

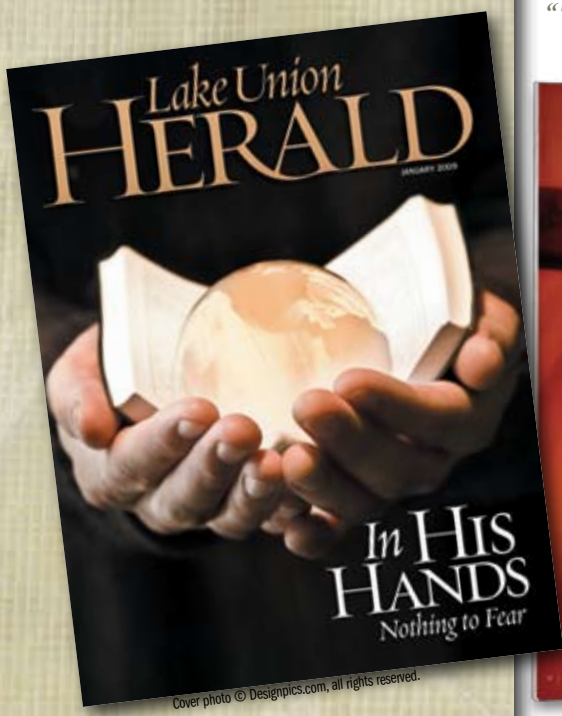
Lake Union
HERALD

JANUARY 2009



In HIS
HANDS
Nothing to Fear

"Telling the stories of what God is doing in the lives of His people"



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by Don Livesay, Lake Union president
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in this issue...

The apple of God's eye and the object of His supreme regard and affection, the church remains the storehouse of the riches of God's grace. Though imperfect, and in some sectors literally hijacked, there has remained through the ages a remnant of believers loyal to its Founder. It is their privilege to represent the fullness of Christ to the world. They are called to be servants, and their mission is to tell the story of Jesus. The resurrected and exalted Christ is pictured walking in their midst and holding its leadership in His hands. They are secure in Christ and have nothing to fear.

Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor



features...

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We are very pleased to announce that **Don Livesay** is the new Lake Union president. You'll enjoy reading our new president's perspective on the next page and learning more about the Livesays on p. 24. —*The editors*

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Greetings

Over the past several weeks an amazing process has taken place in our lives. God has made it clear He is calling us to join the Lake Union family. Actually, it is a homecoming.

I was born in Benton Harbor, Michigan, as my father Kenneth, a native of southern Illinois, was finishing his theological training at Emmanuel Missionary College. He began his ministry in the Michigan Conference. I remember camp meetings. Our first daughter was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, when we were attending the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

History is fun and important, especially when it helps to formulate good values and an ability to focus on the present and to plan for the future. Each of us has a journey in life that tends to form values that dramatically influence who we are. If values are only formed from personal experience, they can be very subjective and unbalanced. But if our values are driven primarily from the Word of God and from carefully listening to God's prompting and guidance, then His wisdom will influence both the small and large decisions that are formational to our character.

Psalm 119:105 has become an important text to Barbara and me: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." When the psalmist wrote this passage, what kind of light do you suppose he was thinking of?

When I was a conference Pathfinder director, I occasionally saw a Pathfinder carrying a huge flashlight at a campout with a beam that would reach a long way. We often wish for that kind of light in our lives—one that would illuminate the future for days, months or even years to come. But, thankfully, God knows better. He knows our future holds both blessings and difficulties. If we knew about those future details, it would often be very distracting from a productive life today. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6 to focus on today. So it does not seem like Psalm 119:105 is referring to one of those huge lights.

You've probably seen the kind of lamp the psalmist was thinking of, a small clay container with a wick. On a dark night it would give off just enough light ... for the next step. When you step into the light on the pathway just before you, the next step is then illuminated. Step by step, illuminated by the Word of God, showing His day-to-day plan that becomes His long-term will for our lives. Some might call it a walk of faith.

Psalm 119:105 is more than a statement; it is a wonderful promise that God is leading our lives. Barbara and I are grateful God has illuminated our pathway to join the wonderful Adventist family here in the Lake Union Conference. We will look forward to our journey together, seeking God's will and walking in it.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Wisconsin God has blessed **Shiloh** and **Cheyenne Andrus** with special musical talents. That became evident to members of the Green Bay Church when the two girls attended and participated in the church's Youth Talent Show.

Michael Tuionetoa, associate pastor, saw an opportunity for Shiloh and Cheyenne to use the gifts that God had given them to help with the church's music program. When he suggested the idea, they were happy for the invitation. In addition to their involvement with the worship program, they joined the youth Bible study group and also attended the adult Bible studies.

As they became more involved with the church, the sisters told Michael of their interest in receiving personal Bible studies to prepare to be baptized. As Shiloh and Cheyenne began their studies, Michael discovered they already knew a great deal about the Bible's teachings on many subjects. They had already learned much through some of the programs on the Three Angels Broadcasting Network.

Shiloh and Cheyenne's parents were very supportive of what they were learning. Cheyenne commented, "My mom always tells me, 'Give what you cannot keep, to gain what you cannot lose.' My life here on Earth I cannot keep, so I've given my life to Jesus. With Him I'll have eternal life."



Shiloh Andrus, Michael Tuionetoa (Green Bay Church associate pastor) and Cheyenne Andrus rejoice together on the day of the girls' baptisms, September 13, 2008.

It was evident that Shiloh and Cheyenne had already committed themselves to serving the Lord before their baptisms. Following their baptisms Shiloh said, "God is great! I was baptized because I wanted to be with God more of the time. I felt I was ready to be baptized because the Holy Spirit had come into my life. I am now ready to do God's work."

Cheyenne added, "I was baptized because I felt God was calling me. I have always felt God's closeness, and He gave me the gift of life to do His will here on Earth. It is my gift to Him to be baptized. I also felt it was the right time to do it."

God has once again placed two new members in the church, just as He pleased, with special gifts and talents to bless and encourage others. The Green Bay Church is happy to have Shiloh and Cheyenne as part of their family.

Michael Tuionetoa, associate pastor, Green Bay Church, as shared with Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*

Indiana December 1, 2007, was a high Sabbath at the Huntingburg Church, as **Chiffon Wilson** was baptized into the family of God by her pastor, Justin Childers. Chiffon has attended this church from the time she was big enough to be carried into the sanctuary by her parents, Brian and Angie Wilson. Being born into a small congregation with only 20 members, as Chiffon was, can have advantages and disadvantages.

Some of the advantages include being able to participate in Sabbath school from the time she could mouth "Jesus" and knowing everyone in the church family on a first name basis.

Disadvantages would include not having many, if any, other children in Sabbath school and church, sharing the Sabbath school lesson with younger children, and worshiping with sometimes only a dozen other members.

There was no Adventist school available in her small community, and Chiffon's friends from the school she



With her heart full of Christ's love, Chiffon Wilson was baptized and became a member of the Huntingburg Church. Also pictured: Justin Childers

attended did not attend her church. She was not able to participate in many of her school's social activities as most were held on Friday night or Sabbath.

However, Chiffon had strong support from her family, and their daily time for the Bible and prayer was blessed by the Holy Spirit. In response, Chiffon asked her father last year if they could study the "Prophecies of Hope" series together. Chiffon desired to know what the Bible taught because she wanted to be an Adventist Christian like her parents. After completing the prophecy series, the pastor and Chiffon reviewed the "In His Steps" baptismal preparation program. Then, with her heart full of Christ's love, Chiffon had the joy of being baptized in the church she had always known as her own.

With baptism comes added responsibilities and opportunities, and Chiffon's church family asked her to serve as a deaconess. Chiffon has many opportunities to share her faith as a sophomore at Jasper High School, and plans to attend college after graduation. Her parents believe God has a place and plan for her life, and He will make it clear to her in the years ahead.

Praise the Lord for teenagers who choose to stand strong for Jesus as they daily show their trust in Him.

Brian Wilson, communications leader, Huntingburg Church, as shared with Bruce Babienko, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*

Michigan What a thrilling experience it is when the Holy Spirit creates an interest in the hearts and minds of people for spiritual things, and then brings the right people into their lives to cooperate with Him. That's what happened when members of the Menominee Church had the opportunity to share their faith and study with **Evelyn Chavez** and **Jason Wery**.

On May 17, 2008, the results of the relationships formed and discoveries made were celebrated as Evelyn and Jason expressed their faith in Jesus and committed themselves to Him by being baptized. With the support of family and

friends, Evelyn and Jason came to their special moment as Diane Kobar led in singing,



Jason Wery was baptized at the Wilson Church by Bela Kobar, pastor, with many family members and friends present.



The Wilson Church family rejoiced when Evelyn Chavez committed her life to Jesus and made a decision to be baptized. Also pictured: Bela Kobar, pastor

"Take Me to the Water." The Menominee Church's women's trio added to the event

with their selection that gave a real sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit at the service conducted by Bela Kobar, pastor of the Menominee and Wilson churches.

A call by the pastor was extended, following the service, for anyone who wished to recommit their lives or be baptized in the near future. Hands were raised by some desiring to become the next candidates for such a memorable experience.

Evelyn and Jason continue to grow in their faith and find opportunities to share their commitment to follow Jesus with others.

Betty Wery, communication secretary, Wilson 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

Helping Hands and Healing Hearts

BY REBECCA GARRETT

When Danny Frederick, Hinsdale Adventist Academy's Bible teacher and outreach coordinator, heard that the town of Munster, Indiana, was still in a desperate situation after flooding from the heavy September rains, he knew he had to take action! So, on October 9, 2008, a group of freshmen and sophomore students went to Munster to assist the United Way.

The students went door to door in the area of Munster devastated by eight feet or more of floodwaters from the Calumet River. Their mission was to find homeowners who still needed assistance cleaning and sanitizing their homes, and also those who needed construction help and/or the replacement of furnaces, air conditioners, hot water heaters and more!

The students paired up and went door to door to also talk with residents to learn how the United Way could help. Then, the students relayed the information to United Way leaders so volunteers could be assigned to help the homeowners with their needs.

The students heard firsthand what these residents experienced.

For many homeowners, they lost everything and their insurance did not cover the loss of personal property. One resident told how she could only get around by boat, which she tied to her front porch! Other residents showed newspaper accounts of what the area looked like during the flooding. While many residents were well on their way to getting back to normal, there were many others who needed a lot of help because they either didn't have the financial means or manpower to get the work completed.

Cassis Chlevin, a sophomore, recalled: "Prior to our trip to Munster, Indiana, I had never done any surveying for disaster relief. I was surprised at how easy and rewarding it was. It was amazing to see how many people were keeping a positive attitude after all they had gone through! A lot

of people were very eager to talk with us and were grateful for our help. One lady even called us angels and gave us a big hug!"

Most of the residents told the students how much they appreciated their visit and wanted to pray with the students before they left. It was the students, however, who received the biggest blessing from knowing they really did make a difference in the lives of people in need.

Danny reflected, "It is God's will that all men be knowledge-

able about His love and desire for them to be saved. But, how is this accomplished? One of the ways this is done is through mission work. When people think of mission work, however, they often think of Africa, India, Central America or Asia. But, mission work can be done in Munster, Indiana, as well. It was a joy to see students walking from house to house, knocking on door after door, to bring help and free service to families who have been displaced by the floods."



Hinsdale Adventist Academy freshmen and sophomores, and their chaperones, gathered outside the United Way headquarters in Munster, Indiana.

Rebecca Garrett is the marketing director at Hinsdale Adventist Academy.





UNFORGOTTEN CHILDREN

BY DIANE THURBER

I boarded a bus in Ficksburg, South Africa, with a group of Hope for Humanity ambassadors from the States. We traveled across the nearby border to Lesotho, a country of 2.3 million where a quarter of the adult population is estimated to be HIV positive. Destination: Maluti Adventist Hospital.

My eyes were glued to the countryside and people we passed en route to the hospital. I pondered how our church ended up with a presence in such a remote location and wondered about the dedication of those serving there. My thoughts were interrupted as we pulled up to a guarded entrance outside the hospital, a hospital dependent on funds from donors.



Born shortly before our arrival, only two of these babies have homes to go to. The others were orphaned by mothers who died from complications from AIDS.

Medical students, physicians, other learners and volunteers come from places throughout the world to Maluti to gain experience and provide assistance at this hospital. But it succeeds because of staff like the hospital's physical therapist, Lyn Hurlow, and her husband, Wilbert, who have a tender heart for the people they serve and a desire to extend the healing hand of Jesus as they ease the burdens of those they encounter.

