

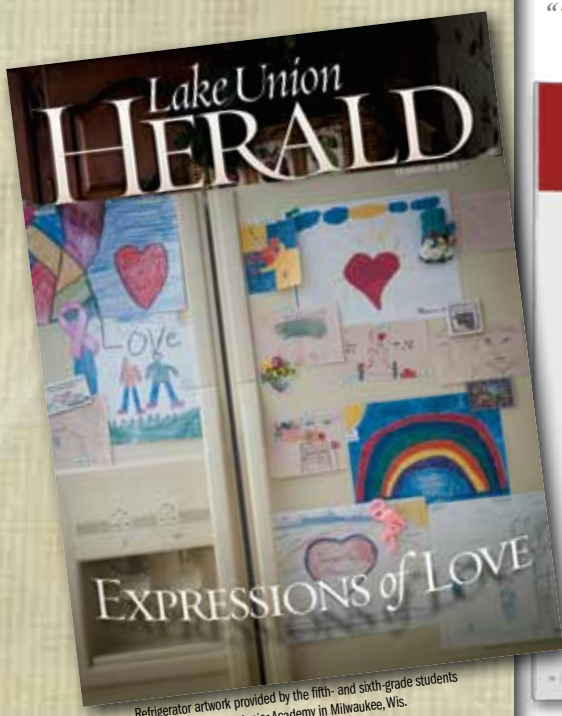
Lake Union HERALD

FEBRUARY 2009



EXPRESSIONS of LOVE

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



Refrigerator artwork provided by the fifth- and sixth-grade students at Sharon Junior Academy in Milwaukee, Wis.



18

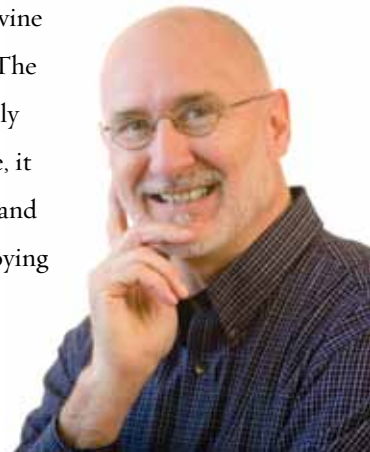
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Love is the one thing that distinguishes God's people as truly belonging to Him. It is the undisputable evidence of God's divine presence and the greatest argument for His existence. The cross demonstrates that genuine love is either irresistibly attractive or offensive. When allowed to govern the life, it becomes the strongest force known to man. It disarms and incapacitates a violent and hostile world bent on destroying all that is good. Love ultimately wins.

Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor



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Beyond Respect

A few years ago I revisited the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. It was inspiring to stand before that monument to Abraham Lincoln and contemplate this man who was both humble and great. But there is another important spot at that monument. If you step outside and walk toward the top of the steps, you will find a marker embedded in the marble—the place where, on August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. stood and delivered one of the greatest speeches in history.

It was an awesome moment as I stood there and contemplated what must have gone through King's mind as he powerfully inspired hope for Americans of African descent and cast a vision to all Americans of the type of nation our constitution calls for and God wants us to be.

I have read and listened to this captivating speech many times. It contains phrase after phrase of poignant and heartfelt personal descriptions of oppression experienced by millions of Americans, along with expressions filled with fervent hope for a better future. One of my favorite phrases is, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

On January 20, our country witnessed a significant realization of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream when Barack Obama became our 44th president. It was undeniable evidence that at some recent moment a tipping point took place in our country—a monumental transition when a majority of American citizens were willing to look beyond race and express respect for a man, his ideals, his leadership, by casting their votes for him to be their president.

While we can momentarily bask in this realization of a tipping point in our nation, God calls each of us to an even higher plane of spiritual interaction with each other—especially in the church. We are to go much further than just accepting someone. God calls us to love as He loves. I point you to 1 Corinthians 13, John 3:16 and 1 John chapters 3 and 4. God calls us to love above racial and cultural background, through the barriers of socioeconomic and educational status, personal talents and abilities and, thankfully, beyond our sinful characters.

As Christ prayed on the night before the cross, He looked down through the centuries and saw our condition. "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" (John 17:23 NIV). We need Christ's prayer to be answered in our lives now more than ever before. As we make His prayer our own, our lives, homes and churches will be different. Our love reputation will make us more effective as we fulfill the Gospel Commission. "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35 NIV).

I invite you to join me in a personal pursuit of a new and deeper dimension of His love that will go beyond respect.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Michigan “For one baptism, it would have been worth it all!” summarized Cindy Scott at the conclusion of South Haven Church’s “Prophetic Revelations” series of meetings. Cindy teamed her gifts of PowerPoint skills and organization with the singing and presentations of her husband Kevin Scott, pastor of the South Haven, Bangor and Pullman Churches.

Three new members were baptized November 8 at the Sabbath evening service. **Chris Borden** of Grand Junction and **Dorothy Clark** of Pullman will bring Bangor’s congregation to 48 members. In the host church **Edith King**, whose Adventist sister had long prayed for her, will increase the membership to 73.

