping everything I could in that moment—memorizing the paintings and letting my body be engulfed by the cream couches which held me. Perhaps I would have to move in with my real family now that I knew? Maybe they’d ship me off to an orphanage with other “brown” children who had found the truth.*

“Black and white paint may make gray, but black and white skin can make brown. You are brown; some bira-

cial children look completely white, and others completely black. I guess it just depends on genes.” Calming myself, I held my gaze at the blue painting on the wall; I wanted to be transported into that picture, where the barn stood mere feet from the brown, shaggy fence bordering it. And the sky looked so blue, without any clouds to ruin the summer day. I kept my gaze on the picture, unable to look her in her eyes until she told me I was hers.

“So, are you my mommy?” The words escaped me before I could brace myself for her answer. Breathless, I awaited for the foreman to hand me her verdict.

“Of course, I’m your mommy!” The sentence blared out of her like she had used a microphone as she catapulted me into her chest.

I still feel as though my mother is my twin, although now I am competent of our differences. Often times, I find myself entranced by her smile, and duplicate it as I see her in me. I never did question our relationship after that. They were my parents, and I would guard myself from predators whose ignorance would ever state otherwise.

“How do I prove to the kids at school that you are my mom from now on?” I asked her later when the tears had stopped.

“Well,” she began, “you just look them in the eyes and tell them, ‘because I said so.’”

When I told this story to my kids at camp this summer, it hit me in a completely new light. How often do you think Satan approaches God saying, “They aren’t yours! Look at them! They are dark and dirty, and you are white as snow. Didn’t you see Heather sin last night after she ‘prayed’ for forgiveness? Didn’t you see her lie and cheat, and hurt all those people’s feelings? She can’t be yours! She looks nothing like you!”

And then I’m sure God just smiles, “Trust me,” He says while shaking His head. “She’s mine. They’re all mine.” And then He raises His nail-scarred hands and looks Satan right in the eyes as He says, “because I said so.”

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Heather Thompson is a senior journalism and communications major at Andrews University.

DO NOT PERVERT JUSTICE OR SHOW PARTIALITY (DEUTERONOMY 16:19). DO NOT DEPRIVE THE ALIEN OR THE FATHERLESS OF JUSTICE, OR TAKE THE CLOAK OF A WIDOW AS A PLEDGE (DEUTERONOMY 24:27). LEARN TO DO RIGHT! SEEK JUSTICE, ENCOURAGE THE OPPRESSED. DEFEND THE CAUSE OF THE FATHERLESS, PLEAD THE CASE OF THE WIDOW (ISAIAH 1:17). ADMINISTER TRUE JUSTICE; SHOW MERCY AND COMPASSION TO ONE ANOTHER (ZECHARIAH 7:9). LET JUSTICE ROLL ON LIKE A RIVER, RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE A NEVER-FAILING STREAM! (AMOS 5:24).

# THE GOSPEL OF JUSTICE

BY GARY BURNS

One can't help but come to the conclusion after reading the scriptures that justice is important to God. One can't help also coming to the conclusion after reading God's heart, that He is especially interested in providing justice to the alien, the poor, the fatherless, the widow, the oppressed. And, one will also observe that often, when God calls for justice, He links it with mercy. To some, these two terms may appear to be in opposition to each other—you can either have justice, or mercy, but not both. But to God, applying justice is showing mercy and compassion. Because justice is setting things right.

We gain further insights into God's compassion and mercy from Paul's letter to the Romans, where he states, "God presented him (Jesus) as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:25, 26).

The gospel of justice is the good news that through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, God can be just while justifying the wicked (Romans 4:5), to declare righteous those who put their faith or trust in Him.

To the guilty, justice is something to be feared. To the victim, justice is something to long for. To the forgiven, justice is something to embrace. It is from our position of being justified with God, forgiven by His grace, that we are free to embrace justice and to extend mercy, compassion and justice to others.

The good news about compassionate and merciful justice is that it is right. It is the thing that we intuitively know to be good.

Oddly enough, the young can be more perceptive about injustice than the mature. They instinctively know when the scales are tipped in the wrong direction, and are often militant about setting things right. I am constantly amazed

at how liberal and generous the young can be, and how willing they can be to forego personal gain for the sake of another. To be honest and fair, some are also quick to victimize the weak and the odd without showing any mercy or remorse—like chickens in the barnyard, pecking away at one of their peers until the the back of the head is bare and bloodied. We turn away in disgust at such behavior.

On the other hand, mature, loyal, conservative Christians can make choices of appetite or comfort that inadvertently victimize the less educated, unappreciated or ill-equipped without batting an eye. Is that any less disgusting to their Creator?

To embrace the gospel of justice is to embrace the righteousness offered freely to those who trust and believe in God. The gospel of justice embraced, expresses itself by extending justice with mercy and compassion to those whom society would oppress and exploit. It will not keep silent, but cries out on behalf of the poor, the alien, the fatherless and the widows. It recognizes the commonality of our human frailty and our utter dependence on the grace and mercy of God. It identifies with the least and lowest, and stoops to serve and build up. It expresses itself like the prayer on the following page.

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Gary Burns is the communication director for the Lake Union Conference.

# A PRAYER

**F**ather God, look down from your place in the heavens and take note of this vast and diverse family in the Lake Union. We're old. We're rich; we're poor. We're Republicans; we're Democrats. We're plumbers and doctors and receptionists on the same job now for 20 years, and we're unemployed. We're freshmen, we're sophomores, we're juniors, we're attended our loved one's funeral. We're popular and we're hardly-noticed. We're going out on a date tonight; we're going to be in

And yet, each week, with all our diversity, we come together in churches, school gymnasiums, homes and halls, and we bow before You as one people, with one heart and spirit, to sing praise to You who reigns above—the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of justice and mercy, the God of our salvation.

Others look at our outward appearance and see only our diversity. But You look on our hearts and see those things that bind us together in our common humanity. You see our surges of self-pride and remorse. You see how brave we are, and how afraid; how confident we can be, and yet how insecure. You see how defiant we can be at times, and yet how repentant at others. You know our times of faith and our times of doubt.

Nothing that goes on inside us is hidden from You.

And we need You, our Father. All of us need You. We need Your forgiveness and cleansing from sin. We need You to open our eyes to the inequities and injustices that we have created by our own self-centered pursuits. We need Your assurance and hope for the future. We need the enablement and empowerment of Your Spirit for our mission. There's no one to whom we can turn for what we need, but to You.

And so here we are again, our Father, on our knees before You. We're here on the one hand to give You, our God, all praise and glory for all that You have already done for us in Jesus; for this we know with all our hearts, His wounds have paid our ransom. And we're here also seeking for an ever deeper and

# of JUSTICE

BY SKIP MACCARTY

We come from practically every nation of the world: We're Caucasian; we're African. We're Asian; we're Hispanic. We're young; and carpenters and secretaries and lawyers and maintenance personnel and law enforcement officers and inmates. We've been seniors. We're taking graduate studies, and we're working on our GED. We sent out birth announcements this week, and we our room alone tonight. We've just returned from a dream honeymoon; we're in the middle of a nightmarish divorce.

fuller baptism and anointing of Your Spirit until Your work in us and through us is complete.