We toured Lyn's one-bed physical therapy clinic and saw lines of patients waiting to experience her healing hand. These are part of her mission, but there's more. Outside the Maluti gates, in the surrounding villages, live approximately 4,700 children—orphans made vulnerable by the AIDS pandemic in Lesotho. Lyn chairs a committee that endeavors to improve the quality of life of these innocent children. The hospital does what it can to relieve their burdens.

Walking through the villages near the hospital, Lyn learns of children caring for younger siblings or of the grandmother

raising nine children, though no longer able to walk because of a stroke. When her paycheck arrives, Lyn purchases milk and food for these dear people without spending a cent on herself. We walked with Lyn one afternoon as she showed us the villagers' challenges. Lyn

was well-known and loved throughout the hillside. Children hugged her neck or clasped her hands. Her sacrificial giving was a witness to me as were the relationships she built.

I thought about my ability to relieve the suffering of these precious children. Witnessing Lyn in the villages, I gained greater appreciation for what our church accomplishes collectively as we give to missions. God multiplies our gifts and places them in the hands of dedicated servants like Lyn who diligently work on His behalf and inspire hope and a love for our Deliverer who hasn't forgotten His children in places like Lesotho. I left with a greater desire to be a better steward, so I could divert more for God's priority list.

Diane Thurber is the assistant communication director of the Lake Union Conference.

Donations for the Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Program at Maluti Adventist Hospital may be sent to Hope for Humanity (see www.hope4.com), a ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To learn more about the hospital, visit www.malutiadventisthospital.org.





Words Fitly Spoken

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

“The apple of God’s eye and the object of His supreme affection, the church remains the storehouse of the riches of God’s grace.”

These are Gary Burns’ thoughts, which you may have already read on the inside cover of this issue. I was reminded of two things when I read that sentence. First, I thought of Proverbs 25:11, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”

I was also reminded of wise words shared by an older friend when we were parenting our young children. We first knew Jan Doward and his family when we taught together in Washington state. He visited us in Pennsylvania while working for the General Conference in Maryland, and the three of us enjoyed a long chat around our kitchen table. The children were generally within hearing range, although not part of that conversation.

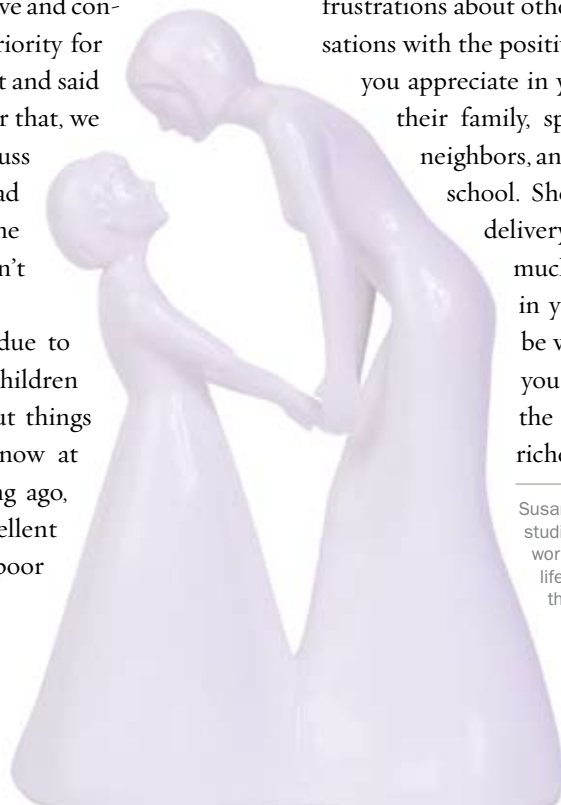
Before we left the table, Jan quietly cautioned us, saying that conversations within our children’s hearing could possibly cause them to question those in leadership. Those were helpful words, spoken in love and concern. Even though this was a priority for us, we had evidently relaxed a bit and said more than we should have. After that, we made an extra effort to only discuss information and opinions we had about issues when we were alone and had our own privacy. It wasn’t always easy or convenient.

In this tell-all world, and due to time and energy constraints, children often overhear adults talk about things they don’t need to hear or know at their developmental stage. Long ago, I learned that children are excellent recorders, but they are often poor interpreters.

Children learn soon enough that there is unfairness and differences in opinion. It is not that we should shield them from the realities of living in this world altogether. On the other hand, we would often do well to ask ourselves why we are having a conversation, or sharing certain information, in front of them. I am reminded of something I often share regarding relationships: If someone isn’t part of the problem or part of the solution, ask yourself why you are involving them. In other words, you don’t need to involve them.

You are invited to consider taking the words of Proverbs to heart with your own children. Instead of airing your frustrations about others in front of them, fill your conversations with the positives in your life. Share positive things you appreciate in your pastor, pray for him or her and their family, speak well of your spouse, relatives, neighbors, and the teachers and staff at your child’s school. Show appreciation to store clerks and delivery men. Let your children know how much you appreciate the many people in your life, including them. These will be words fitly spoken, and those around you will perhaps better understand how the church remains a storehouse of the riches of God’s grace!

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.



Touch facilitates the normal growth and development of children.



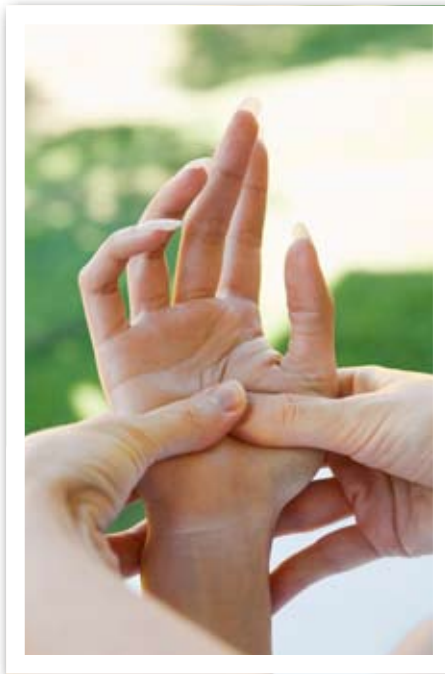
Many are realizing the importance of touch in the healing process.

Touch Therapy

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

During the festive holiday season, we strive to make contact with special people. With cell phones, text messaging and e-mails, it has become so much easier to keep in contact with friends and family. But in today's world of computerized technology are we really connecting effectively? Do we truly reach out and touch someone?

Touch is a very fundamental human need. Children crave it, teenagers want it and adults thrive on it. The skin is the most sensitive of our organs. It facilitates real communication between individuals. Infants and children who suffer from a deprivation of touch normally experience behavioral abnormalities later in life. Children demand the security and reassurance of a parent's hand when they enter an unfamiliar place that seems dark or threatening. An affirming pat on the back or a hug of appreciation has helped many a friend or family member feel connected. In the cancer world, tumor cells grow bizarre when they fail to recognize adjoining cells touching them.



In a recent study, the growth, mental development and sleep patterns of normal infants were significantly improved by receiving regular skin-to-skin touching from their parents at least two to three times a day. The earlier in their life they received the therapeutic touch, the better was their development. Touch therapy also facilitates the physiological and behavioral well-being of preterm infants, such as improved coordination in sucking and swallowing. Maternal massage therapy to premature infants facilitated weight gain and decreased the length of hospital stay.

In the West, the medical system has been viewed by some as cold and detached, replete with machines and technology.

Health practitioners are now realizing the importance that touch can play in the healing process. Some large cancer centers in the U.S. have started to utilize massage therapy to improve the quality of sleep, reduce fatigue, pain, anxiety and nausea. Massage may increase the levels of lymphocytes and natural killer cells.

Massage is a practice that dates back thousands of years. Ancient Greek, Roman, Chinese and Egyptian writings make reference to massage. Today, part of the effectiveness of complementary medical practices, such as massage and hydrotherapy, depends upon the therapeutic touch of the caregiver. Massage is utilized for a variety of reasons—to relieve pain,

rehabilitate sports injuries, reduce stress, increase relaxation, treat chronic low-back pain and improve the quality of life.

When Christ healed the sick and needy, He often touched them in a unique way. For the blind man, Jesus made clay and placed it upon his eyes. He put His fingers in the ears of a deaf man, and touched his tongue. He held children close in His arms as He blessed them. He touched the lepers with healing and dignity. The Master's touch was powerful—it provided genuine healing.

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



EXTREME GRACE

The Highest “High Place”

BY DICK DUERKSEN

A “church” is a building or location where believers gather to worship their God or gods. “The church” is shorthand for the believers who gather to worship, socialize and attract others.

Gideon’s first “mighty man” assignment was to destroy the grove where the town worshipped Baal and Asherah—deities of wood and stone. God had warned them, “I told you not to worship the gods of the enemy, but you didn’t listen to me” (Judges 6).



Dick Duerksen

Creator’s presence. A “high place” is where groups of believers gather to worship their god or gods. One of those, a cluster of trees beside Norway’s Frøyshov graveyard, dates from before the coming of Christ. The graves, the relics and the pat-

terns of worship all point to a culture where sacrifices were made and worship given so gods would “make the rain fall and the crops grow.” When Elijah challenged Ahab to the rain-making face-off on Mt. Carmel there were two altars in the grove. One was a well-cared-for altar where the priests of Baal pled for the “god who brings rain and makes grass grow” to pour his blessings on their land. The other was a broken-down pile where God’s people used to celebrate His victory over their enemies. By the end of the day the Baal altar and its matched Asherah pole were destroyed ... and God’s altar rebuilt so He could burn it down and fill the hole with rain water (1 Kings 18).

King Hezekiah “removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles” (2 Kings 18). His son Manasseh built them back up again and re-instituted Baal and Asherah worship in the groves. Then, after his prison conversion, he tried unsuccessfully to get the people to tear them down again (2 Kings 21). Finally, King Josiah tore them down, burned the Asherah pole and scattered its ashes in the graveyard! (2 Kings 23)

Earth’s history is punctuated by the lifting up and burning down of gods and goddesses.

Crumbling Scottish cathedrals, the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, the circles of Stonehenge, the pyramids of Yucatan, the kivas of Mesa Verde, the coliseum of Rome, and the lights of Las Vegas articulate the enemy’s message of superiority. His greatest skill is distracting humans from The

Creator’s presence.

As on Mt. Carmel, worshippers gathered here to appease the gods of fertility and war—believing their sacrifices would deflect divine anger and curry favor for their fields, herds and children. They believed “right” worship would result in better treatment from the gods they feared.

God’s “church” is not like that. His “high places” are where groups of believers gather to worship The Creator. No cowering here. No currying of favor or appeasement is necessary or appropriate. Already, He has promised to “heal diseases” (Exodus 15), “reason together” (Isaiah 1:18), “grant peace” (John 14:27), “give life” (John 10:10), and even come again in person to take us to our new home in His house (John 14:1–4).

Christ’s sacrifice has already been made, and “there is nothing any of us can do to add anything to what God has already done for us!” (Philippians 4)

God’s “church” is a place of joyful confession, repentance, praise and celebration! (Luke 15)

Dick Duerksen is the official “storyteller” for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact the author at dduerksen@maranatha.org.

This photo was taken by the author at Frøyshov High Place, an hour from Oslo, Norway; two miles from an Adventist academy.



Dear God...

BY DON JACOBSEN

Dear God,
I like Your church.

Thank You for inviting me to be part of it. I love the welcome I sense when I go to the place where it meets. And I'm honored to be part of the group that meets regularly there to worship You.

I love the music, and most of the preaching. I love the study and the fellowship. But most of all is the knowledge that it is a special place where You have chosen to meet with Your people. That's amazing! I am always changed when I give You worship, and I like that. Church is a great idea.

Now, You may have noticed that we have an "Invocation" at the beginning of our service every week. I understand that's when we are invoking You to be with us. With Your permission, I think I'd like to change that word. It's Your day. It's Your family. And it's Your house. That means You invited us. The whole idea was Yours. We are there as Your guests. That must mean You really like us. Thank You.

I know about the "enfeebled and defective" part, too. I see a lot of that going on around me. Actually, I see a lot of that going on in me. But I am comforted to know that You are a God who loves to fix broken things. Thank You for not giving up on us. Thank You for continuing to show up even when we don't act nice toward each other. Even when we demonstrate our spiritual arrogance—which I understand You find especially repulsive. One of the names by which we know You is the meek and lowly Jesus. One of the reasons we come there is because we want to develop a strong family likeness with our Elder Brother.

Sometimes I think about Macao and Madagascar and Mongolia. And Paris and Palau and Patagonia. I'd like to help the people there learn about the God I know. I'd love to help them see into Your great heart. But I can't go to all of those places.