Opening night meeting attendance was 70-plus. The meetings were held the first week in a Holiday Inn EXPRESS conference room. Following the transfer to the church for the remaining two weeks, attendance (mostly visitors from the community) often swelled to 70 again and rarely dropped below 40—excellent attendance for a Lake Michigan shoreline getaway with a population of a mere 5,000-plus that beckons visitors with a recreational harbor and blueberry fame.

Each evening, members connected with guests in the sanctuary and other volunteers were elsewhere, dedicated to hosting/greeting, childcare, ushering and the prayer

room, where prayers ascended throughout the meetings for attendees and prayer requests turned in. Also blessing the series of meetings were guest musicians who commuted from Andrews University.

Heads often nodded, affirming Kevin’s frequent questions as he dovetailed Christ’s love and laws of liberty. He asked, “Does this make sense so far? Is everyone agreeing that this is from the Bible and the Bible alone? Are we still all okay with this?”

The pastor’s questions were answered in the testimony of Dorothy Clark: “Since I was a little girl, I’ve wanted to find a church that teaches the truth.”

Chris Borden’s testimony included, “I came to know Jesus as a little boy, but through these meetings I came to know the Bible.”

On another note, in the words of Edith King, “If you have faith, you can do anything, if you believe.”

Cindy invited each candidate to request a special song while they were in the baptistry. Edith’s choice was “One Day at a Time,” Dorothy chose “Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us,” and Chris requested “In the Garden.”

A heart-touching moment was the pastor’s revelation of Chris’ serious will to attend the meetings; he did not miss one meeting. Chris caught a ride after the meetings as far as his father’s workplace, where he waited in his father’s truck until 2 a.m. when his father got off work and could take Chris home 14 miles. This continued each night until the Scotts learned about it, and then they began taking Chris home themselves.

After the baptism, as the congregation welcomed the three new members in a receiving line, a few tears spilled down Chris’ face as he ever-so-quietly shared, “I feel the power.” Upon this realization that he found where “Bible truth” is taught, Chris’ hungry determination reminds me of Matthew 5:6, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”



New members Chris Borden (left) and Edith King (right) are welcomed by Kevin Scott, pastor.



Chris Borden (left) prepares for baptism. In a receiving line following his baptism, Chris quietly shared, “I feel the power.” Also pictured: Kevin Scott, pastor



Dorothy Clark shares her testimony, "Since I was a little girl, I've wanted to find a church that teaches the truth."

The joyful event concluded with the congregation, new members included, forming a joined circle as large as the sanctuary and singing, "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God."

Random drawings at the commencement of each meeting resulted in the distribution of 44 copies each of *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*. Guests with perfect attendance were awarded a choice between a full-size Bible concordance, a family Bible or the New Testament on CDs.

Altogether, approximately 80 guests found their way into the meetings at some time. Eight more individuals continue to study following the meetings. We pray for God's continued blessing as He leads us to serve those He is calling.

Janet Lankheet, member, South Haven Church

Michigan It's amazing how the Holy Spirit uses our gifts, like Sharon Hilgendorf's hair-cutting skills, to introduce people like **Dale and Shirley Beers** to a deeper understanding of His love for them. Over a two-year period Sharon, a student nurse and member of the South Flint Church, intertwined her beauty salon skills with her "in-home" Bible studies and prayer at the Beers' home. Sharon introduced Dale and Shirley to Todd Ervin, Wayland Lively and Cecil Christo, who befriended the Beers in their personal search for Bible truth. As the relationships grew in their shared love of Jesus, Dale and Shirley were glad to have dedicated loving friends whatever the circumstances—friends who never give up.

The circle of fellowship widened as Dale and Shirley

became acquainted with Larry Camp, and Barbara and Milton Olds, members of the Irons Church. It was through their influence that Dale and Shirley were providentially introduced to Melvin Santos, then pastor of the South Flint Church.

"Soon after these events," Dale states, "Shirley contracted a very serious bowel disease and, according to her doctor, was not expected to live! She was on life support for 19 days before Sharon learned of her condition and contacted Melvin to ask for a special anointing and prayer service. God heard those earnest prayers, and she was placed on the road to recovery as promised in James 5:14-16."

Given another chance to live, Shirley wants to offer the rest of her life completely to God. On the day Dale and Shirley were baptized at South Flint, they shared their public testimony of God's goodness. With all their hearts they expressed, "God is good!"

Mary Pereault, associate communications leader, South Flint Church, as told to Bruce Babienko, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*



God put Dale and Shirley Beers in contact with several individuals who showed them the love of Jesus and how to experience a more meaningful walk with Him. From left: Melvin Santos (former South Flint pastor), Sharon Hilgendorf, Dale Beers, Larry Camp, Milton Olds and Barbara Olds; seated in front: Shirley Beers

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

A Passion for Ministry

BY MARJOLYNNE ESPELETA

It might be easy for someone to think the annual Easter Passion Play at Andrews University is just another theatrical production about Jesus; attempting to use drama to depict His ministry, death and resurrection—right? Shiphrah Fepulea'i doesn't think so.