Please place Your healing hand of blessing upon those among us who are ill. And bless those among us who are grieving the loss of loved ones. May Jesus' promise to resurrect all who put their trust in You be their hope and stay.

Bless those who come to You with the private praises and petitions they carry in their heart. May they know that You have heard them and have provided for their need.

May the prayers of those You have called to intercede result in answers beyond anything they could imagine. May their prayers that our homes, churches and schools be enveloped with the Holy Spirit, be realized beyond anything we have ever

experienced before. And may all of us be caught up higher in the wake of the resulting revival.

Bless our outreach to the communities around us. May those who come be those You bring, and may they gain everything You want them to gain.

Bless this nation and its leaders, and all those around the world who need the protective care and saving intervention and blessing that You alone can give.

Anoint Your servant You have chosen as Your instrument to shepherd us. May the ministry and the message You designed for us have the effect You intended in our lives.

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Skip MacCarty is an associate pastor for evangelism and administration at the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



## Hospital Employees Provide Bibles, Medicine to Those in Need

When people work together, good things happen. At Adventist Hinsdale Hospital in Hinsdale, Ill., and Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital in La Grange, Ill., employees have come together to help others with amazing results.

At Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, employees raised funds to purchase 900 Bibles and school supplies to send to Ghana, West Africa. The idea for the gift came after a group of employees traveled to Ghana last year on a mission trip.

While building a new girls dormitory for the Bekwai Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School, employees Beverly Moon, coordinator of Hospitality Services, and Jim Today, administrative director of Facilities, discovered the girls knew scripture but only by memorization. None of them had their own Bible. School supplies were also in short supply.

Upon returning to the United States, they set to work. Alan Schneider, vice president and chief operating officer, and his wife, Connie Best Schneider, were large contributors. Russ Soliman, regional director of Information Services, started a monetary collection within his department and was able to purchase 200 new Bibles.

The hospital also donated a used wheelchair that was requested by a Ghana resident for his grandmother.

Today set his department to work collecting backpacks and donations for school supplies, and donations of folders, notebooks, pencils and chalkboards flooded into the department. Soon, 67 backpacks were filled with school supplies valued at \$250.

“The children of Ghana have long distances to walk when going to and

For the third consecutive year, the hospital is helping break the cycle of poverty by working with a remarkable organization called Common Hope.

The hospital donated requested medications along with vitamins and antacids, valued at \$7,800. During Thanksgiving, Common Hope volunteers took the supplies to Guatemala, where clinic physicians gave thanks for the kindness of strangers.

“Part of our mission is to pro-

mote wellness,” said David Tsang, pharmacy director. “We try to provide quality health care wherever we can, especially if it is to a needy country. Guatemalans lack the resources, and we have the means to help, so it works out well for everyone.”

Physicians at the clinic put together a wish list of several drugs needed, Tsang said. “We sent antibiotics and medications for epilepsy, strep throat, hypertension, high cholesterol, peptic ulcer and diabetes, which

is a prevalent disease in the area.”

Conni Ainslie, pharmacy buyer, said the hospital also sent supplies to help Guatemala’s youngest children this year. “The clinics requested vitamin drops for infants,” she said. “It makes us so happy to be able to send supplies that will benefit people of all ages in their country, babies included.”

Julie L. Busch, public relations specialist,  
Adventist Midwest Health



Adventist Hinsdale Hospital Employees stand near the Bibles and school supplies ready for shipment to Ghana. From left: Jim Today, administrative director of Facilities; Susan King, executive director of the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation; Beverly Moon, coordinator of Hospitality Services; and Alan Schneider, vice president and chief operating officer

from school,” Today said. “We felt backpacks would be very helpful.”

Next, the group turned to the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation, which granted \$2,000 to cover shipping costs.

“The 17-day mission [trip] changed my life,” said Moon. “It was a wonderful experience. You go to help, but looking back, I received far more than I gave. A day doesn’t go by that I don’t think of the children of Ghana.”

The generosity continued at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.



An aerial view taken of the campus in October 2007 reveals where the new J.N. Andrews Boulevard is located.

## Andrews University Receives a New “Front Door”

Groundbreaking for the new Andrews University entrance was held on Sept. 28, 2007, in conjunction with Alumni Homecoming Weekend, and two months later faculty, staff and students are beginning to drive on part of the new pavement!

The new entrance, according to the project summary, is designed for Andrews to “recapture its physical connection and visibility to the local community and provide a focal point for future campus development.” University administration has announced that the new road will be named J.N. Andrews Boulevard, as a daily reminder of the commitment to scholarship and service of this early Adventist pioneer whose name the university bears.

Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University, comments, “The new entrance will give Andrews University the front door it has always needed. This entrance promises to be easy to find, attractive, safe for traffic and welcoming to all. It will help make Andrews a clearly visible part of our community and a welcoming destination for our neighbors, friends and campus community.”

Richard Scott, director of facilities management, is pleased with the progress to date, and with the construction quality. The project is on schedule and on budget. As expected, most work

will be suspended during the winter months. The new entrance, approximately one block from the old entrance, is scheduled for completion just prior to graduation weekend in May. The funding is part of the \$8.5 million gift given to the campus by William and Bonnie Colson in April 2007. John and Dede

Howard also made significant contributions to the project.

Rebecca May, director, University Relations

## E.E. Cleveland Donates Priceless Collection

On Nov. 8, 2007, the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University received a priceless collection of original materials from Adventist pioneer evangelist, E.E. Cleveland. Cleveland and his family personally came to the campus to present his personal papers to the Center at a luncheon in his honor. Nearly 100 faculty and friends of Andrews attended the luncheon, hosted by Heather Knight, provost, to express their appreciation. Merlin Burt, director of the Center, was on hand to accept the formal deed of the gift. That evening, Cleveland inspired a capacity crowd with his preaching in the Seminary Chapel.

The collection contains nearly 2,000 sermon manuscripts, hundreds of pictures, personal books, audio-visual materials, and other records of Cleveland’s ministry. Also included is his wedding Bible signed by his father, with an inscription on how the couple met, got engaged, and married in 1943.

Clifford Jones, associate dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Semi-

nary, expressed his appreciation in the following words: “Elder Cleveland did not just redefine public evangelism. He did not just rewrite the book on public evangelism, for there was none to rewrite when he came along. Cleveland wrote the book on evangelism, doing so with skill and aplomb, and the thousands of pages of his personal papers which he is turning over to the Center for Adventist Research is a treasure trove beckoning to be plumbed by some astute doctoral students.”

According to Steven Norman, communication director for the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists who helped facilitate this donation, when Cleveland lost his wife of 60 years in 2003, he faced his own mortality and was determined to prepare a ministry continuity plan. This plan was to give his ministry the ability to speak a message of hope even after his death and instill ministers with a passion for evangelism. A fundamental part of that plan was to preserve his records. Cleveland chose to use the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University, because it was under the auspices of the General Conference and this university that he became the first African-American Seventh-day Adventist minister to teach pastors around the globe, regardless of race. Cleveland loves ministers and wants his records to be available to graduate-level students around the world for their research, professional development and spiritual growth.