It's then I remember that I can help the people in those places with my prayers and my offerings, but I don't have to go there ... Your church is already there. So, I rejoice in knowing I am part of something really, really big that You are doing in Your world. We call it church. (By the way, I try to remember to pray for them every day.)

I've always liked family reunions, and I understand there is a big one just around the corner. I think that means I'll get to see some of my brothers and sisters I've never met ... from China and Chile and Chicago. We're talking eager anticipation here. And thank You for the eternity part of that promise. It's going to take that long to think of enough ways to say, "Thank You."

Your friend.

Don Jacobsen is the former president of Adventist World Radio. He writes from Hiawassee, Georgia.

Let the Little Children Come

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Isabelle Leclerc, a speech pathology major at Andrews University, says, “I enjoy going to Outreach because if I don’t, I feel like I’m not doing anything for God. Helping kids makes you feel useful to people who really need you.” Isabelle is one of the many students from Andrews University who enjoys spending Sabbath afternoons spreading the message of Jesus and His love for us to non-Christian children through outreach opportunities.

Kid Zone, the newest outreach program offered by Andrews University Campus Ministries, takes place every Sabbath afternoon at the Harbor of Hope Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Started by Walter Rogers, Center for Youth Evangelism children’s ministries director, Kid Zone offers college students and volunteers the chance to spend quality time with children in the community.

Kid Zone invites children from throughout the area to learn biblical truths, specifically targeting four- to 12-year-olds. The ministry begins Friday afternoons when Walter and his “crew” visit families at their homes. “We try to reach every single kid each week,” he says. “Visiting the families is the hidden part of our ministry. It is the backbone in building relationships.” The chatting and prayer guides families to Christ, as well as the newly reinvented, family-friendly church services that use visual sermons, stories, pictures and songs to spark interest. While Kid Zone is focused on the children, it’s really a way to minister to the entire family.

When the kids arrive at the Harbor of Hope Church Sabbath afternoon, a 15-minute song service helps get the wiggles out, and is followed by wholesome games encouraging noise and excitement. The goal is to teach one biblical lesson in seven different ways. Various approaches are used, including object lessons, skits, optical illusions, “magic” tricks, Bible trivia, memory verses and games. The resulting



Walter Rogers and his Kid Zone team use a variety of tactics to keep the children entertained and engaged.

cheering and laughter enforces a tactic Walter calls “controlled chaos.” After the activities are complete, kids are hustled to quickly find a seat—girls on one side and boys on the other.

“Those games were really fun,” encourage the leaders, “but they won’t change your life. Now is the time to listen. This is the Bible. It can change your life.”

Five-cent candies, balloons and even ice cream are used as incentives to encourage the kids to focus on the lesson while taking in God’s Word. The object lessons vary from week to week, with fun and applicable topics such as “Love Is Not a Feeling” and “The Good Samaritan.”

Every Sabbath, 50 to 60 kids are brought from non-Christian homes into the arms of Christ. Other interactive, relationship-based outreach programs from Andrews University include Buddies and R.O.C.K. (Reaching Out Connecting Kids); both provide ways for student volunteers to connect with children by spending time together singing, doing crafts or simply playing games. Other outreach opportunities include a program to connect with Hispanics and bilingual children, and a youth ministry program for kids older than age 12. With missions like these making a huge impact, what’s stopping you from reaching for kids outside the zone?

Ashleigh Jardine is a freshman studying at Andrews University.



¡SÍ SE PUEDE!

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Por la fe los hijos de Dios ganaron reinos, obraron justicia, alcanzaron promesas, taparon las bocas de leones, apagaron fuegos impetuosos, evitaron filo de cuchillo, convalecieron de enfermedades, fueron hechos fuertes en batallas, trastornaron campos de extraños” (Hebrews 11: 33, 34). Y por la fe hemos de llegar hoy a las alturas del propósito que Dios tiene para nosotros” (Profetas y reyes, p. 115, 116).

Este mes de enero se realiza un evento significativo en la historia de los Estados Unidos: la inauguración del primer presidente afro-americano. Cuando el senador Barack Obama ganó la elección en noviembre del año pasado, ver la reacción del mundo fue algo extraordinario. Por televisión se vio a multitudes en Chicago, Nueva York, Atlanta, Washington, D. C., y hasta en países como Kenya y Alemania celebrar el evento con mucha emoción.

Al haber visto el desarrollo del movimiento de los derechos civiles en este país yo comprendo la reacción de la gente, en especial los afro-americanos. Recuerdo cómo en la década de los sesenta era desafiado el movimiento de los derechos civiles por los que querían mantener separadas las razas. Muchos habían puesto sus esperanzas en líderes que tenían la visión de derrumbar las barreras de injusticia. Pero por un tiempo parecía que no había mucho movimiento positivo. Recuerdo la tristeza que sentí cuando en abril de 1968 nos avisaron en la escuela en el Bronx que el Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., un gran líder en el movimiento de los derechos civiles, había sido asesinado. Más tarde, en junio de ese mismo año, otro gran líder, Robert Kennedy, también fue asesinado. Como resultado, muchos (incluyendo a su servidor) sintieron cierta desesperación por las condiciones de las relaciones humanas en el país. A los que hemos visto la discriminación nos parecía casi imposible creer que algún día tendríamos a un presidente perteneciente a una minoría.

Es obvio ahora ver que la barrera racial que antes existía

se ha derrumbado. Antes se cantaba la canción: *We shall overcome* (Nosotros venceremos); ahora muchos cantan: *We HAVE overcome* (Nosotros HEMOS vencido).

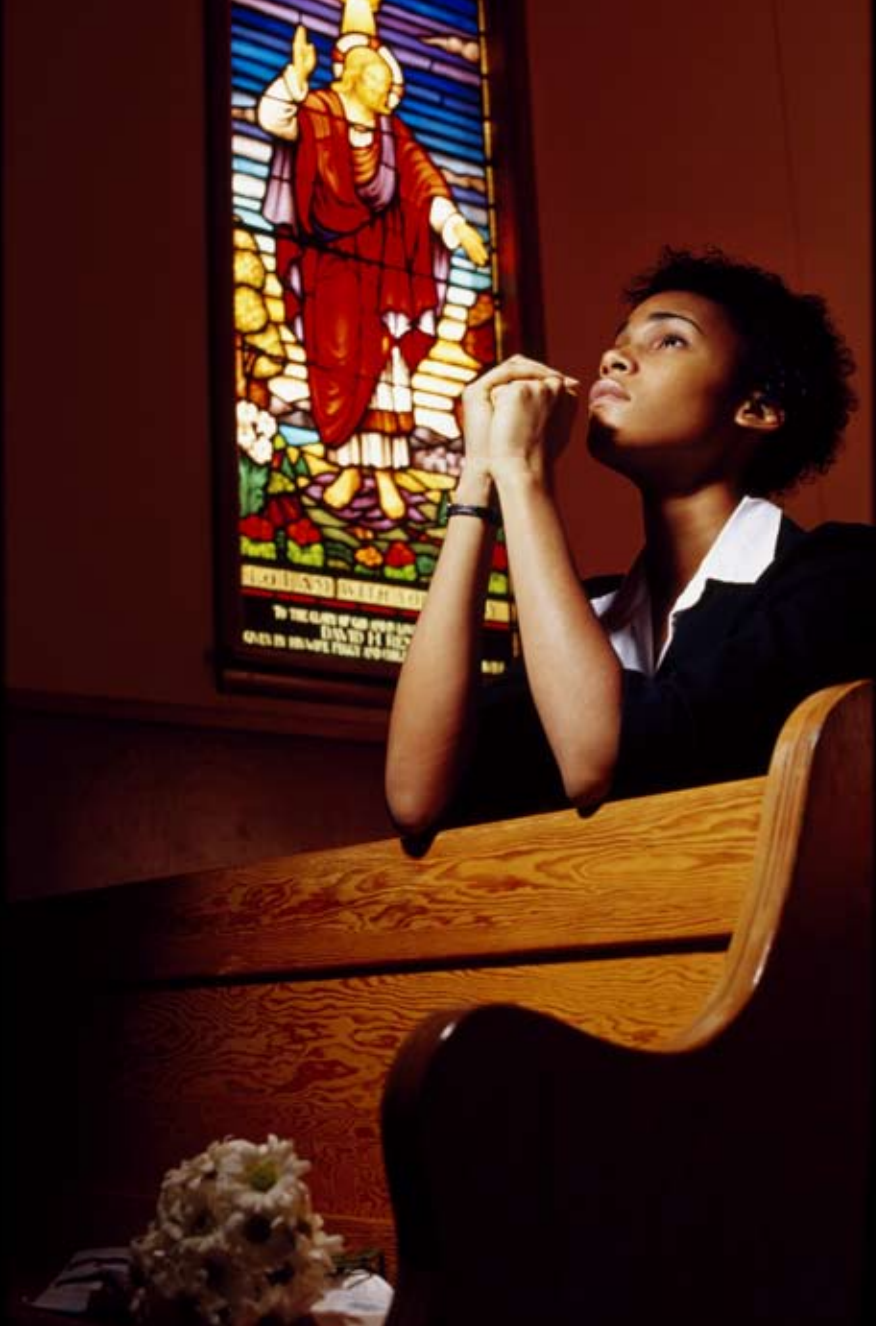


El día de las elecciones, en Grant Park, Chicago, se levantó una bandera que decía: ¡Hemos vencido!

La lección espiritual que se desprende de este evento es que a pesar de los desafíos que enfrentamos en este mundo de pecado Dios tiene como su propósito hacernos vencedores ahora. El apóstol Juan confirma este punto en su epístola cuando escribe: “Hijitos, vosotros sois de Dios, y los habéis vencido, porque el que está en vosotros es mayor que el que está en el mundo” (1 Juan 4:4).

Al ver que es una realidad lo que antes me parecía imposible me ha dado la convicción que Dios desea darnos la oportunidad de terminar la obra de presentar el evangelio a todo el mundo en *esta generación*. Algunos preguntan: ¿Será posible completar la predicación a todo el mundo durante mi vida? La respuesta de Pablo es clara: “¡Todo lo puedo en Cristo que me fortalece!” Filipenses 4:13. En otras palabras—*¡Sí se puede!*

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



How Faith Works

A C A S E S T U D Y

BY SKIP MACCARTY

I have always been fascinated with how faith works in a person's life. According to the Bible, when we come in to this world at birth, no one is good or even seeks God (Romans 3:10–12). It says we're spiritually dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). If that's true, then how does anyone ever go from no faith in God to having such a passionate faith in God that they'd be willing to face ridicule and even martyrdom for Him?

It seems to me that there are three stages in the inception, growth and development of faith. The first is the inception, or divine intervention, stage.

INCEPTION STAGE (DIVINE INTERVENTION)

Saul was intent on eradicating the followers of Jesus, whom he considered to be a charlatan and blasphemer. But then came the divine intervention—a blinding light and the audible voice of Jesus (Acts 9). The rest of that story is history.

On a recent flight to the Montana camp meeting I sat by Anna, who had an undergraduate degree in cosmology and is now working on a Ph.D. in the history of science. I love science so we talked all the way. At some point intelligent design came up. She informed me that she's an atheist.

That gave me a chance to share with Anna something I learned 40 years ago to share with atheists: There's a lot of things about life and the Bible that I don't fully understand. But a dominant theme of the Bible is that one day every one of us will stand before God in a final judgment and will give an account for the few years we were granted on this earth. At that time we will look back and see countless times that God had intervened in our lives to assure us that He's real and that He loves us and wants us to believe in Him and become a follower of His Son Jesus. The only thing that will matter then is how we responded to those divine interventions and invitations He gave us to believe in Him and to be restored to the eternal destiny He's planned for us.

That's a powerful truth for all of us. Someday at the final judgment we will look back and see it all so clearly. Today God is saying: No need to wait until that someday, when it will be too late to do anything about it. Today is that someday for you.

God may have intervened in your life through your parents, or a Christian friend, or some dramatic event that has occurred in your life. But whatever it was, or is, or will be, you will recognize it and have a sense that it was an intervention and invitation from God. "The sinner may resist this love, may refuse to be drawn to Christ; but if he does not resist, he will be drawn to Jesus; a knowledge of the plan

of salvation will lead him to the foot of the cross in repentance for his sins, which have caused the sufferings of God's dear Son" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 27).

For some people God's intervention is dramatic, like the apostle Paul's. But it's not that way for everyone.

Two colts are born. One is born in the wild and runs wild until he's caught and taken to a corral. One morning a trained horseman throws a saddle over the horse's back, and there's a lot of commotion. By the end of a long, hard day the horse and his rider are trotting peacefully around the corral. You can mark on the calendar the day that horse was broken.