A Passion Play volunteer for the past four years, Shiphrah keeps coming back for more. To her, it's not just a production; it's a ministry. She says, "It's fulfilling to watch the change in the volunteers during the months of preparation, but especially on the big day. Everyone's working together for one purpose."

Shiphrah first became involved with the Passion Play as a freshman when a friend asked her to be the props coordinator. Although it was a position with heavy responsibilities, she was excited to be involved. One of Shiphrah's favorite memories occurred the night before the first performance. She worked diligently to make sure all the props were in place, but realized no one had created a "mummy" of Jesus, wrapped in white cloth, for the resurrection scene. She scrambled to create it, using any material available. Shiphrah still remembers her sense of relief as she watched Jesus' body being taken into the tomb.

In ensuing years Shiphrah became a scene director, a role which allowed more people interaction. The favorite scene she directed was "The Last Supper." Children involved with Benton Harbor Ministries attended for the first time that year. They had reserved seating, "but if they could have gotten any closer, they would have." This clinched her conviction that looking into the eyes of children reveals whether or not the message is getting across. Shiphrah claims, "Whatever way we use to minister to children can be used in principle to minister to a secular crowd because children and youth are essential unbelievers. No one is born an Adventist. Just like you need to break things down into simple



Through her ministry in the Passion Play at Andrews University, Shiphrah Fepulea'i desires to bring a living picture of God's love to the community.

language for children, you need to do the same for those not accustomed to biblical terms. The Passion Play gives volunteers an opportunity to do that for the community."

There were some instances when Shiphrah became discouraged, but there was never a bad year. One spring the weather conditions necessitated cutting the "Triumphal Entry" scene, which she was directing. Yet, Shiphrah didn't feel as though her work was wasted. She says, "It's not about your work; it's not about your fruit blossoming." She helped out wherever she could, never losing the spirit of ministry.

Shiphrah considers the words of Ellen White, "It is not a theatrical performance that glorifies God, but the presentation of the truth in the love of Christ" (*Gospel Workers*, p. 356). Rather than condemning the Passion Play as a "theatrical performance," she believes Ellen is reminding us it is not about the performance or emphasis on self, but about the presentation of truth and the love of God. "We are definitely trying to keep that belief as a mission in everything we do—revealing the love of God through Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection," Shiphrah says.

So what is the Passion Play all about? To Shiphrah, "It's definitely about ministering to the community—to bring them a living picture of God's love."

Marjolyne Espeleta is the marketing director for the 2009 Passion Play at Andrews University.

The 2009 Passion Play at Andrews University will be held Saturday, April 11. For information and online ticket reservations, visit www.passionplay.andrews.edu.



Tasting God's Goodness in Africa

BY LARRY MCCONNELL II

Jambo! I am 17 years old and a senior at Indiana Academy. I just recently returned from a three-and-a-half week mission trip to Tanzania, Africa, with a group of 19 from my church, ranging from 12 to 73 years old. We were stationed at the Kidia Vision Hotel in Dodoma. Our groups of one to three people went to different sites every night to give a children's story, a health message and a sermon. God worked mightily, and many people were reached in the Dodoma area.

I had the privilege of being in a group with one of my best friends and fellow senior, Nathan Kelly. Every night (weather permitting) our driver and a church elder picked us up, and we made the half-hour journey to the village of Nzuguni. Nathan and I rotated preaching every other night for 19 nights. Our audience ranged from 200 to 600 each night. The Lord blessed Nathan and me in many ways in our meetings. Without Him, our efforts would have been a failure.

Before preaching at our site the first time, I spent a lot of time preparing. I prayed for God to "set me on fire" for Him, so He could deliver a powerful message through me. God did an amazing work that night! I felt the Holy Spirit fill me, and I preached a very powerful message on God's amazing love for us and His beautiful gift of salvation for all. I was encouraged and felt an incredible joy that can only come when God uses you as His tool. There is no greater joy than totally surrendering yourself to Jesus and letting Him work through you.

Throughout the trip I saw God's hand at work again and again. I could see Him blessing my friend Nathan in his sermons. Also, I saw that many of the people were also receiving a blessing. There were many instances when I strug-



Seven Indiana Academy students gathered under a tree with Supa Frank (right) and his son. The students traveled to Tanzania, Africa, to let God speak through them in meetings in the Dodoma area.

hating to loving preaching, and I wanted more. So when the opportunity came to preach in Africa, I jumped on it. I feel like I grew spiritually in Africa. I had some really high experiences and some really low ones, too. But I came back with a major blessing.

The Bible says in Psalm 34:8, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Put God to the test. He will never let you lack in anything of importance. I have tested God throughout my life, and Tanzania was no exception. If we would just take the time to taste what God has for us, we would all learn that David was right in Psalms—the Lord is good.

Larry McConnell II is a member of the Cicero Church in Indiana. His introductory greeting of "Jambo!" means "hello" in Swahili, a language spoken in Tanzania.

gled with many things. But through lots of time on my knees in prayer, God taught me many lessons. I learned that the only way to successfully deliver a sermon is to place yourself completely in the hands of Someone who is greater than you. I learned a lot about God and a lot about myself.