Rebecca May, director, University Relations



From left: Heather Knight and Merlin Burt officially accept the priceless collection from E.E. Cleveland. Also pictured: Steven Norman

## [ EDUCATION NEWS ]

### National Honor Society Welcomes Two New Members

Michigan—Two new members were inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) on Nov. 16, 2007. Current NHS members at Battle Creek Academy (BCA) joined new members, Hee Jin Lee (a junior) and Jin Park (a senior), for this special Induction Ceremony.

More than just an honor roll, the NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character. After being recommended for NHS membership by school faculty and all membership requirements are met by the student, the Induction Ceremony officially welcomes students into this elite society.

With induction into NHS, a member assumes certain obligations as outlined by the local chapter. First and foremost, all NHS members are expected to maintain the standards that were used as the basis for their selection. In addition, the chapter must conduct a service project for the school each year, and see to the development of an individual service project for each member.

By being a member of the NHS, students are recognized locally and nationally, and scholarship opportuni-

ties are available based on members' leadership and academic achievements. Congratulations to all NHS members at BCA. We look forward to following your continued success.

Wendy Keough, co-director of marketing and recruitment, Battle Creek Academy

### Spreading Christmas Joy Blesses Students

Wisconsin—On Dec. 1, 2007, Wisconsin Academy (WA) Student Association (SA) officers and a few other students, along with Marcia and Carl Sigler, packed two vans with food and gifts and made their way to the Salvation Army shelter in Madison. It was a very hectic week gathering presents and working around everybody's impossible schedules. With the possibility of a snowstorm, even the program had to be re-worked.

All the food was prepared ahead of time by Sharon Wooten, WA cafeteria director. Upon arrival, students got right to work decorating the shelter with festive tablecloths, napkins and snowman centerpieces. In the back of the room, students placed gifts on a table, set up a tree, strung lights and hung holly. As the families arrived and the children saw the presents, their eyes lit up with wonder.

Students served the families ziti pasta, green beans, breadsticks and salad, with holiday cake for dessert. Lacy Swan-

ington, a senior and SA spiritual vice president, read a story about a little boy who had been invited to a Christmas party. Gifts were given out at the party, and the little boy had his eye on a beautiful red fire truck. But when his turn came up to receive his gift, he took a doll for his sister who was sick at home.

After the story, "Silent Night" was sung by Allison Hanaway, a senior and SA treasurer; Lisa Cunningham, a senior and yearbook editor-in-chief; and Jasmine O'Brien, a senior and SA president. The trio was accompanied on guitars by Peter Gus, a junior, and Enrique Serna III, a junior and SA public relations officer.

During the meal and short program, the children's eyes were con-



Wisconsin Academy Student Association officers and a few other students brought Christmas cheer to families at the Salvation Army shelter in Madison, Wis.

Steve Brown



National Honor Society members at Battle Creek Academy recently welcomed two new members: Hee Jin Lee and Jin Park. From left: Hee Jin Lee, Katie French, Jessica Eberhard, Camden Bowman, Jin Park, Bradly Bennison, Lisha Torres and Christy Kubasiak

stantly being drawn to the table laden with presents. All of a sudden there were bells ringing, and the door flew open welcoming "Santa" (Carl Siegler). The children went crazy with excitement when they realized that "Santa" had brought them presents early this year. Each child was given a book specific to their age. The fun for the WA students came as they watched the children's faces light up and their eyes sparkle.

One little girl, a year old, wanted to see "Santa" up close. She slowly approached him, her eyes growing larger with each step. Then, ever so slowly, she reached out her chubby little hand and took his finger. What a rewarding experience for "Santa."

Tears welled up in the eyes of some of the students as they realized that



through all the hardships of everyday survival they could give these children a little happiness. The blessings of that day were not just given to families, but to the WA students who were able to participate in this very special event.

Jasmine O'Brion, president, Wisconsin Academy Student Association

## Students Fill Secret Socks

Indiana—As part of the new Adventist reading series, *Pathways*, the first and second grade students of Indianapolis Junior Academy read Paul B. Ricchiuti's book, *Mrs. White's Secret Sock*. The book tells the story of how Ellen White saved money for special things by putting her spare change into a sock that she hid in the cupboard.

One day, Ellen's husband James White was discouraged when he came home from the Review and Herald, a publishing company where he worked. James had a shipment of paper at the train station that he couldn't pick up because he had no money. They had never missed printing an issue of *The Adventist Review*, and it bothered him to know that he was not going to be able to print the latest issue.

Ellen just smiled and continued to prepare dinner. Later, she quietly went to the cupboard, pulled out her "secret sock," and dumped the change on the table. In shock, James counted the money. It was the exact amount he needed to pick up the paper from the train station! The Review and Herald would be able to continue to share the gospel of Christ with others.

After we finished the book, we gave each of our students a "secret sock" in which they were to collect loose change to give to Hope for Humanity, the oldest Seventh-day Adventist humanitarian ministry (see [www.hope4.com](http://www.hope4.com)).

On Dec. 3, 2007, the socks were collected. Second graders rolled and counted the money, and just as He blessed the Review and Herald so many years ago, God blessed the efforts



Rebecca Cain

After listening to their teacher read the book, Mrs. White's Secret Sock, the first and second grade class at Indianapolis Junior Academy were given socks to collect money for Hope for Humanity, the oldest Seventh-day Adventist humanitarian ministry. The students collected \$141 to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

of these children. They collected \$141 to be used to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ! Not only was Ellen's money an amazing gift to the people in her day, but her story has inspired us and helped us to be a blessing, too, so many years later.

Rebecca Cain, teacher, Indianapolis Junior Academy

## Students Sing of Jesus' Birth

Indiana—On Fri., Dec. 7, 2007, students of the Pleasantview Christian School and child care ministry were invited to sing at the Union Building at Purdue University. Thirty-five students, ranging in age from three to nine years old, sang Christmas carols for more than 100 people in front of a large, decorated Christmas tree. Many listeners were university employees who were also parents, grandparents or friends of the children. Other people passing by also stopped to listen.

The children were dressed in first century costumes or in coordinated colors of black, white and red. Each class had their turn to sing. Altogether, eight songs were sung, including "Away in a Manger," "Hark! the Herald

Angels Sing," "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful." A newer Christmas song was sung entitled, "A Strange Way to Save the World." It refers to the thoughts Joseph might have had when he pondered that Baby Jesus, born in a manger to such an ordinary young lady, was God's chosen way to save the world. It truly is an amazing story of God's humble love and amazing grace.

It was wonderful to see the children carefully singing all the words and learning the story of Jesus' birth through the songs they memorized. Michele McCaw directs the K-2 program, with assistant Ashley Craig; they have 11 students. The child care ministry has 11 students, and is under the leadership of Ginny Harman with assistant Brianna Harman. Julie Wolendowski teaches the 16 Pre-K students, assisted by Paula Blankenship.