The other colt is born on a farm that has children who love animals. Within a few weeks the children are playing with the horse and beginning to crawl on its back. It becomes a wonderful riding horse. How do you calculate when that horse was broken?

Jesus told Nicodemus, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). The Spirit of God sometimes intervenes like a whirlwind and a blinding light. But sometimes He comes like a gentle breeze, through the wise, consistent teaching of a godly parent or the quiet, loving influence of a Christian friend. There are dramatic conversions to Christ, and there are conversions that take place almost imperceptibly over a period of time. "A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or trace all the chain of circumstances in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 57).

INCUBATION STAGE

The second step in how faith works is the incubation stage, the phase where faith grows and becomes more settled.

Paul didn't become a great spokesman for the gospel overnight. While he began to share the story of his conversion with believers immediately, he also realized that his own newborn faith needed some time for incubation and growth to be strengthened in the word of God. So he went to Arabia for a significant Sabbatical time to restudy the Scriptures to ground his new faith deeply in the word of



God and to prepare to defend it against critics (Galatians 1:13–18). And it appears from his writings that he never stopped studying the Scriptures and gaining ever new insights into the work and ministry of Jesus. He had a passion to learn more and more about Jesus.

Part of Paul's spiritual growth was the revolution in his thinking that his acceptance with God, his standing before God and his security with God was not based on the fact that he had been born into the true church or had lived up to all the rules of the church or all the commands of the Bible. It was based on what Jesus had done for him in the life He had lived, and the death He had died for Paul's sins, and in His ongoing ministry in Heaven in Paul's behalf. Paul called this Jesus' righteousness (Philippians 3:4–9).

To put it in our Adventist vernacular, Paul used to think that you could be justified before God if you drank whole milk. To be sanctified you needed to drink skim milk. To be glorified, soy milk. And to be qualified for translation, well that's reserved for those who've graduated to unsweetened soy milk. (We drink unsweetened soy milk at our house, so I'm just trying to understand Paul's message through my own experience.)

But what Paul learned from restudying the Scriptures and growing in his faith is that his standing before God had nothing whatsoever to do with the kind of milk he drank. But it had everything to do with the cup of suffering that Jesus drank in his behalf. And it had everything to do with Paul's faith in Jesus and in God's grace and mercy extended to him in Jesus.

That understanding of the gospel came through times of meditation on God's word and prayer. And this understanding and conviction continued to strengthen throughout his life. The study of the word of God and the practice of prayer is a school from which we never graduate, a school that under the supervision of the Holy Spirit grows our faith.

It seems like the older I get the more I have to do and

the longer it takes me to do it. This means it's harder than ever to get that thoughtful hour each day to commune with Jesus.

But here's something I've learned during my 65 years. I have to choose an hour as early in the day as I possibly can, slap a "do not trespass" sign on it, and consider it the School of Christ. It's not the only place I meet Jesus in my day. But something happens in that 60-minute classroom session communing with the Holy Spirit that can't be duplicated any other way. That quiet hour is the prime real estate of my day. I can't afford to let anything encroach on it.

Telephone rings? No trespassing. Computer chimes that I have new mail? No trespassing. Remember something I have to do today? Have my to-do list or a Post-it note by my side and write it down so it's not competing in my head with my communion with God. Oh, and another thing, I can't have any exposure to media (television, radio, newspaper, etc.) before I've spent time alone with God. If what the Bible says about Heaven and eternal life are true, then God has to have prime time in my day.

MISSION STAGE

The third stage of how faith works and grows is the mission stage. Genuine faith always leads to mission.

Upon recognizing it was Jesus involved in the blinding light intervention, Paul's first words were, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" (Acts 9:3–6) Once a person comes to faith in God, the very next question should be, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" That's faith's question. It's how faith works.

In his book, *Ten Prayers God Always Answers*, Anthony DeStefano writes that the prayer God always answers the fastest, says yes to most consistently, and answers with the most pleasure is, "God, make me an instrument to carry out some important mission of mercy for you." I don't know how the author came to that conclusion, but it wouldn't surprise me if he's right.



Paul was a master craftsman at making and repairing tents, and he often earned his living that way. But his heart wasn't in tent making, it was in the mission Jesus gave him "to turn [hearts] from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God." That was his passion.

Once you respond to God's interventions in your life and you put your faith in Jesus and become a Christian, you're ready to be used by God as one of His divine interventions in the lives of other people He brings across your path. Stage two, the incubation and growth stage of your faith will progress side by side with stage three, the mission stage of your faith. Every day of your life in Christ is a growth-in-faith day and a mission day.

Anna, the atheist grad student I sat next to on the way to Montana, was on her way to the funeral of a very close relative, and she wasn't handling it very well. I had my Bible with me and asked her permission to read to her the Bible's only funeral sermon. She seemed fascinated as I read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, and she asked several questions about it. Before we landed I asked her what she thought the chances were that she would be on her way to a hard funeral for her and be randomly seated next to someone prepared to read her the Bible's funeral sermon. She responded, "I was just thinking that myself."

That was a divine intervention, and I got to be part of it! She gave me her mailing address, so I could send her a book she told me she would read, and we've corresponded several times since.

Recently Grace, my 14-year-old granddaughter, and I visited her 96-year-old grandmother, Corlin Halsey, during an extended stay in the hospital in Alma, Michigan. Grandma Corlin had a TV in her room, but I noticed that it wasn't on when we came in. I asked her if she watched it some to pass the time a little easier. She said, "No." I asked Grandma Corlin what she did during those long, lonely days when she was just laying in bed. She told me she prayed. Grandma

Corlin said she wasn't lonely at all because the Lord was always with her.

What struck me was that Grandma Corlin, bedridden day after day, recognized that God was keeping her alive for a reason. She couldn't be a physical intervention in people's lives for God at this point. But being bedridden couldn't keep her from a mission of praying for people. And if we can believe what Jesus taught about the role of prayer in the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan, we know that a prayer from that little, seemingly insignificant, hospital bed can influence events and divine interventions that are taking place in lives halfway around the world.

That experience reminded me again that God isn't impressed with our excuses. Don't try to tell Him that you're too shy or too uneducated or too poor or too disabled or too old or too busy to make a difference. He has accomplished many divine interventions through many busy people, and shy people, and uneducated people, and untalented people, and not-so-good-looking people, and disabled people and shut-ins. God loves to use the "weak" as resources through which He intervenes in the lives of the "strong" to invite them to faith and salvation.

If you're a Christian and still alive, you have a mission.

Maybe you've prayed the prayer, "Lord, what would you have me to do?" or "What is my mission?" and you feel like you haven't gotten an answer. But God wants you to be assured that if you will pray that prayer sincerely every day, and ask to be anointed by the Holy Spirit for whatever He has for you that day, you can then go into the day with the expectation that God will work through your life to accomplish divine interventions that will make an eternal difference in the lives of others. Whether you can see the difference it's making or not, He wants you to trust Him on this one.

Skip MacCarty is an associate pastor for evangelism and administration at Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University.



A Burning Heart

BY MARTI SCHNEIDER

We were sitting in a restaurant, getting a bite to eat—Michelle and Viorel Catarama and I with Ken Denslow, the Illinois Conference president. I listened to their dream of planting a church.

“Where do you have in mind?” I asked the couple.

“Naperville.”

“Then you’ll want to move into the community,” I encouraged.

“Never!” was Michelle’s quick response. I saw the set of her jaw and resolved not to discuss the matter further. Still, I could sense that Michelle had a heart on fire to reach into the community for God. Viorel, too, longed to bring people to Jesus.

Naperville, a high-end community just outside of Chicago with lots of beautiful homes and lots of beautiful people, had no Adventist presence. They did not have God’s beautiful truth.

What made Viorel and Michelle think they could plant a church? Viorel is in construction, and Michelle is a real



estate agent. Sure, they were active members of the Hinsdale Adventist congregation. *But plant a church?*

Their first inspiration to start a new church came at the North American Division convention of Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI), an organization of missionary-minded Adventists. There Michelle and Viorel heard the testimony of a church planter. And as they talked about it afterward, they spoke of the city of Naperville without knowing for sure why. Right away they talked to their conference president, and they enlisted the support of their pastor at Hinsdale who encouraged them to share their dream with the congregation. People

came together to pray and begin outreach activities.

The following year at ASI the Cataramas heard another

story about church planting. Back home they began in earnest to look for a place to rent, to purchase, to use for free ... anything! But nothing was available. They did see what they thought would be an ideal place—the Naperville Women's Club (NWC) right downtown. The NWC had purchased an old German church in 1925; it remained unchanged with even its pulpit and piano still in place. The Cataramas contacted the NWC, but the club was not interested in renting to them.

The third year at ASI during another story of church planting, Viorel and Michelle clasped hands and began to pray that God would find them a place to meet. In the middle of the prayer Michelle stopped and said, "Lord, we need the Naperville Women's Club, and we need it this week!"

The very next Thursday following ASI, Viorel drove down the road on his way to a real estate closing. Suddenly, he found himself stuck in traffic—right beside the NWC. A sign in front read: "FOR RENT." *Could it be?* Yes, the next day, Friday, they left the NWC at five o'clock with a signed lease for one year.

Michelle and Viorel called the people who prayed for their vision and those who supported their ministry, distributing books with them—people from both the Hinsdale and Downers Grove churches. They told the good news and issued an invitation, and 50 people came on short notice. God answered their prayer! By Sabbath afternoon following ASI they had their first worship service at the NWC.

Walter Thompson, a Hinsdale surgeon, told the group that day, which happened to be his final Sabbath in the area before he retired, that it was his dream when he moved to Hinsdale 30 years earlier to plant a church in Naperville. "Today God has shown me the fulfillment of my dream," he ended.



In 2006, Naperville Church board members (from left) Bob Hart, Naomi McKenzie, Michelle Catarama, Heather Ysseldyke, Viorel Catarama and Howard Bruce laid plans to bring the love of Jesus to Naperville.

At first the leadership rested heavily on Viorel and Michelle's shoulders. But people began to step forward and carry the load—children's leaders, youth leaders and more. Nineteen were baptized during an evangelistic series

in 2006. These became the core of the new congregation. "As Hiram Rester, the young seminary student-evangelist, preached from night to night," said Michelle, "I saw lives being changed before my eyes."

Out of that series they baptized three generations of one family, the Nettletons—Kathy, Alice and Louise. Alice is Kathy's mother and Louise's daughter-in-law. Although Grandma Louise couldn't always attend, Kathy and Alice picked up all the materials, purchased the tapes, and together they studied the next day. When Grandma Louise learned that Kathy and Alice had decided to be baptized, she declared she wanted to be baptized, too—97 years old, in the cold of October—she was ready. Into the portable baptistry Grandma Louise climbed ... and out again. The Nettletons have expressed more than once how grateful they are to God for the flier that came in the mail, and thankful for the small church with members who share God's truth. They sometimes wonder, *Why did we receive the flier? We live just outside of Naperville, and really shouldn't have gotten it. God must have meant it for us!*

A young couple who were engaged to be married, Kristine and George Prada, also received a flier in the mail. They wanted to learn about prophecy and came faithfully to the seminar. In those few weeks they experienced radical transformation. As God moved in their lives, they made major decisions and developed close friendships with church members. On a Thursday night they were baptized, and on Sunday they were married! Today George is one of the Sabbath school teachers, and Kristine is the children's

Sabbath school leader.

After launching in August 2005, the Naperville congregation was organized as a company in April 2006 and became a full-fledged church in June 2008. It began as a lay-led church and continues without a paid, conference-provided pastor. Today it is led by a hard-working, evangelistic-minded church board team of seven headed by first elder Dan Forde. The congregation has a very active youth group.

The Naperville Church members reach out into their community. They go from door to door contacting people, and they provide entry events such as health classes and creation seminars. Recently, members offered a seed-sowing weekend seminar at a local college comparing the five major world religions. A Naperville Church member, Barbara Weimer—teacher, author and youth leader—and Ed Barnett, Illinois Conference ministerial director, joined forces to preach the Gospel in a ShareHIM evangelistic series.

The Catarama family takes evangelistic mission trips to India, the Philippines and Africa. But their primary mission field? ... That's Naperville. Viorel told me one day, "Planting a church is like having a baby—you cannot leave it alone for long! It's so much work! But there is so much joy!"

Viorel counsels would-be church planters from their own experience: "If you want to plant a church, you must gain the support of your local church and pastor. Too often a church plant is like a church separation or divorce. And work closely with your local conference. Develop a core group who is united like the disciples described in the



Barbara Weimer, Naperville church youth leader, spoke at the 2008 prophecy series hosted at the church.