I wanted to go to Africa because two years ago I went on a similar trip to India. In India, I went from





The Hand of God

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

“There is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved. It is God’s finger on man’s shoulder.” —Charles Morgan

At Christmas time I read a story that reminded me about what I think Charles Morgan had in mind. When God touches us on the shoulder, it is a reminder that He is with us all the time. He says, “Here I am. I’ve been here all along. I love you.” There is so much to learn about love, and some of that learning comes through the words and actions of others.

In his story, “The Christmas Cookie Can,” Joe Burneak writes about being upstairs in the attic of his childhood home, after his dad’s death, when he came across an old Christmas cookie can his dad used to store extra Christmas light bulbs. As he picked it up, Joe remembered the Christmas when he was 11 years old. While anxious to go sledding, he first needed to shovel the walkways at his own house. And then his mother told his neighbor that Joe would shovel her walkways as well. When he finished after several hours, his neighbor gave Joe a dollar with a 50¢ tip. While he said that was fine, Joe was fuming inside. First he missed out on sledding, and that wasn’t much payment for doing such a big job.

While shoveling, Joe found himself thinking about how lonely his neighbor must be and wondering how long it had taken her to get that old. Later that week, she came over and told his mom what a good job Joe had done and brought with her a can loaded with homemade Christmas cookies. They were all for him! As Joe sat munching on his cookies, he figured that shoveling her sidewalk had been a way for him to give her a Christmas gift, one that she could really use. His neighbor died that summer, and Joe never shoveled her sidewalk again.

Joe decided to keep that Christmas cookie can to remind him of what he had figured out so many years ago, the true meaning of Christmas. He dumped the old light bulbs into the trash. As he did so, the piece of paper that had been used as the layer between the cookies and bottom of the can floated into the trash as well. Then he saw something taped to the inside of the can. It was an envelope that included a thank you note *and* a \$20 bill!

While a lovely Christmas story, Joe’s experience also reminds me of several great truths about love that work any time of the year. I believe that love is both taught and caught. From Joe’s mother, we can see how she taught him the importance of helping one’s neighbor. While fulfilling that responsibility, Joe’s own generosity sprang forth; and he actually found enjoyment in something he had not wanted to do. Afterward, Joe felt satisfaction and a kind of love toward his neighbor. And his neighbor? She showed love expressed as appreciation, combining it with an element of surprise. That surprise was magical, even so many years later. It was the hand of God on Joe’s shoulder!



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.

Adapted from Canfield, Jack and Hansen, Mark Victor. *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Christmas Treasury for Kids*. Florida: Health Communications, Inc., 2002.

The wise man advises us
“above all else, guard your
heart, for it is the wellspring
of life” (Proverbs 4:23).



A typical Western
diet increases risk
of heart disease
35 percent.

Heart Healthy Choices

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

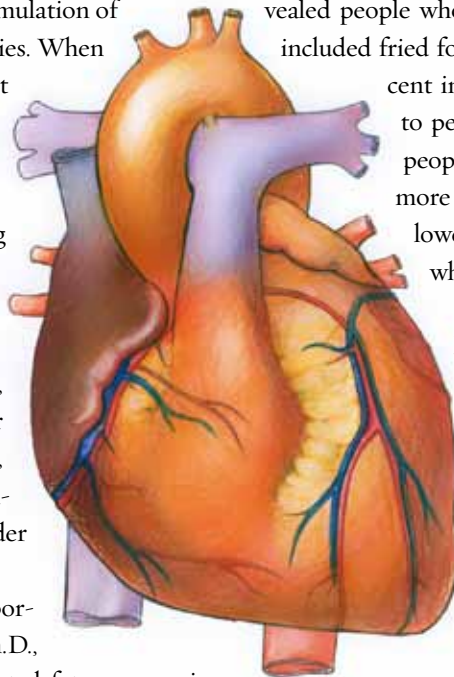
Weighing in at only ten ounces, the human heart is a remarkable organ. Beating 100,000 times a day and pumping about 2,000 gallons daily, the heart will beat some 2.5 billion times and pump about 60 million gallons of blood during an 80-year lifespan. Each of us has 60,000 miles of blood vessels to keep open and healthy for the delivery of blood to every cell of the body.

Heart disease, the number one cause of death in the United States, can result from the accumulation of fatty plaque inside the walls of the arteries. When the arteries supplying blood to the heart become blocked, a person experiences a heart attack.

Scientists have discovered many risk factors for heart disease. Knowing your risk factors is an important first step toward lowering your risk for heart disease. The major risk factors include elevated blood lipids, smoking, high blood pressure and obesity. Other significant risk factors include diabetes, inactivity and stress. Aging, a family tendency for heart disease and male gender are also important factors.

The type of fat one consumes is important. Health scientist Ancel Keys, Ph.D., showed us that a high intake of saturated fat was a major factor associated with high blood lipids and elevated risk of heart disease. The major sources of saturated fat in the American diet are meat and dairy products. The saturated fat and cholesterol in meat and dairy products is estimated to be responsible for about 60,000 fatal heart attacks annually.