Ryan Mutsch

In December, students of the Pleasantview Christian School and day care ministry sang enthusiastically about Jesus' birth at venues like Purdue University, Ivy Tech, Heritage Healthcare Center, Indiana Veterans Home, Westminster Village, the Journal & Courier newspaper office and the Lafayette Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The students' greatly enjoyed singing for their parents at Purdue University and riding on the bus as they traveled to sing. In December, they also sang at six other locations: Ivy Tech, Heritage Healthcare Center, Indiana Veterans Home, Westminster Village, the *Journal & Courier* newspaper office and the Lafayette Seventh-day Adventist Church, which operates the school and child care ministry.

Clinton Meharry, pastor, Lafayette Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Students Forego Gift Exchange to Bless Others

Illinois—We've all heard the saying, "It is better to give than to receive." This is especially true during the Christmas season, and Zelda Christen's fourth-grade class at Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) took that saying to heart this year. When the class heard about a family in need, they decided to forego the usual gift exchange during their Christmas party, and decided to help the family.

The students' adopted family are refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who arrived in the United States in June 2007. The family consists of a father, Adelbert; a mother, Sylvania; a 14-year-old daughter, Nuptia (in high school); an eight-year-old son, Bledh (third grade); and a three-year-old son, Debrene. Unfortunately, Adelbert was recently laid off from his job.

Becky Wightman, mom of fourth-grade student, Trevor, located this family through the Youth Services department of World Relief, Chicago. According to the information received from World Relief, the refugee families are provided with just the bare minimum upon arrival, so the refugee family the students adopted were in need of basic necessities such as warm clothing, bedding, school supplies, shoes and kitchen items. They do not have a car and rely on public transportation to get around.



Kimberly Arrogante and Victor Vargas helped load gifts to be delivered to the refugee family.



After hearing about the needs of a refugee family, the fourth-grade class at Hinsdale Adventist Academy collected gifts to present at Christmas.

The students collected the needed items, as well as some toys for the children, groceries and gift cards. The class wrapped the gifts and carried everything to Wightman's car. (It's a good thing she drives a full-size SUV, because it was filled to the brim!) Wightman and her sons, Trevor and Kyle (a second grader at HAA), delivered



After delivering the gifts from the fourth-grade class, Becky Wightman, and her sons, Trevor and Kyle, visited with the family the students adopted at Christmas.

the gifts to the family on December 19. Wightman reports, "The family was very excited to see us. Everyone (including the World Relief liaison) was amazed that just one class could do so much!"

After wishing the family "Feliz noel!" the Wightmans opened the door to leave the apartment, and what they saw was amazing—a completely white pigeon perched on the

railing, watching them. According to Wightman, "It was the whitest pigeon I have ever seen!" To Wightman, the white pigeon was a reminder that our angels are watching!

HAA's fourth-grade students are a great example for all of us, and have shown that caring for those less fortunate is a blessing in itself! Thank you, fourth grade, for proving that together we can make a difference in this world.

Rebecca Garrett, marketing director, Hinsdale Adventist Academy

## [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

### Chili Cook-Off Raises Funds for Outreach

Michigan—On Sun., Nov. 4, 2007, the St. Johns Church hosted its second annual vegetarian Chili Cook-Off.

The event was sponsored by the Women's Ministries department of the church. The public was invited to come and sample a total of five vegetarian chili recipes submitted by church members.

The best chili, by popular vote, was submitted by Fay Denton. Her entry, appropriately named "Mama's Sweet-N-Hot Chili," stole the show. She won the official Chili Cook-Off Champion apron (modeled in the photo), and the title, "2007 Chili Cook-Off Champion." Her sister, Amanda Jammer, won last year's event with her "White Vegetarian Have Some Variety Chili." Ironically, it was

Fay who "inspired" Amanda to enter last year. "I guess they are keeping it all in the family," says Brenda Roys, women's ministries director and event coordinator. "But there was no mistake, the ballots were counted twice," Roys joked.

While there was less response from the community than hoped for, event participants were not discouraged and plan to continue this annual event. Proceeds from the event are used to purchase *Women of Spirit* magazine subscriptions for new women members and others the ministry team wants to encourage (see [www.womenofspirit.com](http://www.womenofspirit.com)).



Fay Denton was the winner of the St. Johns Church vegetarian Chili Cook-Off this year, following in her sister's footsteps, who was the winner last year.

If you would like to try the winning recipe at home, it is available online at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org).

Jody Murphy, Michigan Conference correspondent, as shared by Brenda Roys, communication leader, St. Johns Church

### God Blesses Ministry to the Hungry

Wisconsin—The Northwest (Milwaukee) Church members have a passion—a passion to feed the hungry. Members have been involved with area food pantries for many years, providing baskets for those less fortunate whether they be church members or neighbors in the community. Sometimes those preparing the baskets insert tracts or perhaps a book by Ellen G. White with a prayer that the Holy Spirit uses this literature to draw the recipients closer to Jesus. During the month of November 2007, a plea was made to contribute a little extra to the pantry for the holiday season. The cupboards were becoming bare due to the distribution of food to more than 100 hungry men, women and children during the past six months.

Although money is often allocated to various other charities during this

time of year, church members were generous. To ensure that every dollar spent would stretch to the maximum, purchasers for the food pantry prayed before each visit to the store. Once again, God provided a bounty beyond expectations, and the pantry cupboards were filled! Members were able to give out baskets to an additional



Northwest (Milwaukee) Church members have a passion to feed the hungry in their church and community. When funds were needed to supply the food pantry, members gave generously.

30 families, with plenty to spare. The extra funds will be used to restock the shelves in the next couple of months. As one church member remarked, "People get hungry in February, too, and throughout the year." Sad, but true.

The mission of the Northwest Church includes not only a willingness to recognize a serious need, but to take action and do something about it. The mission also includes plans to follow up with those in the community who received baskets and share the love of Christ with them.

Please take a moment and look around. Is there anyone in your church or community who could benefit from a food basket?

Joni Arthurs, communications secretary, Northwest Church, as shared with Bruce Babienco, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent



Ray Young

Burns Church members and Better Living Center volunteers showed their love as they sang carols and prayed with the homeless at Hart Plaza on Christmas Day.

## Better Living Center Volunteers and Church Members Take Christmas to the Streets

Lake Region—Once again, the Detroit Better Living Center (BLC) engaged area churches in activities to provide a special Christmas experience for Detroit's less fortunate.

A Christmas party for kids took place on Christmas Eve at the BLC. Nearly 100 children and parents from the community received a free gift, pizza, snacks and lots of love from church member volunteers. This Christmas



Ray Young

Nearly 100 children and parents attended the Better Living Center Christmas party. Each child and youth received a gift.

event gives us a chance to show God's love in action, and the community really appreciates it. The church volunteers and the Salvation Army in Wyandotte, Mich., donated hundreds of toys to make a difference this year.