Following a series of meetings, newly baptized members joined others to form the new community of worshippers in Naperville, Ill.

book of Acts (in Scripture). Plan and implement your evangelistic strategy. And pray through it all! It is true, planting a church is not easy to do; but the rewards are there! They may not come immediately, but they come. When God gives you a vision, don't get discouraged. Keep going. Stick with it!"

Michelle's testimony is very personal. "I have no thought of wanting to go to a different church. I look forward to going to Naperville every Sabbath. As I think about it, I feel joyous! I look forward to seeing the

people. Walking into the church you sense the loving spirit. Churches have personalities, you know. Our personality is close ... like a family! Even to a newcomer, the congregation will reach out and find ways to draw them in. It's a welcoming family!"

Not long ago Viorel said, "Do you remember when you told us we should consider moving to Naperville? And do you remember that Michelle responded, 'Never?'" With a tiny grin, he continued, "We are now actively looking for a home in Naperville to make our ministry more effective."

Moses had a burning bush! God was in the bush. And He had a job for Moses—to lead His people out of slavery.

When God is in your heart, inviting you into His mission, He sets your heart on fire!

Is yours a burning heart?

Marti Schneider is the coordinator of SEEDS Church Planting Conferences and the director for Programs at the General Conference Office of Adventist Mission.



Hospital partners with community to fulfill mission

Partnering with the community is an integral part of Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital. Hospital employees have spearheaded several recent projects benefiting local churches and schools, including a backpack/school supply drive and an art smock donation. This is the third year for the backpack drive, which netted nearly 100 supply-filled school backpacks for students in the Valley View Public School District 365U—triple the number collected in 2007.

“We didn’t set a numerical goal for the backpack collection this year, but I have a long-bed pickup truck that I wanted to fill and we did that,” said Kathy Mitchell, the hospital’s chief nursing officer.

The brand-new backpacks were

stuffed with grade-appropriate supplies—including crayons, markers, notebooks and folders—for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade. Donations were collected at the hospital and dropped off at Bernard J. Ward Elementary School in Bolingbrook.

“Our teachers were very excited, and our social worker made sure these backpacks got into the right hands,” said Theodore F. Warpinski, Ward Elementary School principal.

A few weeks earlier, patient registrar Tara Morganfield led an effort to donate 21 misprinted uniforms to a local church for use as art smocks in the Sunday school program. The dark blue, button-down shirts are used by the three-, four- and five-year-old children enrolled in Sunday school



From left: Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital employees Kim Barnfield, John Meares and Paul Guagliardo pose with a pile of backpacks the hospital collected and donated to Valley View Public School District 365U.

at Victory Cathedral Worship Center.

Morganfield, a Sunday school assistant at the church, offered to donate the shirts in response to an e-mail from her supervisor, Dina Valli, the hospital’s director of patient access. The uniforms are worn by employees in the patient financial services department.

“We couldn’t use the uniforms because they contained a misprint,” Valli explained. “After the box had sat in my office for months, I urged my employees to take the shirts home, suggesting they would serve well as painting smocks. Tara took it from there.”

Morganfield said the children appreciated the donation, even posing for a photo in the smocks with a sign that read: “Thank you Ms. Dina.”

“Donating these uniforms, backpacks and school supplies dovetails wonderfully with our mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ,” said Rick Mace, chief executive officer. “Our employees are always thinking of creative ways to give back to the community.”



The children enrolled at Victory Cathedral Worship Center’s Sunday school program pose in their new art class smocks with Sunday school assistant, Tara Morganfield (right), a patient registrar at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital. The hospital donated the smocks to the church.

Lisa Parro, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

Gymnics perform for half-time show

The Andrews University Gymnics hit the court at The Palace in Detroit for a pre-season Detroit Pistons vs. Atlanta Hawks game half-time show on Oct. 23, 2008. The Gymnics—28 college students and one high school student—had seven minutes to set up their tumbling mats and perform a routine complete with tumbling, pyramids and basket tosses. The team received an invitation to perform again for the Pistons vs. Houston Rockets game on Sunday, Jan. 25.

Lorren Hickman, a sophomore, says, “Many people just think about gymnastics and that’s only a small percentage of what happens. We do a lot of witnessing through our attitudes and actions. We are a team united in Christ.”

The Gymnics are known for their fantastic performances on the gymnastics mat and for their anti-drug assemblies and religious programming.

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist,
Office of Integrated Marketing &
Communication

Teacher prep program “exemplary”

The Michigan State Board of Education has declared the Andrews University Teacher Preparation Program an “exemplary” organization. The program received a perfect score of 70 out of 70 based on an examination



Clock-wise from top left: Brianna Richards, Candice Peralta, Kelli Streelman, Rommel Jarrette and Lorren Hickman are performing three-highs.

given by the Michigan Department of Education. The Andrews University Teacher Preparation Program was the only institution out of 32 to receive a perfect score, and it was the highest score in the state for the 2006–2007 academic year. Andrews’ program took top honors ahead of other higher-profile institutions, including the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. Those institutions scored 68 and 66, respectively.

“This is such a positive thing for teacher preparation,” says Jim Jeffrey, dean of the School of Education. “I hope this news can really translate into students exploring education as a career.”

“Our high pass rate is recognition of how well they are prepared by each of the departments on campus,” says Lee Davidson, Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum chair. “We pray, by God’s grace, we can maintain high standards and prepare teachers

who will go out and help change the world for the better.”

Ashleigh Jardine, student news writer, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

First annual John O. Waller Lectureship on the Arts

Remembering an Andrews University scholar by reflecting on the arts was the goal of an evening in late October as nearly 100 people met in the Seminary Chapel at the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary for the first annual John O. Waller Lectureship on the Arts. Waller chaired the Department of English from 1963 to 1979.

Before a mixed assembly of students, faculty and friends, Douglas Jones, Department of English chair, expressed excitement that a commemorative lectureship for Waller was finally established and noted it had been a departmental goal for several years. Waller’s widow, Elaine, worked with Andrews University to help endow the John O. Waller Lectureship on the Arts. Delmer Davis, professor emeritus of English, embraced the event stating, “A lectureship on the arts in his honor is a worthy and fitting tribute.”

The guest speaker, former Andrews University teacher William S. Peterson, professor emeritus of English at the University of Maryland, was Waller’s student at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) and a long-time friend. His lecture was entitled, “William Morris’ Pocket Cathedral: The Kelmscott Press *Chaucer*.” The presentation was an exploration of the publication process and artistic expression of *Chaucer*, an 1896 product of Morris’ Kelmscott Press, a work hailed as a masterpiece of book production and the zenith of private press publishing.

Andre Weston, student news writer, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

[LAKE UNION NEWS]

Don and Barbara Livesay join Lake Union family

We are pleased to announce that Don Livesay has accepted the invitation to become the next president of the Lake Union Conference. At its regular meeting on December 2, 2008, the union executive committee voted to extend the invitation to Livesay, to fill the position left vacant by the retirement of Walter L. Wright.



We are pleased to welcome Barbara and Don Livesay to the Lake Union family. They will arrive in early January when Don will assume the responsibilities of Lake Union Conference president.

Livesay comes with broad experience in ministry and administration. Livesay is a graduate of Loma Linda University, receiving his B.A. in Theology in 1973. He then began his pastoral ministry in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference as an intern at the First Church in Knoxville, Tenn. In 1974, Livesay came to Andrews University to attend the Adventist Theological Seminary, receiving his M.Div. in 1976. He returned to serve the Georgia-Cumberland Conference for nearly nine years, first as pastor of the Peachtree City Church in Sharpsburg, Ga., and later as chaplain to Georgia-Cumberland Academy and pastor of the Summerville Church in Summerville, Ga. Livesay was ordained in 1979 while serving there.

In 1980, Livesay was called to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference to be the associate youth director, and became youth director two years later. He then accepted an invitation to be the youth director for the Northern California Conference from 1986 to 1990.

Livesay was then persuaded to return to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference to be assistant to the president for communications and stewardship director. In 1996, Livesay returned to the West Coast to become the assistant to the president for communications for the Oregon Conference. His

administrative skills became evident, and after one year he became vice president for administration.

In 2001, Livesay was elected president of the Oregon Conference where he has continued to serve successfully for the past seven years.

Serving in a church administrative role, Livesay has adopted the wisdom in a quote by Eugene Peterson: "Because

leadership is necessarily an exercise of authority, it easily shifts into an exercise of power. But the minute it does that, it begins to inflict damage on both the leader and the led."

Livesay's personal mission statement is:

*To Do The Right Thing
In The Right Way
At The Right Time
For The Right Reason*

Livesay is married to Barbara (Cook) who has 21 years experience teaching grades 1–12. From 1996 to 2006, she served as principal of Livingstone Adventist Academy in Salem, Ore. Barbara Livesay then transferred to the conference headquarters where she became the family life director. She is currently the risk management director

for the Oregon Conference.

The Livesays place a high priority on family, their granddaughter being a primary focus. They have two daughters, Christina (Livesay) Henry, speech/language pathology at Loma Linda University Medical Center, and Stephanie (Livesay) Larsen, director for admissions and marketing at Loma Linda School of Nursing, Loma Linda, Calif.

God has blessed the Livesays as a ministry team with special and multiple gifts that they have willingly employed in service to the church. We are pleased that the Livesays have chosen to join the Lake Union family in time to begin our special year of evangelism. We look forward to working together as we bring the message of hope to a troubled world.

Gary Burns, communication director,
Lake Union Conference

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Students honor nation's veterans

Illinois—Hinsdale Adventist Academy students honored our veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, with a special



Hinsdale Adventist Academy students, who are also Pathfinders at the Hinsdale Church, present arms and lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, behind a display signifying those soldiers who gave their lives in service for our country.

assembly in the school gym. The program, titled “Lest We Forget,” was a tribute to the veterans of all wars fought by our armed forces, from the Revolutionary War to the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Each branch of our armed forces—the Coast Guard, Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force—was recognized, and the students sang the official song of each branch.

Several veterans from the community attended the ceremony, and they all stood tall when their branch of service was recognized. One of the veterans said he was “moved to tears” during the program. It was a beautiful program that not only honored our veterans, but educated our students about our armed forces as well.

Each veteran was presented with a carnation and a card of thanks at the end of the ceremony as an expression of gratitude for their service. The assembly ended with everyone singing “God Bless America.”

Rebecca Garrett, marketing director,
Hinsdale Adventist Academy

Juniors and seniors learn leadership skills

Illinois—The annual Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) junior/senior campout went in a new direction this year when Thomas Dunham, the senior class sponsor, introduced a program used successfully at Spring Valley Academy where he taught prior to coming to HAA.

The 11th- and 12th-grade students, accompanied by their class sponsors Caren Hall and Dunham, spent four nights at Green Valley Forest Preserve “roughing it” with no electricity and no running water! The days were filled with team-building exercises, spiritual development and personal reflection. One objective of the camp was to bring the students together and prepare them for leadership roles in the school.

The students were blessed with beautiful, warm weather during the



HAA juniors and seniors take part in a team-building exercise in which each student was given a hollow tube with the objective of passing a marble through every student's tube without dropping it.

entire campout. Paul Han spoke for a lot of students when he said, “I really didn’t want to come [on this campout], but I’m glad I did. It’s been great!”

Rebecca Garrett, marketing director,
Hinsdale Adventist Academy

Battle Creek Academy Concert Band receives continued support

Michigan—The Battle Creek Academy Concert Band has a long history of musical excellence and is a powerful ministry. Spreading the message of God through music and interaction with others is a mission that band members are happy to carry out.

The Battle Creek Academy Concert Band is thinking ahead toward its 2009 tour. “This year’s destination is Washington D.C.,” said Michele Stark, band director. “We’ll be playing several concerts there and visiting The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.”

As one of the many events held to fund their annual tour, Battle Creek Academy (BCA) held its annual “Picnic-n-Pops,” where attendees from the school, church and community come out in support

of the award-winning band. Attendees can purchase food and beverages, listen to music, sing the school song, and even take part in a pie auction. In a more solemn part of the evening, hats were passed around through the crowd as money was collected for a wreath to be placed on The Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

“Music is important to everyone,” says BCA parent, Karen Penrod, whose sons play in the BCA band. “I believe it’s a vehicle for one to relieve stress, to open one’s self to the Holy Spirit, and it’s just fun!”

Supporting the band is not a new thing. The BCA band has a group of parents, “Band Boosters,” whose function is to support the band in fundraising and organization of students and equipment during performances and while on tour. “It’s easy to support this program,” says Naghielly Agy, whose son is part of the BCA band. “When kids get excited to use their God-given talents to witness, you want to encourage that as much as possible.”