Data from the recent INTERHEART study (which



analyzed risk factors for heart attack in 52 countries) revealed people who consumed a typical Western diet that included fried foods, salty snacks and meat had a 35 percent increased risk of a heart attack compared to people who did not eat those foods. Also, people who consumed a prudent diet with more fruits and vegetables had a 30 percent lower risk of heart attack compared to people who ate little or no fruits and vegetables.

Adventist men who consumed beef at least three times a week had a 60 to 70 percent increased risk of a fatal heart attack. On the other hand, regular use of nuts and soybeans lowers your risk of heart disease. Several large studies have shown that people with low vitamin D levels are twice as likely to have a heart attack or stroke, compared with those with higher vitamin D levels.

Trans fat provides a double whammy by raising your bad LDL cholesterol and lowering your good HDL cholesterol levels. The major sources of trans fat include French fries, chips, pizza, donuts, vegetable shortenings, Danish pastries and other bakery products that contain hydrogenated vegetable oils.

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



EXTREME GRACE

Love that Begs to Be Caught

BY DICK DUERKSEN

Love is who we are when God gets inside us and stirs ... till our best rises to the surface and bubbles out into the lives of others.

I love ice cream.

I love sunsets.

I love long afternoon naps.

I love Apple computers, iPods and digital cameras ... and airlines that treat you as “special.”

I love my wife and kids.

I also love kissing my wife, but am usually not quite as public about doing so as the lovers in

Chile where park benches, statues and lawns are strategically placed for kissing. There’s a comfortable kind of love there, one that is expressed openly and calls out to be adopted by strangers. It’s catching!

When I meet someone who knows how to love, I want to stay nearby and become like them. When I see someone reach out with kindness, I look for ways to be kind. Love is catching!

That’s probably why I love mission trips where dozens of eager volunteers gather to “live the love of Christ” in distant corners of the world. It’s catching.

In Mozambique, I saw His love in the eyes of a nurse as she cared for a tiny girl with skeletal arms and a wildly distended belly. I heard His voice as she counseled the mother on the importance of increasing the protein in her daughter’s diet. I went along to the family’s hut as the nurse delivered a month’s supply of protein-rich foods and gave a “bush chef” demo, followed by prayers and tears.

I saw His love in India as Bennie’s calloused hands reached out to hold the tiny hands of two young students



Dick Duerksen

at a new Adventist boarding school in Jeypore. The kids are from a hill tribe where there is no hope of education. Bennie’s there to help build dorms, classrooms and the new cafeteria where the students will get three meals a day ... and multi-vitamins ... for the first time ever. I saw His love in the faces of the students as they looked up at Bennie and wondered if Jesus might have looked like this roly-poly friend from Minnesota.

On Thanksgiving Day, His love showed up in the African village

of Chogwala as a mom encouraged her small daughter to put her fingers in the cold water that was gushing from the brand new well beside the Adventist church. Till now, all water had come from a dug well two-hours walk away. The new well was almost like having a faucet in your own hut—a dream even Mom had never dared dream.

The little girl was fearful, and tried to pull away as Mom pushed her toward the cascading water. Finally, her hands felt the cool flow and her face creased with a tiny smile of wonder, a smile that quickly became the joy of discovery as she plunged her fingers, wrist and entire arm deep into the rapidly-filling container. She looked up toward her mother, suddenly understanding why all the village women were crying and dancing and singing around God’s well.

Love is who we are when God gets inside us and stirs ... till our best rises to the surface and bubbles out into the lives of others.

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



Dear God...

BY DON JACOBSEN

Dear God,
A few days ago I heard a song on the car radio when I was out driving. I know You know all about that, but I want to talk to You about it. I don't remember a lot of the words of the song, but I can't forget this one phrase: "When He was on the cross, I was on His mind."

Is that true, God? Is that really true? Am I really that important to You? Did He really know about me that long ago? Was my name really on His mind? Was my eternal destiny really on His heart? In all that pain, could He still think about me? Is my picture really on His refrigerator?

On the "J page" in Your record book, I know there is the name of Joseph (I love his story). And Jacob. And Job. And Joshua. But is there a Jacobsen? *Really?*

It stretches my comprehension to know that, and it stretches my faith to believe it. With everyone who has ever lived, and everyone alive on the planet right now—You still know me, and love *me*? That's amazing! I have to confess that I stand in mouth-open wonder to grasp it. How is it even possible? There are obviously a lot of things about You I don't know yet, but I'm eager to learn.

One thing I am sure about: Every time I look into Your heart I get a clearer definition of the meaning of love.

One of the things that ratchets up my discomfort level just a bit in all of this, though, is when I remember that there are two sides to this love equation. As You love me, I am to love others. As You love me...

I love people. I can easily love the mother with a baby in her arms. I can quickly love that neighbor who goes out of his way to give me a hand. But if someone criticizes me ... or smears my reputation ... or rapes my daughter, then forgiveness becomes expensive and moves to a whole different level.