On Christmas day, the homeless who were camped at a docking area at Hart Plaza (Detroit's world-class meeting and convention facility) received lots of love in a practical way from Burns Church members and BLC volunteers. Each homeless person the volunteers met received a warm blanket and selected from other items such as food, hats, gloves and personal items donated by area churches. Prior to the event, the BLC served as a staging area to coordinate distribution of the donated items. The event was planned and led by Yvonne Burns, Burns Church community services leader.

The BLC and the area Adventist churches want to help these homeless individuals all year long, and this Christmas outreach spearheaded by the Burns Church gave us a great start. We're hoping to get a vehicle to transport the homeless to the BLC for other social services and programs.

Ray Young, Better Living Center director

## Ucci Honored for 20+ Years of Prison Ministry

Illinois—Melinda Ucci, an 87-year-old member of the Rochelle Seventh-day Adventist Church, was honored on Oct. 12, 2007, during the McElmurry Ethics & Society Lectureship on the campus of Andrews University. The theme of the lecture series was prison ministries, and Ucci has been personally involved in this ministry for more than 20 years.

Ken Denslow, president of the Illinois Conference, interviewed Ucci before she was presented with a plaque by Russell Staples, chair of the planning committee. Ucci began a prison ministry in 1986 at the Dixon, Illinois, Correctional Center. At first, she came as a visitor to meet individually with two prisoners, but the numbers grew, and she was at the prison from



Russell Staples (left) presents Melinda Ucci with a plaque in honor of her 20+ years of prison ministry. Ken Denslow (right), Illinois Conference president, interviewed Ucci before she received the special recognition.

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. three days a week for a period. She was granted the status of volunteer, and conducted group meetings of worship. In 2000, she was named Volunteer of the Year.

Denslow later remarked, "The more I get to know Millie Ucci, the more I am amazed at what one little lady can do when she is committed to touch others for Jesus."

Patricia Spangler, assistant director of University Relations, Andrews University

## [LAKE UNION NEWS]

## New Director of Education Appointed

Garry Sudds, former associate director of education for the Lake Union Conference, has accepted the appointment of director, replacing Gary Randolph



who retired in April 2007. Sudds served with Randolph for the past 12 years, creating a team approach to meeting the needs of education in the Lake Union.

Sudds is noted for his spiritual commitment and for the added dimension of pastoral care he has provided for teachers and administrators in secondary education. A man of prayer, Sudds has led out in making prayer an important part of education by encouraging educators in the practice of prayer for students, parents and each other, and by providing union prayer conferences where students can be inspired to make prayer a part of student life on campus.

Sudds is known for being guided by principle, which is a direct result of his commitment to studying the "blueprint" for Adventist education. "Preparing a student for a life on this earth to earn a 'good living' seems to carry higher value in many minds than preparing students for a life of honesty, integrity and service to humanity," says Sudds. "However, in the Lake Union Seventh-day Adventist K-12 system, our educational curriculum is designed to build a better child, fully prepared for service to both God and humanity."

To round out the services the Lake Union provides to local conferences and schools, Sudds is working with administration to search for a good complement to serve as his associate. He is also working with administration in developing a task force on education to address the new challenges of providing Adventist

education in an ever-changing culture.

Sudds is in the process of completing a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Andrews University.

During his career in Adventist education, Sudds has been an assistant boys' dean, principal, chaplain/Bible teacher, associate superintendent, and superintendent of schools in the New Jersey and Rocky Mountain conferences.

He has been married to his wife Joanna for 37 years, and Sudds feels that he has been blessed abundantly because "My wife loves me, my children respect me, and my 12-year-old Schnauzer still goes crazy every time I walk in the door."

The only legacy Sudds hopes to be remembered for is: "This man was a very close friend of Jesus."

Gary Burns, communication director,  
Lake Union Conference

## 2008 Easter Passion Play Postponed at Andrews University

The 2008 Easter Passion Play at Andrews University has been postponed to April 2009. The decision to postpone the Passion Play came after months of prayer and searching for support staff.

The Passion Play is made up of all kinds of people; ages range from small children to adults. The most significant source of volunteers is undoubtedly the student, faculty and staff population at Andrews University. As "our gift to the community," the Passion Play provides us the opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ in a real, tangible way.

In 2008, Easter falls during the Andrews University Spring Break,



which posed a challenge to fill these academic-filled positions elsewhere. We accepted this challenge when the fall semester session began; however, since the Passion Play was scheduled for March 22, that left less than three months to find key leadership positions, hold drama auditions and place more than 500 volunteers. Normally this is accomplished during December.

As of December 24, core leadership positions had not been filled, and we felt we would not be able to give the event the careful planning it requires in the short three months remaining.

In looking to the future, it will be many years before this calendar conflict happens again. Andrews University looks forward to hosting the Passion Play on an annual basis. We have begun planning for 2009, and hope you will join us then on the campus of Andrews University. If you have interest in a leadership position, please e-mail [passionplay@andrews.edu](mailto:passionplay@andrews.edu).

Richard Parke, 2009 Easter Passion  
Play director, Andrews University

## Pastoral Couples Receive Expression of Appreciation

In the October issue of the *Lake Union Herald*, we gave an invitation to our readers to nominate a pastoral couple to receive a special expression of appreciation. Thank you to those of you who submitted nominations and told of the many reasons you thank God for their ministry. Each of the pastoral couples who were nominated have received a gift certificate to enjoy a romantic dinner together, compliments of the *Lake Union Herald*.

Although the time for submitting nominations to the *Lake Union Herald* is past, it's not too late for you to present your pastoral couple with your own complimentary certificate. It would be welcomed anytime, we're sure.

Gary Burns, communication director,  
Lake Union Conference

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 in the masthead on page 39.

## Anniversaries



**Everett and Isabelle Edminster** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 23, 2007, by a family reunion at Tomahawk, Wis. They have been members of the Oxford (Wis.) Church for 27 years.

Everett Edminster and Isabelle Schmuhl were married Sept. 28, 1947, in Antigo, Wis., by Pastor O.A. Lyberg. Everett has been a camp ranger for the Wisconsin Conference. Isabelle has been a cook, buyer and helper for Camp Go Seek.

The Edminster family includes Nancy and Bill Willis of Corbett, Ore.; Peggy and Clare Herbison of Tomahawk; Jean Granum of Menominee, Mich.; Kathleen Edminster of Salem, Ore.; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

## Weddings

**Kanjana Ritthaprom and Paul Marcok** were married May 15, 2007, in Bangkok, Thailand. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Sukrit Das.

Kanjana is the daughter of Phutsadi and the late Amphai Ritthaprom of Sattahip, Chon Buri, Thailand, and Paul is the son of the late John and Ana Marcok.

The Marcoks are making their home in Chicago, Ill.

## Obituaries

**BAKER, Marie (Trubey) La Court**, age 98; born Aug. 29, 1909, in Glen Elder, Kan.; died Oct. 24, 2007, in Calhoun, Ga. She was a member of the Oconto (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Edwin La Court; stepsons, Curtis and Marvin La Court; brother, Lester Trubey; sister, Ila Ballard; seven grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by

Pastors Phil and Jan White, Dave Smith and Ken Mittleider, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Oconto.