Michele Stark and her band are grateful for the support of the families, faculty and staff, churches and friends of the band members who help make this program successful.

Wendy Keough, co-marketing and
development director, Battle Creek Academy



A pie auction at the annual Picnic-n-Pops fundraiser concert brought in funds for the concert band’s trip to Washington, D.C.



Andrews University students assembled 30 care packages for soldiers serving in Iraq and the Horn of Africa.

Care packages delivered to deployed Adventist military

Andrews University—With thoughts of spreading holiday cheer and lifting troops' spirits in mind, the Andrews University Community and International Development Program (CID) organized an effort to send holiday care packages to deployed Seventh-day Adventists serving in the military. Following a campus-wide call for donations, the packages were assembled and readied for shipment on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008. The packages, headed primarily to Iraq and the Horn of Africa, were sent in time to be in the hands of troops no later than Christmas.

"One of the things that really impacted me was receiving care packages from family and friends," said Chris Reyes, an Andrews University CID graduate research assistant, when looking back on his service in Iraq, Kuwait and Colombia. "We would also get random bulk care packages from strangers, which always helped morale and reminded us that people cared back home, regardless if we knew them or not."

Contributions of travel-size games, snacks, pre-paid phone cards, sunscreen, holiday letters and cards were collected at the Andrews University Department of Behavioral Sciences and the Master of Science and Administration (MSA) Graduate Assistant

Room for several weeks. Along with these items, more than \$200 in cash donations was used to help cover shipping expenses. In all, 30 packages were sent, thanks to Reyes and a package-assembly group primarily made up of MSA students in the CID Program.

The idea to support the troops developed around the beginning of the school year. Reyes served in the Air Force until July 2008 when he made the decision to attend Andrews University.

While talking with his advisor, Mioara Diaconu, associate director of CID, Reyes was asked what could be done to help deployed military members and those returning from deployment. Retelling his comfort from receiving care packages, saying, "It is one of the easiest ways to help service members," the idea to support Adventist troops was born.

With plans to send care packages underway, Reyes and Diaconu were able to get a list of deployed Seventh-day Adventist chaplains from the National Serviceman's Organization in Washington, D.C. The chaplains gave them an idea of how many Adventist members were worshipping with them and informed the leaders about their specific needs. Some asked for DVD sermons of preachers such as Mark Finley, Dwight K. Nelson and Jose Rojas, etc. Others requested Sabbath school quarterlies, saying, "It is like having a piece of home with us."

"In the end, this was an opportunity to minister to another group of people," said Reyes.

Reyes and his team also have high hopes for the future by making this an annual event sponsored by the newly created International Development Club. They also hope to develop a database of Seventh-day Adventist military members. To submit a name, contact Reyes by e-mail at reyes@c@andrews.edu, or call 269-471-6197.

Ashleigh Jardine, student news writer, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

[YOUTH NEWS]

Fall Youth Weekend brings a harvest to Fairhaven

Lake Region—The Fall Youth Weekend at Fairhaven Church, Oct. 16–18, 2008, saw many young people commit their lives to Christ. The weekend's theme was, "Less of Me, Lord, More of Thee."

The meetings began Thursday night with a message from Fairhaven's pastor, Charles Osborne III, who spoke on the subject, "What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?" Osborne pointed out that goals don't always turn out to be what one thought, once achieved. However, in setting sights on God, it's always better than one could imagine.

Eric Thomas, pastor from the Bethel Church in Lansing, Mich., delivered a message Friday night about not letting one's immediate surroundings determine success.

On Sabbath morning, Leon George, pastor of the Ephesus Church in Saginaw, Mich., brought the message, "No Lions, No Bears, No Snakes." His



At the conclusion of the Fairhaven Church's Fall Youth Weekend, 15 young people made decisions to commit their lives to Jesus through baptism or re-baptism. Pictured are: Zacharian Marshal, Robert Stuckey, Marshala Hussey, Jacurria Carter, Cassie Lambert, Alexious Carter, Angel Jones-Mance, Charles Osborne III (pastor), Alaina Jones-Mance, Chris Stuckey, Aaron Connor, Leon George (pastor), Gianna Oliver, Maulena Gray and Charles Shells; Not pictured: Zhakel Johnson and Zhakwarius Johnson

message reminded young people they need not be afraid of their enemies nor opposing circumstances. He said, "Jesus, the Lion of Judah, has conquered all, and He will give us strength to conquer anything in our path."

Jacurria Carter, a member of the church's youth group, had claimed her whole immediate family for Christ. In the past few years, one by one, they began joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She shared how a cousin, Maulena Gray, came to the Lord: "My cousin came to live with our family. My cousin and my sister began looking up to me. So, I said, 'I have to set a good example.'" Carter brought her cousin and sister to church functions, and that sparked spiritual questions in their minds. Carter shared answers with them through Bible studies. Family prayers by Carter's parents were also a positive influence in the girls' lives. Carter's sister, Alexious Carter, and her cousin made their decisions for Christ and were baptized during the Fall Youth Weekend.



Charles Osborne III, Fairhaven Church pastor, praised the Lord when Jacurria Carter was baptized with her cousin, Maulena Gray, and sister, Alexious Carter.

Cassie Lambert, Adventist Youth leader, said, "God just blessed the weekend. The Holy Spirit was there."

After Sabbath services, 15 young people were baptized after the Sabbath service. Some of the young people were baptized for the first time and others re-committed their lives to Christ.

Trevor Schluter, communication leader, Fairhaven Church



On Sabbath afternoon after outreach projects concluded, John Tillay, a theology student from Southern Adventist University, challenged young people with the weekend's theme: "Do Something: In a world that celebrates doing only for yourself, do something for others."

Youth rally yields blessings

Indiana—The Timber Ridge Camp staff held the 2008 Southern Indiana Youth Rally in Columbus on Nov. 22 and 23. Former staff members traveled from Andrews University and Southern Adventist University to lead song services. The special emphasis given to worship and praise made the weekend special for young people and adults as well. The camp staff who led song service included Elisha Beam, Danny Cooper, Chelsea English, Zach Payne, Chris Thorderson and Ryan Thurber who worked very well together. It was evident they enjoyed it as much as everyone else.

There was also a small group of students from Indiana Academy who provided four musical selections and demonstrated through skits what it might be like to survey

church neighbors door to door. The musical group included Christian Piñango, Hannah Thompson, Justin Thurber and Brandon Ward. Michael Lund of the Glendale Church also sang with the group of students.

After the church service and a delicious meal, everyone had a chance to sign up for various outreaches. One group visited a nursing home and sang for the residents there. Everyone who attended had a good time, and both the singers and the residents were blessed.

Four other groups visited local shut-ins who would like to make it to church every Sabbath but don't always have the means or the ability. The young people sang songs for them and shared with them. Everyone had a wonderful time,



Indiana young people provided special music for the Southern Indiana Youth Rally. Pictured presenting special music for vespers are (from left) Hannah Thompson, Michael Lund, Brandon Ward and Justin Thurber. Not pictured is Christian Piñango on piano.

and each individual they visited had wonderful stories to tell the singers.

Another group of people went door to door to hand out surveys to various people in the community. When they returned, some were eager to share their experiences. Anna Millewa of Indiana Academy told how she met a man who said he had heard of the church and had seen it, but did not know if he should go there or not. I believe the Holy Spirit gave Millewa a divine appointment, because the man told her that because of this contact he was now going to visit the church. We were all blessed to hear this great news. Everyone enjoyed their time together and the closer it got to the vespers program the more people showed up. It was such a fun-packed day of ministry.

John Tillay, a theology student from Southern Adventist University, provided the worship talks. The theme was “Do Something: In a world that celebrates doing only for yourself, do something for others!” The power of the Holy Spirit was evident as he shared the Word of God.

On Sunday, a service activity was planned for the young people to winterize FEMA trailers for victims of recent area flooding. However, materials didn’t arrive as expected, so that outreach project was cancelled. Not to be discouraged, the young people raked leaves in the flooded communities and assisted with other clean-up efforts.

The Timber Ridge Camp staff did a wonderful job leading the first Southern Indiana Youth Rally; it was a huge success—the music, the drama and the speaking all were a huge blessing to everyone present. Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director, and Manny Ojeda, pastor of the Columbus, North Vernon and Seymour churches, who planned the event are appreciated for their commitment to young people. We are already looking forward to the second annual Southern Indiana Youth Rally.

Christian Peñango, news writer, Indiana Conference youth department

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Community activist improves lives of homeless

Indiana—Evansville First Church member, Debbie Burns, is president of the Remembering November 6th Committee. She, along with Jessica Mitchell and Mandy Gregory of the committee, partnered with other caring community members (including some from Burns’ church) to remember the 25 people who died three years ago in a killer tornado and to honor all those who survived and gave during that tragic time.

This year the committee was honored to collaborate with the Goodwill Family Center in Evansville, a homeless transitional shelter, to enhance the living space for guests. They painted several sleeping rooms, replaced the bedding and curtains in all the rooms (to bring color and life to the rooms), fixed and repainted a bathroom, and repainted the dining room.

“To top off a very special day,” Burns said, “everyone took turns sticking their hands in bright paint and adding their hand prints to the walls around the room as a symbol of community spirit. The little children had their own special place as well where very interesting prints were left.”

The shelter guests also helped paint and make the shelter feel more like a home. Before the sheltered children left for school, several were featured live on Fox 7 news, which was a great start to their day. Other media outlets came throughout the day.

One little boy just wanted a fluffy pillow. “I took him down to the room where we had been dropping off items ahead of time, and a news crew caught him hugging the pillow,” Burns said. “I thought I would cry. He was not asking for a video game or toys, but just a pillow.”

“When the children returned from school, the scene was somewhat like you might see on the television program,

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” Burns remarked. “Children were stunned and very happy with new bedding, the soft touch of new curtains and even fluffy new pillows. Everyone was happy to trade his or her old pillow in for a new one.”



Photos by Debbie Burns

To top off a very special day everyone, including Tony, took turns sticking their hands in bright paint and adding their hand prints to create a border on the walls as a symbol of community spirit.

Burns saw God working that day, too. She recalls, “God did such a miracle for one six-year-old twin who lives at the shelter. That morning when we arrived, the twins were getting ready to go to school. ... I asked the girls what they would like to see on their beds. The one really loved Tinker Bell.” At that point, there were no donated Tinker Bell items. Burns said, “I was going to go buy something if need be.” But another volunteer was out shopping the day before and got a lot of stuff, all on sale, except Tinker Bell sheets. The volunteer felt a need to buy the Tinker Bell sheets, the only set in the store. Burns remembers, “Soon after the twins left for school, in came the volunteer with the Tinker Bell sheet set. It was amazing that God saw that need and hope of a little girl, and made her dream come true.”

Reflecting on the very emotional and heartfelt day, Burns shared, “The committee has since taken time to process the emotional aspect of giving back to this special project and the wonderful smiles, hugs, laughter and joy that the residents felt in the new look to their ‘home.’”

Others took note of the efforts of the volunteers and responded with gratitude. Randy Wheeler, chairman of the board of Evansville Goodwill Industries, Inc., commented to Burns: “The

November 6th Committee has done an excellent job of keeping all of us aware of the tragedy and heroism connected to the tornado three years ago. To adopt the new position of providing important social services to our region only underscores the nature of your organization as an extremely compassionate and sharing group of people.

"I look forward to visiting the Family Center soon to see the fruits of your labor. God bless all of you for what you've done and what you will do in the future."

Burns encourages others to remember there is always a need in homeless shelters. She challenges, "When you are out shopping, pick up a set of twin sheets, a new warm blanket, new pillow or some personal care items that you find on sale, and drop your donation by a local shelter. People living on the streets or in shelters is a real problem in every community, so please know that your donation no matter what size, and gifts from others, can go a long way. Make a difference in another's life. What a wonderful feeling to give hope to another person."



Thomas the Tank Engine bedding was donated in memory of four-year-old Isaiah Blaylock who died in the tornado. Isaiah loved this character, so a room was decorated in his honor. Zachary, a guest of the Family Center, enjoys his new bedding.

Jesus' words motivate Burns to help those in her community: "When you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto Me" (see Matthew 25:40).

Diane Thurber, assistant director of communication, Lake Union Conference, as shared by Debbie Burns, Adventist Community Services Disaster Response



Mike Fincher (center), Logansport mayor, attended the Logansport Church's celebration to honor Lorena Sanchez (left) and Dimas Saenz (right), who recently received United States citizenship.