The song described what His love looks like, and You want me to feel the same toward everyone as He does toward me? *Everyone?* Would You want me to include in that list the hard-to-love people I know? There's a bunch of them.

That's really hard. That's not natural. That takes supernatural power—power like Jesus showed when He... *Aha!* I get it. The love You show me changes my heart and helps me to love like You love.

That means that Your Son wants to spend enough time with me that He can impress the spirit of forgiveness on my heart. That means that Jesus wants to teach me how to deal with mistreatment. That means that from Jesus I can learn to return love when I've been hurt. I think that also means that criticism is the devil's counterfeit for intercessory prayer.

Thank You for the song! Thank You for the reason to sing it.

Your friend.

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

Breaking Down Barriers

BY CLINTON MEHARRY

More than 200 participants from various parts of Indiana attended a full-day Heartland Health and Wellness Conference in Anderson last September. Presenters included Hans Diehl, Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) founder; Caldwell Esselstyn Jr., an author and surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic; and Antonia Demas, Food Studies Institute founder and author of the “Food Is Elementary” curriculum.

Most participants were from other denominations, and had previously attended a CHIP event offered in their local area. The Madison Park Church of God hosted the conference free of charge. When Hans Diehl thanked Kelly Bays for use of the facility, she responded, “How could we do otherwise, considering how much CHIP has done for our community?”

In remarks, Diehl explained that in a world bombarded with commercials for unhealthy eating, the way to grab the attention of individuals in our communities is through “education, motivation and inspiration.” Those were goals of the conference, too.

Caldwell, a former Olympic gold medalist in rowing, related the optimal diet for heart health, advocating fruits, grains, vegetables and only fats found in plant foods (see www.heartattackproof.com). He told the amazing story of 17 patients who were told they had less than a year to live by Cleveland Clinic cardiologists. Through a healthy lifestyle program Caldwell prescribed, all participants who continued with his program regained their health. Twenty years later they are thriving and remain symptom free.

Velma Milliron of Anderson later approached Caldwell and requested he autograph her copy of his book, *Prevent and Reverse Heart Disease*. Velma exclaimed, “This book saved my life!” because she said she adopted the principles Caldwell outlined.

Betty Chamberlain of Anderson also approached Caldwell to ask, “What test do you take to see if your ar-



Jesse Landess (left) interviewed Woody Wright (right), a gospel music recording artist. After Woody attended an earlier CHIP program and saw the difference the CHIP principles made in his life, he wrote a song that he performed at the conference.

teries are clogged?” After his explanation and encouragement to make some lifestyle changes, Betty remarked excitedly, “This is so encouraging! I can just change what I eat.”

An employee of Lifeplex Health Center in Plymouth was so impressed with what she heard at the conference that she asked the Adventist CHIP team to conduct the CHIP program several times a year in their facility. Another at-

tendee arranged with his pastor to host a CHIP program in the near future at the Nazarene Church in Alexandria.

Woody Wright, a gospel music recording artist, was present to share how he achieved weight loss and lower cholesterol because of lifestyle changes he made following the CHIP program. Inspired by his success, Woody wrote a song, “CHIPping It Off One Pound at a Time!” which he sang to delighted listeners.*

Susan Landess, Indiana Healthy Choices director, and her husband Jesse were key organizers of the event, co-sponsored by Adventist Health System and other local hospitals and organizations. The Landesses are amazed to see health ministry break down prejudice and create many positive relationships in communities and churches throughout Indiana.

The second annual Heartland Health and Wellness Conference will be September 18.

Clinton Meharry is the health ministries director of the Indiana Conference.

*“CHIPping It Off One Pound at a Time!” may be heard at www.lifestyle4health.org, a website set up by Indiana Healthy Choices, an outreach of the Indiana Conference health ministries department.





LA GRAN KERMÉS

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“De los métodos de trabajo de Cristo, podemos aprender muchas lecciones valiosas. El no siguió un solo método; de diversas maneras trató de captar la atención de las multitudes; y entonces les proclamó las verdades del Evangelio.”—El Evangelismo, p. 94, 95.

Un sábado del pasado mes de noviembre llegué a unirme en adoración con la Iglesia Hispana de Berrien Springs. Algo que noté inmediatamente fue la presencia de personas que parecían visitas. Cuando llegó el momento de dar la bienvenida a los que estaban presentes observé que había más de 20 visitas. Al tener más información de esta realidad comprendí que muchos de los hermanos de la iglesia hispana estaban trabajando usando varios métodos para llegar a la comunidad.

Por lo que entiendo, todo comenzó hace dos años cuando la iglesia hispana se propuso trabajar con la comunidad hispana en Benton Harbor. Primero decidió desarrollar amistades por medio de varias actividades sociales. Una de éstas fue un evento llamado “La gran kermés” para el cual se decidió alquilar un salón e invitar a la gente a que participara en un programa de fiesta que tendría música y juegos sociales. Asistieron más de 100 visitas en esa ocasión. Se organizaron otros eventos sociales tales como un banquete navideño, regalar chocolate caliente en tiempo de invierno y regalar rosas a las madres hispanas en Benton Harbor en el Día de la Madre.