**CARTER, Dietta L. (Boyd)**, age 64; born Jan. 23, 1943, in Chicago, Ill.; died Oct. 18, 2007, in Dolton, Ill. She was a member of the Shiloh Church, Chicago.

Survivors include her husband, Nathaniel; sons, Nathaniel Jr., Barry A., Timothy W., Samuel K. and Christopher B.; daughters, Keturah Daye Candace and Vanessa Aminbola; father, William Boyd Sr.; brother, William "Skippy" Boyd Jr.; half-brother, John "Terry" Smith; 17 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Famous Murray, and interment was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Chicago.

**COOPER, Dorothy Mae (Covell)**, age 73; born June 24, 1933, in Lenawee Cty., Mich.; died Jan. 2, 2007, in Morenci, Mich. She was a member of the Prattville Church, Pittsford, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Wallace; and brother, Curtis W. Covell.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Charles Davisson, and interment was in Oak Grove Cemetery, Morenci.

**COX, Lillian L. (Erickson)**, age 85; born Dec. 12, 1921, in Bayfield, Wis.; died Nov. 6, 2007, in Fitchburg, Wis. She was a member of the Madison (Wis.) East Church.

Survivors include her sons, Clayton and Carlo; daughters, Caren Churkey, Colleen Cox, Clocille Jakobsonos, Cindy Sokolies and Carmie Raffy; brother, James Erickson; sister, Clarice Anderson; 18 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Pastor William J. Ochs and Dale Bossenberry, and interment was in Mount Hope Cemetery, Brooklyn, Wis.

**EVANS, Gomer E.**, age 85; born June 3, 1922, in Mountain Ash, Wales, UK; died Nov. 25, 2007, in Grand Blanc, Mich. He was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Beryl P. (Pearce); sons, Timothy L., Nicholas T. and David J.; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pas-

tors Alvaro Sauza, Gene Hall, Robert Benson and Brandon Korter, and Chaplain Adam Doyle, and interment was in Lakeside Cemetery, Holly.

**FOLL, Merelle E. (Wilson)**, age 84; born Aug. 26, 1923, in Exira, Iowa; died Oct. 9, 2007, in Ft. Atkinson, Wis. She was a member of the Madison (Wis.) East Church.

Survivors include her sons, Lewellyn, Thomas and Ronald; daughter, Judith Miles; brother, Dorian Wilson; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor William J. Ochs, with private interment.

**FORD, Alvin F.**, age 88; born July 9, 1919, in Elwood, Ind.; died Nov. 18, 2007, in Indianapolis, Ind. He was a member of the Irvington Church, Indianapolis.

Survivors include his wife, Helen E. (Padgett); sons, Thomas C. and Alvin F. Jr.; sister, Mary Morris; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Fred Troxell, and interment was in Washington Park East Cemetery, Indianapolis.

**HAHN, Mary J. (Olds)**, age 74; born Oct. 17, 1932, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Oct. 10, 2007, in Madison, Wis. She was a member of the Reedsburg (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Lawrence; sons, Greg and Rodney; daughter, Darlene Rieck; brothers, Milton, Eugene and Robert Olds; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor William J. Ochs and Richard Habenicht, and interment was in Millard Prairie Cemetery, Wonewoc, Wis.

**HISCOCK, Marjory J. (Hunt)**, age 75; born Jan. 26, 1932, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; died Nov. 5, 2007, in Bloomingdale, Mich. She was a member of the Gobles/Pinedale Church, Gobles, Mich.

Survivors include her son, James; daughters, Cheri Smith and Debra Gibson; brother, Lewain Hunt; step-brother, David Benton; and sisters, Gloria Jenks and Janice Parker.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Don Williams, and interment was in Robinson Cemetery, Gobles.

**JENKINS, Ruth (Broadhurst)**, age 79; born Jan. 11, 1928, in Decatur, Mich.; died Oct. 24, 2007, in Kalamazoo, Mich. She was a

member of the Glenwood Church, Dowagiac, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Earl Jr.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Christien Hodet and elder Harry Sponseller, and interment was in Hamilton Cemetery, Decatur.

**OLES, Sophie (Wazdatskey)**, age 90; born Apr. 16, 1917, in Max, N.D.; died Dec. 5, 2007, in Apopka, Fla. She was a member of the Fairplain Church, Benton Harbor, Mich.

Survivors include her sons, Gary and Theodore "Teddy"; daughters, Barbara Wilson, Sharon Wotring, Connie Snodgrass and Janine Edmondson; brother, John Cherry; sister, Lillian Rauch; 18 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Larry Lichtenwalter, and interment was in Riverview Cemetery, St. Joseph, Mich.

**OSTRANDER, Ilah R. (Van Wormer) Bowran**, age 89; born Jan. 12, 1918, in Plainfield Twp., Mich.; died Oct. 22, 2007, in Long Lake, Mich. She was a member of the Long Lake Church.

Survivors include her sons, Gerald and Larry Bowran; brother, Norman Van Wormer; sister, Beulah Putnam; seven grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and 12 step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Charles Mackintosh, and interment was in Esmond-Evergreen Cemetery, Hale, Mich.

**SANDS, William C.**, age 60; born Nov. 12, 1946, in Washington, D.C.; died Oct. 31, 2007, in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his former wife, Jane Sands; son, Denning; daughters, JanElla Schnepf, Ruth Armistead and Victoria Weczyn; brothers, George, Don, Jim, John and Bob; sister, Heather Sands; and six grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Pastor Dwight Nelson, Dean McDaniel and Rob Sink, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

**STEBNER, Mardell P. (Howell)**, age 90; born Aug. 15, 1917, in Fairbury, Ill.; died Nov. 24, 2007, in Hamilton, Ga. She was a member of the Eau Claire (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Otto E.; daughter, Dolenda B. Murdock; brother, Marvin Howell; sister, Darlene Poore; three

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grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Stephen Murdock, with private inurnment.

**STEPHAN, Ralph J.**, age 75; born Jan. 1, 1932, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Oct. 17, 2007, in Lansing, Mich. He was a member of the Lansing Church.

Survivors include his wife, J. Diane (Doan); sons, Ralph J. Jr. and David C.; stepson, Patrick S. Hipolite; daughters, Kathy Minter, Debbie Williams, Linda Reece and Nancy Dumon; stepdaughters, Susan Taichman and Amy Robinson; brothers, Fredrick and James; 14 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Quentin Purvis, with private inurnment.

**TRAFELET, Barbara (St. Clare)**, age 68; born Nov. 19, 1938, in Detroit, Mich.; died Oct. 25, 2007, in Palm Beach, Fla. She was a member of the Warren (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Robert; sons, Craig and Leslie; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Paul Larsen, and interment was in Royal Oak (Mich.) Cemetery.