Church holds citizenship celebration

Indiana—It's a long, long journey from Mexico City to Logansport, Ind. It's an even longer journey from San Miguel, El Salvador.

These are the journeys taken by Dimas Saenz and Lorena Sanchez, members of the Logansport Church.

Saenz spent 11 days traveling from El Salvador to California with 32 people he didn't know. Divided into three groups of about 11 people each, his was the only group to reach the United States. His journey, at age 15, consisted of traveling by bus, train, car and foot, even walking through the desert for several days. He spent the next few years in California, living with his brothers and attending school. Several years later, he and his wife Norma moved to Logansport, where Saenz now serves as a deacon in the local Adventist church.

Lorena Sanchez can relate to Saenz' journey. "My parents couldn't find jobs with enough money to raise us in Mexico," she says. Lorena Sanchez' parents came to the United States when she was three years old, but Lorena Sanchez and her six siblings couldn't accompany them. She had to wait in Mexico with her brothers and sisters while their parents worked to save enough money to send for them. They

eventually joined their parents in California, and then moved to Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1998. In 2002, they moved to Logansport, where Lorena Sanchez met her husband Emeterio Sanchez, who introduced her to the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

"If it weren't for my parents, I wouldn't be here in this great country, and I probably wouldn't know about the Adventist Church," Lorena Sanchez said. She, her husband and their three children are all active in the Logansport Church. Emeterio Sanchez serves as a deacon, while Lorena Sanchez is a deaconess and the Cradle Roll leader.

In August, a celebration was held at the Logansport Church to honor Saenz and Lorena Sanchez who recently obtained United States citizenship. For both, it was a long time coming, but well worth it. They were both excited to be able to vote in the 2008 election.

Saenz said he encourages others to obtain their citizenship, even if the process takes 20 years. "Be patient," he advises. "Don't give up."

In their long journeys from Mexico City and San Miguel, learning about the soon coming of Jesus through the Seventh-day Adventist Church has caused both Lorena Sanchez and Saenz to realize that the better life in the United States is nothing compared to the life in Heaven they will soon enjoy!

Blake Hall, pastor, Logansport Church

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

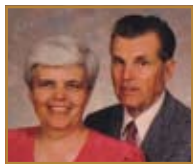
Anniversaries



Rafael and Monin Colón celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 26, 2008, by a ceremony and reception given by Pastor and Mrs. José Campos with family and friends of Puerto Rico and U.S.A., at Deerfield Club House in Brooksville, Fla. They were members of the Northwest Spanish Church (Chicago) and the Waukegan (Wis.) Spanish Church for a total of 20 years.

Rafael Colón and Monin Hernández were married Sept. 14, 1958, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, by Pastor Pedro De Jesús. Rafael has been a Seventh-day Adventist minister for 35 years, retiring in 1999. Monin has been an executive secretary, retiring in 1999.

The Colón family includes Joycelyn and Duncan Mayo of Berrien Springs, Mich.; Jeffrey Colón of Sturtevant, Wis.; Jeane Colón of Hollywood, Fla.; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



Kurt and Irene Gerth celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 8, 2008, by a surprise anniversary celebration hosted by many friends at the Elmhurst (Ill.) Church. They have been members of the Chicago German Church and the Elmhurst Church for a total of 50 years.

Kurt K. Gerth and Irene Daniel were married Aug. 8, 1958, in Dieringhausen, Germany, by Pastor Jungmann. Kurt has been a bookbinder, retiring in Aug. 1998. Irene has been a bookkeeper, retiring in Dec. 1999.

The Gerth family includes Gabriella and Thomas Hubbard of Winter Park, Fla.

Weddings

Erin Weissert and Jerry DeGrave were married July 13, 2008, in Powers, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Nathan Stearman.

Erin is the daughter of William and Vickie Weissert of Escanaba, Mich., and Jerry is the son of Kelly and Sherry DeGrave of Collegedale, Tenn.

The DeGraves are making their home in Escanaba.

Kathy A. Maxon and Kiett Miller were married Aug. 8, 2008, in Cedar Lake, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Mickey Mallory.

Kathy is the daughter of Jack Maxon of Mt. Pleasant, Mich., and Sharon Maxon of Lake Charles, La., and Kiett is the son of the late Marshall and the late Marie Miller of Lexington, S.C.

The Millers are making their home in Lakeland, Fla.

Obituaries

CAPORALE, Carmine, age 78; born July 12, 1929, in Chicago, Ill.; died Jan. 11, 2008, in Chicago. He was a member of the Elmhurst (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Antoinette (Castaldo); daughters, Debra A. Redmond and Maria L. Doyle; sister, Gloria Caporale; four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and one step-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors David Sittler and Glenn Hill, and interment was in Chapel Hill Gardens West Mausoleum, Elmhurst.

CAPORALE, James C., age 44; born July 26, 1960, in Oak Park, Ill.; died June 14, 2005, in Westchester, Ill. He was a member of the Elmhurst (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Cruz A. (Barrios); stepdaughters, Sheryl L. Thurman and Laura A. Thurman; father, Carmine; mother, Antoinette (Castaldo); sisters, Debra A. Redmond and Maria L. Doyle; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Sittler, and interment was in Abraham Lincoln Cemetery, Elwood, Ill.

CARTER, Bertha (Jett) White, age 88; born Dec. 31, 1919, in Jackson, Ky.; died June 2, 2008, in Richmond, Ind. She was a member of the Richmond Church.

Survivors include her son, Lamarr White; daughter, Shirley (White) Turley; stepdaughter, Marquita (Carter) Miles; sister, Ellouise Daniels; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dwight Kruger, and interment was in Earlham Cemetery, Richmond.

HOLCOMB, Mary Ellen (Jock) LaBean Stevens, age 74; born July 12, 1934, in Bentley, Mich.; died Sept. 24, 2008, in Vassar, Mich. She was a member of the Vassar Church.

Survivors include her sons, Randy S. and Lewis C. LaBean; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Jeff Akenberger and Elder James Wyckoff, and interment was in Hollenbeck Cemetery, Columbiaville, Mich.

LANDERS, Victoria L. (Koenig), age 57; born Sept. 3, 1950, in Munising, Mich.; died Apr. 15, 2008, in Menasha, Wis. She was a member of the Escanaba (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Joshua; daughters, Rebecca Koenig and Sherry Pamperin; brothers, Pat Dryer, and George Jr. and Wayne Koenig; sister, Rose Wilbur; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were held May 20, 2008, in Oshkosh, Wis., with private interment.

LAWRENCE, Linda (Retterer), age 60; born Sept. 9, 1948, in Chicago, Ill.; died Sept. 16, 2008, in Hodgkins, Ill. She was a member of the Hinsdale (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her father, Raymond Retterer; brothers, Harvey F. and Steven R. Retterer; and sisters, Rose F. Black and Sheila L. Lawrence.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Jeff Copp, with private interment.

MACKAY, Danielle K., age 24; born Feb. 27, 1984, in Key West, Fla.; died July 22, 2008, in Greenville, Ohio. She was a member of the Richmond (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Devon R. Wentz; father, David; mother, Robin Brumbaugh; brother, Shannon; and half brother, Ryan.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Paul Nichols, with private interment in Lynn, Ind.

MASSENGILL, Robert B., age 94; born Sept. 19, 1913, in Bloomington, Ind.; died Aug. 11, 2008, in Anderson, Ind. He was a member of the Anderson Church.

Survivors include his son, Tom; daughter, Sandra Schalk; brother, Max; four grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Terry Nennich, and interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Anderson.

NEAL, Leslie C., age 72; born Sept. 15, 1936, in Onaway, Mich.; died Sept. 29, 2008, in Bay City, Mich. He was a member of the Unionville (Mich.) Church. Elder Neal

pastored in the Detroit Metropolitan, Plymouth, Bellville, Oakwood and Cedar Lake (Mich.) Churches.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita (Walston); sons, Leslie III and Rodney; daughters, Lenita Skoretz and Charla Willis; mother, Anna (Porter); sister, Patricia Edsell; and nine grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Bill Edsell, and interment was in Wisner Twp. (Mich.) Cemetery.

OAKES, Ralph A., age 84; born Oct. 31, 1923, in Manitowoc, Wis.; died May 13, 2008, in Green Bay, Wis. He was a member of the Green Bay Church.

Survivors include his wife, Karen D. (Keipe); daughter, Leah D. Felt; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by the family, with private interment in Green Bay.

STITT, Ervin Jr., age 57; born Oct. 30, 1950, in Portsmouth, Va.; died Aug. 17, 2008, in Flint, Mich. He was a member of the First Flint Church.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia (Nolan); sons, Tyrone and Haskell; stepsons, Omar and Christopher Nolan; daughters, Lashona Hudson and Sophia Stitt; stepdaughter, Lekia Nolan; brother, Neil; stepbrother, Brian Willingham; sisters, Wanda Stitt, Deborah Stitt and Valerie Toles; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Frank Woods, and interment was in River Rest Cemetery, Flint.

WORLEY, Anita M. (Rollins), age 95; born Apr. 22, 1913, in Bartley, Neb.; died June 20, 2008, in Tipton, Ind. She was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Loren E.; daughters, Eldina J. Blue, Betty J. Mabry, Wanda M. Purkey and Marla S. Bell; brother, Kenneth Rollins; nine grandchildren; and five step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by local elder Paul Fruth Sr., and interment was in Arcadia (Ind.) Cemetery.

WORLEY, Milton E., age 92; born Feb. 1, 1915, in Fairfield, Iowa; died Sept. 18, 2007, in Tipton, Ind. He was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Anita M. (Rollins); son, Loren E.; daughters, Eldina J. Blue, Betty J. Mabry, Wanda M. Purkey and Marla S. Bell; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ron Kelly, and interment was in Arcadia (Ind.) Cemetery.

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| | Jan 2 | Jan 9 | Jan 16 | Jan 23 | Jan 30 | Feb 6 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Berrien Springs, Mich. | 5:25 | 5:32 | 5:39 | 5:47 | 5:56 | 6:04 |
| Chicago, Ill. | 4:30 | 4:37 | 4:44 | 4:52 | 5:01 | 5:10 |
| Detroit, Mich. | 5:10 | 5:17 | 5:25 | 5:33 | 5:42 | 5:50 |
| Indianapolis, Ind. | 5:31 | 5:37 | 5:44 | 5:52 | 6:00 | 6:08 |
| La Crosse, Wis. | 4:38 | 4:45 | 4:53 | 5:02 | 5:11 | 5:20 |
| Lansing, Mich. | 5:15 | 5:22 | 5:29 | 5:38 | 5:47 | 5:55 |
| Madison, Wis. | 4:33 | 4:40 | 4:47 | 4:56 | 5:05 | 5:14 |
| Springfield, Ill. | 4:44 | 4:50 | 4:58 | 5:06 | 5:14 | 5:22 |