La segunda parte de su estrategia que luego se puso en acción fue encontrar a personas con quienes podrían compartir la palabra de Dios. De manera que en un negocio mexicano colocaron una exposición en la que ofrecían un sorteo de grandes Biblias de lujo. Por medio de este proyecto obtuvieron las direcciones de decenas de personas que pedían estudiar la Biblia.

Luego organizaron un equipo de “obreros bíblicos voluntarios” que se ofreció dar estudios bíblicos a los

Anuncio de una actividad social que se llevó a cabo el año pasado para la comunidad hispana de Benton Harbor.

interesados. Además, algunos hermanos de la iglesia se unieron a un ministerio en la Universidad Andrews llamado “Spanish Street” en el cual alumnos de Andrews acostumbran ir los sábados de tarde a visitar hogares hispanos para cantar y compartir la palabra de Dios.

Como resultado de todas estas actividades hay más de 50 personas que reciben estudios bíblicos regularmente. Es más, han desarrollado un plan para transportar no sólo a las visitas sino también a los niños de la comunidad de Benton Harbor al culto infantil que se lleva a cabo una vez al mes.

La iglesia hispana planea tener este próximo marzo su campaña de cosecha, culminando en un gran bautismo en abril. No tengo duda que la dedicación de los hermanos de Berrien Springs resultará en una “gran kermés”, una gran fiesta sabática al ver a las almas redimidas para el reino de los cielos. En este año, llamado Año de Evangelismo, invito a los lectores a que aprendan de esta iglesia y desarrollen sus planes para llevar a muchas almas a los pies de Cristo.

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



Meet Don Livesay

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Don Livesay, the newly-elected Lake Union president, was at our offices on Wednesday, January 5, to meet the staff. During this visit, the Lake Union Herald interviewed our new president so readers could get better acquainted with Don and his wife Barbara, and learn about Don's call to ministry and leadership. Excerpts from that interview follow.

LUH: How did you come to the sense that God was calling you, not only to a relationship but to a full-time ministry?

DL: My spiritual journey started as a pastor's kid—I'm a "P.K.," born in Benton Harbor, Michigan, as Dad was finishing Emmanuel Missionary



College (now Andrews University). My earliest memories of life are here in Michigan.

Memories include Michigan camp meeting, lakes, people water skiing and a series of evangelistic meetings that Dad was a part of in Bay City. Our family also lived on the East Coast where dad was the pastor of the Wilmington, Delaware, and Spencerville, Maryland, churches. At the age of nine we moved to San Diego, California. It was during those years that spiritual formation really began to gel in my heart and life. That formation included hours of my mother reading the Bible stories to me, hearing my dad practice sermons in his study and seeing the wonderful dynamics of the church. Oh yes, I was aware of some hard stuff in the churches where my dad was the pastor, but it was personally a very positive experience to be a "P.K." and a Seventh-day Adventist kid.

At the age of 11 I felt the desire to be baptized, and so I joined a baptismal class. As the day of baptism approached, I recognized there were a number of things in my life that needed to be corrected, and that some things needed to be made right with people. I remember going to some people and asking them to forgive me for the wrong things I had done to them.

Just before the baptism the pastor asked us to write down information for the baptismal certificate. Then he said, "Please answer one final question. Have you ever given your life to Jesus?" I thought for a minute, and con-

cluded, *I've never really done that*. I remember knowing that I loved the Lord and that positive things were happening in my life, but I had never intentionally asked God to take my life. That night, at home, I knelt down and committed my life to Christ. That was a very important point in my life. I

don't remember it being a particularly emotional experience at that point, but it was very real and a very deliberate conversation with God.

As the early teen years arrived, I remember spiritually drifting; but another marker in my spiritual life came when some of those really old and mature kids from the academy came to the junior high for a week of prayer. They had just returned from one of those extra special mountaintop experiences at a Bible conference. They came to our classroom and shared Jesus with us. I remember that was course correction for me, another significant point—a resolve, a coming back to a focus on the Lord.

It wasn't long after that an evangelist held a series of meetings at the El Cajon Church where my dad was the pastor. On the last night of the meetings, he gave a typical call asking for those who were hearing God's voice to give their hearts to the Lord and to join the remnant church. At the end of that traditional call, he also gave an invitation to accept God's calling into ministry. I was sitting clear in the back row, inside aisle, and felt that calling. I was convicted to go forward. I did not think of my dad until I reached the front; he was quite emotional. That was another point where there was a clear decision, a definite turn in direction, an understanding that this is where my life is going.

After that, I became more and more involved in leadership at our church and in school, such as class functions, the old medical cadet program, summer camp staff and local

Adventist youth programs. Serving on a camp staff was and still is one of the most effective leadership training experiences the church offers. I still draw from things I learned in those years.

LUH: Did you get hooked on this whole idea of leadership from your experience at camp?

DL: I was already engaged in leadership, so I'd say the camp staff experience was more developmental. Camp grew my logistical abilities; but, more importantly, it taught lessons in people skills. Logistics have always come fairly naturally, but the foundational values of how to respect and honor people, through processes and decisions, is a core necessity in leadership. If we just do the right thing but in the wrong way, it can create trauma and damage in people's lives. Camp also developed a real vision of what youth ministry can be. From that point forward, all I wanted to be was a youth director.