**WALKER, Chloe (Farris)**, age 101; born Oct. 30, 1905, in Elm River Twp., Wayne Cty., Ill.; died Oct. 23, 2007, in Elm River Twp. She was a member of the Illinois Conference Church, Willowbrook, Ill.

Survivors include her daughters, Lois L. Willson and Marjorie E. Allen; brothers, Lowell and Everett Farris; sister, Ruth McKelvey; eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Frank Haynes, and interment was in Laird Cemetery, Elm River Twp.

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## Sunset Calendar

	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 22	Feb 29	Mar 7
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:58	6:07	6:16	6:25	6:33	6:43
Chicago, Ill.	5:03	5:12	5:21	5:30	5:38	5:48
Detroit, Mich.	5:44	5:53	6:02	6:11	6:19	6:29
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:02	6:10	6:19	6:26	6:34	6:43
La Crosse, Wis.	5:13	5:23	5:32	5:41	5:51	6:02
Lansing, Mich.	5:49	5:58	6:07	6:16	6:25	6:35
Madison, Wis.	5:07	5:17	5:26	5:35	5:44	5:55
Springfield, Ill.	5:16	5:24	5:32	5:40	5:48	5:58

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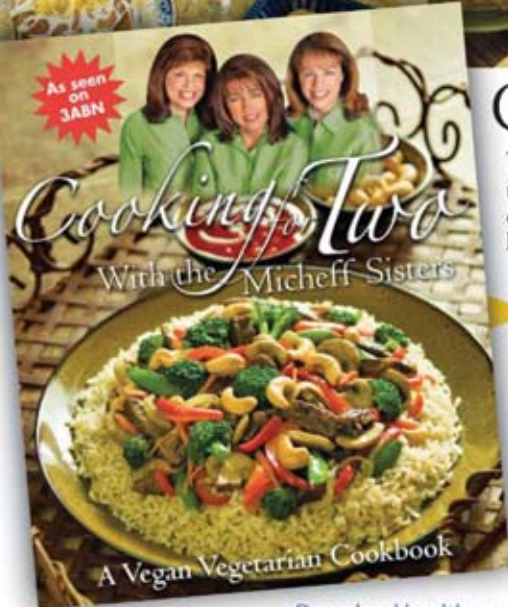
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### Human Resources

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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 [www.lakeunionherald.org](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.

## Andrews University

### 2008 Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy

**Workshop:** The SDA Theological Seminary on the campus of Andrews University offers this popular workshop **May 4-9**. For more information and to register, go to [www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw/](http://www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw/), e-mail [fran@andrews.edu](mailto:fran@andrews.edu), or call 269-471-3541.

## Indiana

**Indiana Youth Rally 2008:** This is an annual time of special fellowship and inspiration for Indiana Conference youth. The weekend begins **Fri., Feb. 15**, at 7:30 p.m., at the Indiana Academy Chapel in Cicero. The Sabbath program begins at 10:00 a.m. at Indianapolis Junior Academy, 2910 East 62nd St., Indianapolis. Lunch will be provided, and there will be snacks for supper. The Andrews University Gymnastics will perform Sat. night. If you would like to participate in the talent hour, submit a video to the Indiana Conference youth department by Feb. 1. For free lodging at IA, you must contact IA at 317-984-3575 to make housing reservations.

### Sabbath Celebration and Musical Festival

is **Mar. 8** at Indiana Academy (IA) in Cicero. Guest speaker for the worship hour will be Troy Fitzgerald, youth pastor at the Walla Walla University Church in Washington. Pastor Fitzgerald will speak to the young people from grades 6 to 10 beginning Thurs. evening as they come together at IA from around the state to practice and prepare for the music festival concert to be held Sabbath afternoon. Guest choral clinician will be Gale Jones

Murphy, and guest band clinician will be Steve Martin. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top songs in the 2nd Annual Scripture Song contest. For information regarding the contest, contact Mark Haynal, education superintendent for the Indiana Conference, at 317-844-6201. For information about the music festival, contact Andrew Lay, music director at IA, at 317-984-3575.

### Mark Twain HIMSELF Comes to Indiana

**Academy:** One hundred years ago Mark Twain was the most popular speaker in the world. Today audiences can still enjoy the wit and wisdom of Mark Twain in Heritage Stage Production's *Mark Twain HIMSELF*. Coming from Hannibal, Missouri's Planters Barn Theater, veteran stage actor Richard Garey will perform live at the academy to benefit the junior class. Garey has performed his one-man shows in more than 40 states and Canada. Dates and Times: **Mar. 15**, 8:30 p.m.; **Mar. 16**, 2 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., and **Mar. 17**, 7:00 p.m. Preview a short clip at [www.heritagestage.com/IABenefit](http://www.heritagestage.com/IABenefit). Contact Nathan Kelly, junior class president, at 317-984-3575 for individual or group ticket information, or go to [www.iasda.org](http://www.iasda.org).

## Lake Union

### Offerings

- Feb 2** Local Church Budget
- Feb 9** Adventist Television Ministries
- Feb 16** Local Church Budget
- Feb 23** Local Conference Advance

### Special Days

- Feb 2-23** Black History Month
- Feb 10-16** Christian Home and Marriage Week
- Feb 23** Health Ministries Sabbath

### The annual Lake Union Academies Alumni

**Reunion** (formerly Michigan Academies Alumni Reunion) will be held Sabbath, **Mar. 1**, in Schmidt Auditorium at Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Fla. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., come to greet old friends and make new ones, hear reports from your alma mater, and enjoy a wonderful Sabbath program. A potluck lunch will be held in the school cafeteria following church. For information, contact Becky Snyder Becker at 407-814-1859 or e-mail [rebecca.becker@fihosp.org](mailto:rebecca.becker@fihosp.org).

## North American Division

### Association of Seventh-day Adventist

#### Libraries 2008 Conference, "Libraries

360°: The Whole Picture," will be **June 22-28** at Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, Calif. Librarians of all specialties are invited to attend. For registration information, visit [\[asdal.org\]\(http://asdal.org\), or contact Carlene Drake by e-mail: \[cdrake@llu.edu\]\(mailto:cdrake@llu.edu\) or phone: 909-558-4581.](http://www.</a></p>
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## Wisconsin

### Wisconsin Academy Alumni, April 25-27.

Vespers: **Fri., Apr. 25**, at 7:30 p.m. in the gym. Sabbath School: **Apr. 26** at 9:30 a.m., followed by church in the gym. Music program: 3:00 p.m. Sabbath in the chapel. Hallowed Moments: 7:15 p.m. in the chapel. Business Meeting: 7:45 p.m. in the History Room. Basketball games will begin at 8:30 p.m. Golf Tournament: **Sun., Apr. 27**—watch for more announcements. Malcolm Anderson, 1971, will be our organist for the weekend. There will be some rooms available in the dorms on a first come basis. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Sigler at 920-623-3300, ext. 18, or email [development@wisacad.org](mailto:development@wisacad.org).