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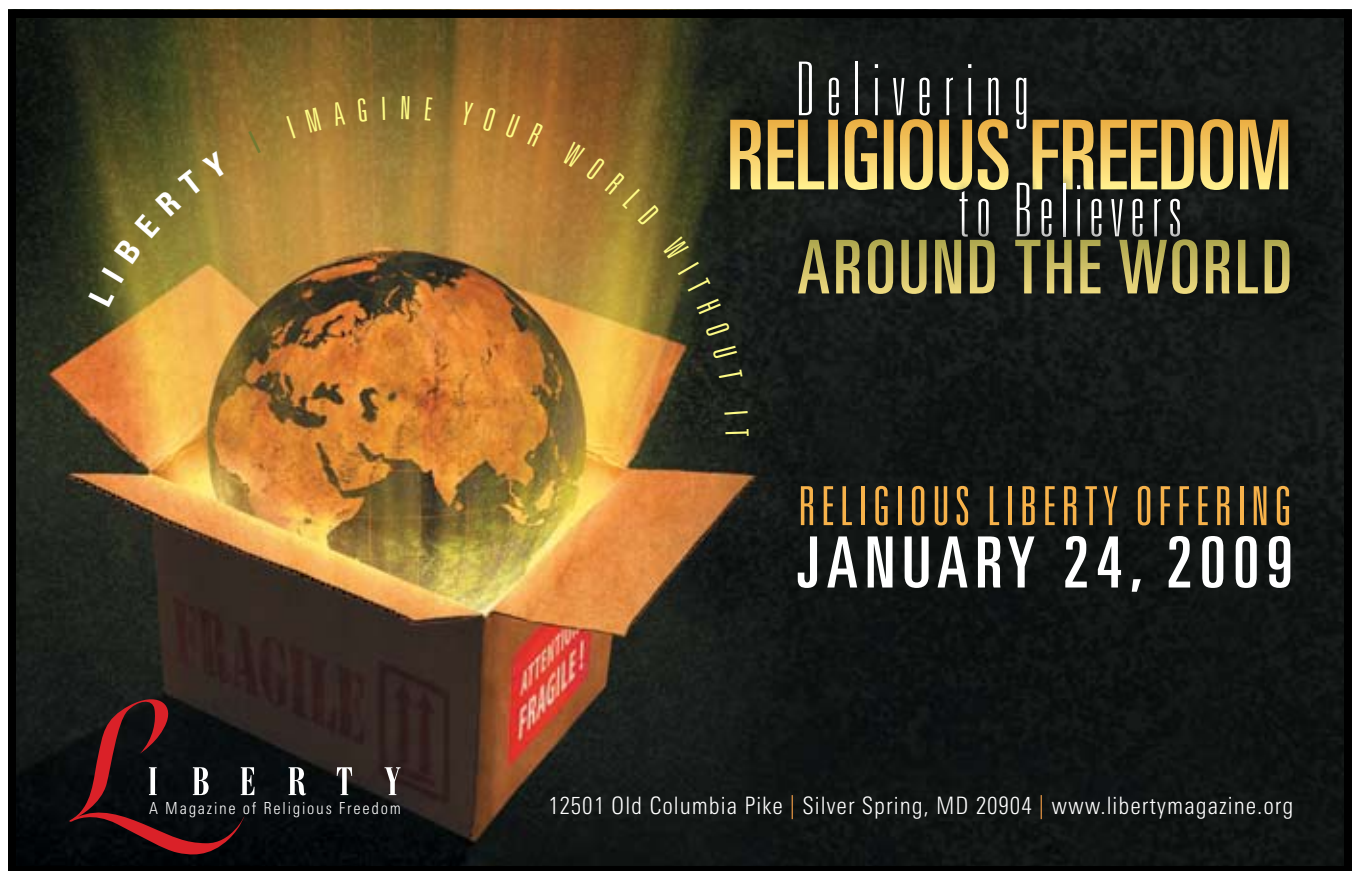
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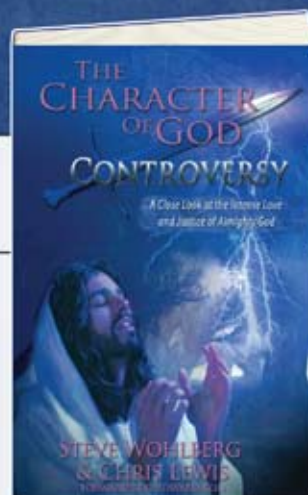
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Announcements

Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* Web site at 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

Howard Performing Arts Center Events:

For more information about the HPAC events, call 269-471-3554 or visit howard.andrews.edu.

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Sun., Jan. 17, 2009, 3:00 p.m. Michigan's third largest professional orchestra, with 77 musicians and an 87-year history, the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra is recognized throughout the country as a "regional orchestra of excellence." Under the direction of conductor Raymond Harvey, the Symphony will present an evening featuring a world premier by composer Kenji Bunch commissioned to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth by the KSO and the Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee. Admission: \$20

Mark Lowry "Be the Miracle," Sat., Jan. 31, 2009, 8:00 p.m. He's been making people laugh, cry and think for more than 28 years—renowned Christian singer, songwriter and comedian Mark Lowry in the "Be the Miracle" tour. The performance will feature Mark as he shares his exciting and revitalized message of God's love and grace. A former member of the Gaither Vocal Band, Mark wrote the well-known Christmas song, "Mary Did You Know?" Admission: \$30

Kings Singers, Mon., Feb. 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m. England's premier vocal choral ensemble has long had an unsurpassed tradition of vocal music with roots in both religious and secular singing. Celebrating 40 years of making music, they consistently delight audiences around the world with their incomparable musicianship, charm and wit. Admission: \$35

Andrews University is seeking comments for the **Mar. 22-25** accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Submit comments by **Feb. 22** to: Public Comment on Andrews University, The Higher Learning Commission, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602. Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed. Comments cannot be treated as confidential.

2009 Workshop on Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy. Andrews University Seminary will be offering its popular six-day workshop from **Aug. 2-7**. Besides university faculty, it includes Dr. Agatha Thrash and Dr. Don Miller of Uchee Pines Institute; Dr. David DeRose of Compass Health; and Evelyn Kissinger, M.S. RD, Director and Nutritionist of Lifestyle Matters, Michigan Conference. For information, visit our Web site at

www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw/; e-mail Fran McMullen at fran@andrews.edu; or call 269-471-3541.

Indiana

Winter Ski Fest for youth in grades 7-12 is **Jan. 8-11**. Ski on Fri. and then enjoy a special Fri. night and Sabbath with your friends at Timber Ridge Camp before returning to the slopes for more skiing on Sun. For applications and additional information, go to www.trcamp.org. Or call the youth department at the Indiana Conference at 317-844-6201.

Indiana Youth Rally '09: Last year more than 500 converged for this annual event just for youth. This year's guest speaker is Sam Leonor, chaplain of La Sierra University. To obtain additional information about this **Feb. 20-21** event, go to www.trcamp.org. Or call the Indiana Conference youth department at 317-844-6201.

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| Jan 17 | Local Church Budget |
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| Jan 31 | Union-Wide Evangelism |

Special Days

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Jan 3 | Day of Prayer |
| Jan 18-24 | Religious Liberty Week |

North American Division

Health Summit Orlando 2009 will be bigger than ever. Several new seminars will be offered. This annual health certification training program will be held **Jan. 30-Feb. 7** and will present featured speakers Jose Rojas and Samuel De-Shay. A special "Festival of Health" evening program will feature Pastor Derek Morris and a health expert speaking each evening. Register now to save your space. Go to www.nadhealthsummit.com for more information.

The **North American Division** is seeking talented musicians to perform at the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, Ga. To apply, visit www.gcsession.org/music. Applications must be received by **Jan. 31, 2009**.

Los Angeles Adventist Academy's Alumni Homecoming Weekend and 85th Anniversary Celebration, "Rebuilding the Bridge," will be held **Mar. 13-15**. We're looking for all former students of Lynwood Elementary and Academy, Los Angeles Academy (35th and Naomi), Los Angeles Union S.D.A. School and Los Angeles Adventist Academy. For more information, call 323-321-2585 or e-mail laaahomecoming@aol.com.

Union College Homecoming is **Apr. 2-5**. Friends and former faculty are invited to the "Return ... Renew ... Reunion." Honor classes are 1939, '49, '54, '59, '69, '79, '84, '89 and '99. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; write to 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or e-mail alumni@ucollege.edu.



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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Loyal Disciples

BY GARY BURNS



I am not a loyal Seventh-day Adventist. Before you throw this magazine in the trash, let me explain. I love my church, I am a third generation Seventh-day Adventist, and I am glad to be one ... most of the time. At other times I feel like echoing Jesus' words, "How long must I put up with you?"

Recently, I had a rude awakening. I cannot even begin to describe how my heart was crushed. It was the morning after America demonstrated that it had indeed changed—that we as a nation had moved beyond judging a man by the color of his skin. My church's most silent response to this historical milestone was deafening. I concluded that while America had changed, my church had not—a great disappointment for me, but a source of real personal pain for a significant number of my church family.

So, what do I do? A loyal Seventh-day Adventist would just stick with the program. I cannot.

A discouraged and embittered Seventh-day Adventist would walk away. I cannot.

You see, it's a question of loyalty; not to my church, but to Christ—the One who stands in the midst of His people and holds the leadership of the church in His hand ... even leaders who disappoint me.

In John 10, Jesus describes His people as sheep who know His voice and follow His lead. John later describes the 144,000 as God's last-day people who follow the Lamb wherever He goes—loyal disciples!

I believe that Jesus is on the move—not to leave His church, but to lead His church, my church, to a new day. My loyalty is to Him.

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

Unexpected Summer

BY KELSEY CLENDENNING

Packing for a month-long trip to Louisville, I doubted what I was doing. A friend came to say good-bye, encourage and give me a positive attitude. I was nervous and scared, but he believed it would be a good experience. I was signed up for ASI (Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries) Youth for Jesus (YFJ). It wasn't on my list of things to accomplish last summer—being away from friends and witnessing to disinterested people.

Nonetheless, I found myself in Dad's car driving to Kentucky, ultimately pulling into a school parking lot in the middle of nowhere. I live near Chicago. I hate being in the middle of nowhere. Entering the church, I sat in the back. Everyone arrived the night before, and I felt like the odd one out. With worship over, some youth carried my luggage and showed me around.


My first outreach project was door knocking. I was scared to talk about Christ and the evangelistic series led by us youth. Everyone in my group knew what to say, except me. When it was my turn to talk about the meetings, the result was a dark screen between me and a screaming woman, threatening to call the police. After surviving the ordeal, I told my group what had happened. When asked how I felt after my rejection experience, I responded, "Big deal." Nothing can be as bad as that, so there's no reason to be scared of any other door. Plus, maybe God used me to plant a seed. That door was my favorite. It brought down the walls around my heart. Maybe God put that door in my path so He could reach me.

Prior to YFJ, my spiritual life was fake. I "played" church to make everyone happy. But inside, I daily rejected God. Seeing the Holy Spirit working in me to share with others and

hearing the words I spoke was amazing. As a child, I could say Bible verses with the snap of a finger. Before YFJ, I lost that. Visiting a severely depressed lady who felt she couldn't take it anymore, texts in the Bible popped into my head. I knew that was God's doing and not my own.

The YFJ program ended with a baptism for about 70 people plus YFJ youth, including me. God softened my heart. After years of knocking, I finally opened. My rebaptism was real. I couldn't imagine living without the joy of Christ in my heart. My experience this summer was indescribable. Nothing can compare to the truth, joy and peace I gained. Life without Christ seems pointless.

Packing to go home, my friends discussed the questions that everyone eventually asks themselves, "Why am I here? What's my purpose?" Our conclusion is that witnessing for Christ is why we are here. I feel no joy, happiness or peace without sharing with others God's love and telling them about my Savior. The friends I met could never be forgotten, and I cannot wait to see them all in Heaven very soon. I couldn't have imagined my summer any other way.



Kelsey Clendenning currently attends a local community college. She hopes to transfer to Southern Adventist University in the fall where her studies will focus on nursing and business. Kelsey is a member of the Southwest Church in Orland Park, Illinois.

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Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at www.LakeUnionHerald.org.

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

Richard Davison was born in 1991 to Claudia and Chris Davison in Grand Rapids, Mich. His parents moved to Berrien Springs when he was not even one year old, and that is where he has resided ever since.



Richard Davison

Richard attended the Berrien Springs Village Seventh-day Adventist School from kindergarten through eighth grade. While at the Village School, Richard really enjoyed working with his teachers as he grew and developed. Upon graduation, he enrolled at Andrews Academy where he has spent the last three and one-half years.

At Andrews Academy, Richard enjoys the fellowship of other Christian friends. He has enjoyed his experience in high school chemistry and did a good job in the chemistry lab. Richard was the junior class pastor before becoming the Student Association pastor. He is anxious to serve in any capacity that will bring us nearer the time when Christ will come the second time.

When Richard was asked what he plans to do in life, he simply replied, "I want to spread the gospel to those who are not knowledgeable." When asked what he would like to be remembered for, Richard stated, "I want to be remembered for the God that I serve and how He lived through me."



Kalissa Jardine

Kalissa Jardine was born in 1991 to Lisa and Dave Jardine in Berrien Center, Mich. She has lived in the Berrien Springs area her entire life and attended the Berrien Springs Village Seventh-day Adventist School from kindergarten through eighth grade. As an eighth grader, Kalissa served as the vice president of her class.

When concluding her experience at the Village School, Kalissa enrolled at Andrews Academy where she has had the excellent experience of forming a large number of friends. At Andrews Academy, Kalissa served as secretary of the freshman class. She enjoys singing very much and being a part of the Pioneer Memorial Church monthly satellite program.

Along with basketball and all of the other activities in which Kalissa is engaged, she maintains a 4.0 GPA. She enjoys her study in chemistry very much, and was grateful that she took the class. Kalissa is also grateful for the positive influence of teachers and friends on her life. She hopes to serve others as an orthodontist upon completion of her formal education. When asked what she would like to be remembered for, Kalissa said, "I'd like to be remembered as a good and respectful person."

These students were selected and profiled by faculty members at their school. To recommend outstanding students for recognition, speak with your pastor or a faculty member. Visit www.lakeunionherald.org for selection criteria.

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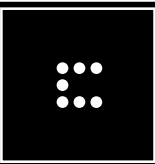
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