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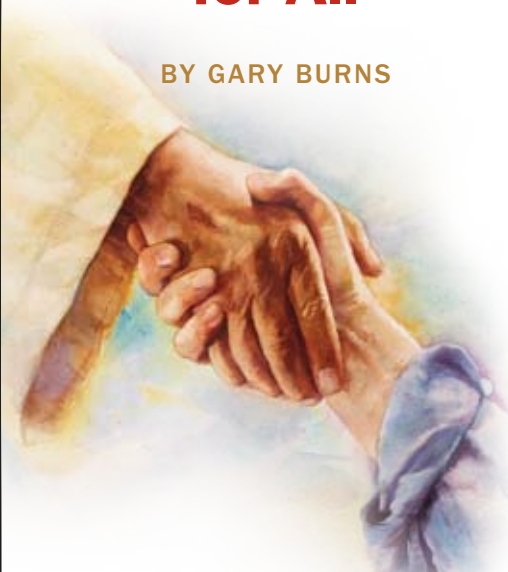
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## PARTNERSHIP with GOD ...and Justice for All

BY GARY BURNS



I had been doing some work for an inner city hospital and was making my way out the front lobby when a man in a white T-shirt burst through the front door holding his hands against a very large red area on his gut. In a loud and desperate voice he pleaded, "Where's the emergency room?" He had just been shot.

That was my first real encounter with life on the streets of an impoverished and volatile community, but it wasn't the last.

We've had to make a number of trips to Chicago during the last several years, mostly on business, but sometimes personal. During our journeys around the south side of the lake, startling messages about the economy, capitalism and justice invaded our mobile cell of comfort.

We have taken a number of routes into the heart of the city, and each one has provided insights. The route that is usually the quick-

est takes us right by a hospital. Each year its emergency room receives 25,000 visits—many related to gunshots, stabbings and other acts of violence or abuse. Of the patients served, 80 percent are dependent on Medicare and Medicaid.

Before we get too close to the city, we always make sure we have plenty of gas. We could fill up at a gas station just down the street from the hospital, but in this poorer section of town we'd have to pay maybe 30 to 50 cents more per gallon. Something is wrong with this picture.

Those who have a heart like God's are concerned about justice for the poor, but the wicked are oblivious to their plight (Proverbs 29:7). What would it mean to become real partners with God in His work of providing justice for all?

Gary Burns is the communication director for the Lake Union Conference.

# The Gift of Music

BY LUCY LEWIS

Familiar sounds echo down the narrow hallway as I walk toward the music room with a line of kids with their violin cases trailing behind me. As we reach the open doorway, I am greeted by the sight of a phenomenal woman, Roberta Guaspari, working with a group of intermediate violin students, and am once again impressed with her tenacity and drive for excellence. As I watch, I silently wonder to myself, *How could I have ever considered not being a music teacher?*

When Carla Trynchuk, my violin professor at Andrews University, asked me whether or not I wanted to do my student teaching with Roberta Guaspari in Harlem, my first response was, “Are you serious?” followed by a very quick, “Yes!”

Featured in the film, *Music of the Heart* (starring Meryl Streep), Roberta is a woman who has dedicated her life to sharing the gift of music with thousands of children in Harlem. Her determination and perseverance are remarkable considering she came to New York City all by herself with two small children to raise and no job. She convinced a few schools in Harlem to let her start a violin program, but ten years later, when budget cuts were being made, the violin program was at the top of the list to go. Roberta decided to put up a fight, and long story short, several influential musicians, including Arnold Steinhardt, Itzhak Perlman and Isaac Stern helped to arrange a fund-raising concert (“Fiddlefest”) at Carnegie Hall where they played alongside her students. This incredible, sold-out performance won Roberta international recognition, and the proceeds more than covered the costs of the violin program for the upcoming school year.

Today, programs in six different New York City public schools offer violin, viola and cello lessons to more than 500 students per year. Additionally, in 2003, the Opus 118 Harlem School of Music was founded to provide after-school music lessons and dynamic group classes for both children and adults.

Learning to live in Harlem after growing up in Berrien Springs has been a bit of a culture shock and a challenge to be sure, but as I walk each day in this multifaceted city I have learned to love the “Big Apple,” the subways, the people, and especially the children. It has been a unique privilege to be mentored by Roberta. Each day I am learning more about how to teach children excellence, discipline and perseverance through playing the violin. For some of the children, music will be the tool that takes them out of an “at-risk” lifestyle and allows them to consider options that would not otherwise have been possible.

Working with these precious children has been a humbling experience, and my daily prayer has become the words to the second stanza of the hymn, “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”:

*Help me the slow of heart to move*

*By some clear, winning word of love;*

*Teach me the wayward feet to stay,*

*And guide them in the homeward way.*

I began the semester not quite sure if “teaching was for me,” and am finishing knowing that there is nothing else I would rather do.

---

Lucy Lewis is a senior at Andrews University completing her degree in music education.

In May 2007 she graduated with degrees in violin performance and Spanish with a minor in bilingual education. For more information about the Opus 118 Harlem School of Music, go to [www.opus118.org](http://www.opus118.org).



**Andrew Blosser**, 17, is the son of Steve and Nancy Blosser of Lansing, Michigan. Home schooled for the majority of his elementary and high school education, Andrew now attends Lansing Community College (LCC) part-time and one home school class. This is Andrew's senior year of high school, and he plans to attend LCC full time next semester.



Andrew Blosser

Andrew's extracurricular activities have included Teen Leadership Training (TLT) and Pathfinders, Magabook literature evangelism, Fellowship of Christian Farmers (an interdenominational evangelistic group), and FLAG Camp, a day camp in Berrien Springs, Mich. Andrew is co-leader of a Kindergarten Sabbath school class and an assistant for his church's Adventurer program. He enjoys discussing theology, reading, skiing, listening to sermons and telling corny jokes.

Recently Andrew remarked, "God has blessed me with various opportunities to minister for Him through preaching, and this constitutes one of my main interests. ... I possess little skill in the pulpit right now, but God is slowly teaching me."

After attending LCC one year, Andrew plans to study theology at Andrews University. He said, "By God's power, my future goals include attending seminary at Fuller or Talbot, and then possibly going into full-time evangelism. The sole purpose of my life is to win the lost at any cost."



Lydia Weiso

**Lydia Marie Weiso**, 16, is a senior at Northwest Academy in Charlevoix, Michigan. She enjoys singing in the choir, playing the hand bells, archery, snowboarding, football, climbing, hiking and horseback riding. She arranged and directed the 2007 Christmas program for the Petoskey church school.

"Being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian in a public school is a challenge," says Lydia. "We are not able to start the day with the blessing of God as a group, nor can our teachers do that in class. I miss that. When asked about my beliefs, I share all I can so others see that I believe in God, in Jesus as my Savior, and in the help and influence of the Holy Spirit."

Lydia realizes that peer pressure is hard to overcome on her own, and that is why she keeps God first in her mind and asks for His presence every morning. She wants others to see how God has influenced her life and that loving God can be fun. Lydia's desire is for others to have His love in their life, too!

In college, Lydia plans to pursue a degree in education to become a high school history and math teacher.

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