LUH: So you saw that as a direct fulfillment of your call and commitment to ministry—as camp director?

DL: The call to ministry came first, but then the focus for youth ministry developed as I was inspired and watched people. I was also fortunate to work for Bill Dopp who was at that time one of the most dynamic youth directors in the denomination. Bill had a wonderful vision for camp programming that was highly spiritual, good quality and dynamic. Seven staff members from just a two-year period later became youth directors, and many additional staff members became teachers, pastors and lay leaders who still continue to serve the church. That's amazing! That kind of mentoring was huge in my life and for many others.

Our camp experience was pivotal in our calling to ministry from college. Des Cummings Jr., who followed Bill

Dopp, became our connection that led to a call from his dad to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. As a theology student at La Sierra, my vision for ministry did not extend beyond the geography of Southern California. It helped us learn that God's plan has no borders, and understanding that truth has resulted in an exceptional experience in our journey of service.

Attending the seminary was also a deepening experience for us that included deep academic instruction, inspiration and fellowship with future colleagues in ministry. The godly instruction we received was powerful.



LUH: How did Barbara come into the picture?

DL: When I was going through freshman orientation at La Sierra College, she was giving English placement tests. I'd just had four wisdom teeth removed, with appropriate facial swelling, and

had a broken hand all wrapped up after a water skiing encounter with a sand bar—not a very suave image. We connected and became good acquaintances. Our only date that school year was to hear the Wedgwood Trio. That summer she was on the camp staff. During training week, after a meaningful conversation with Barbara, I said to myself, *I really like her*. We started dating and never looked back.

LUH: Was she ready to embrace ministry as well?

DL: Barbara was a new Adventist when we started dating. She came to La Sierra as a Christian, but not of our faith. At that time students, who I like to refer to as “pre-Adventists,” were required to take “Introduction to Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs.” That class was important to Barbara's journey.

One evening a friend asked her, “Is there any reason why you wouldn't become an Adventist?” That night she made a commitment to move forward and was soon baptized. Her

folks and brother were later baptized. Her brother is now a physician and a leader in his church. Eventually, her sister, brother-in-law and their children were also baptized. So Barbara came into the church and was a natural fit.

Barbara is the kind of person who is very genuine in her love of the Lord and for people. Some people worry quite a bit about roles in ministry. Barbara has always embraced and excelled in the opportunities for ministry that come with being a pastor's or administrator's wife, but she clearly understands that her primary personal response to God is to fulfill His calling to her and the roles He places her in. So, yes, our partnership in ministry has been a life of individual and yet intertwined service.

LUH: How has Barbara served in her own ministry?

DL: It has been a personal joy to see Barbara bless people through her ministry, which has been mostly in education, and recently in family life and risk management/church safety. Her newest focus has been helping churches, schools and families be safe in every way. Whether in the classroom or as a school administrator, she has always been able to lead people into Christ-centered mission focus and build a productive climate with individuals and groups of people.

LUH: That's an interesting story. I'm convinced through this whole process that God has chosen you for this role. And I suspect, as you mentioned this morning in worship, that He has a specific plan. You may not know the details yet, but do you have a sense for the vision that God is giving you for the Lake Union yet?

DL: I don't think it appropriate for a new president to jump into this wonderful territory of churches, conferences and institutions with a package or program. God has devel-

oped some important values and convictions in my heart. Here are a few:

The local church is the center of mission. The Lake Union must continue to seek every way possible to support each conference's ability to help mission happen in the local church and school. I'm gratified to see that the Lake Union is a lean operation, allowing as much financial resource as possible to go back to the five conferences to help local mission take place.

We must periodically reevaluate what we're doing at every level of church organization and carefully seek the highest degree of effectiveness.

Quality spiritual leadership is a universal need in society and for the church. We must be more intentional in leadership development and support.

The union represents its churches and conferences to the World Church. This means careful listening, asking both the easy and the difficult questions, and being a voice when the time is right.

We must find more effective ways to engage our young adult population in a relationship with Christ and with the message and mission of the church. Many young people are making \$1,000,000 decisions at work and ten-cent decisions at church. Many love the church, but find little or no meaning in church attendance. I hope to find ways to listen to our young adults and share with local church leadership what they are saying and ways to get them involved.

I pray we can continue with the ongoing work by our educational leadership to define the wonderful values of Adventist education and find ways to answer the challenges we face. Our schools exist to help young people be a part of the message and mission of the church.

As a collective church and individuals, we must return to a greater engagement with the Word of God and prayer. This will open the door for the power of the Holy Spirit to equip us and lead us into a true time of the Latter Rain.



Gary Thurber says that he's never been accused of being a romantic, but when he shared with me some of the reasons why he is so thankful for his wife, Diane, I asked him if he would be willing to share his story with our readers for our special "love" issue. He humbly and reluctantly agreed to do so, when I assured him that it would be a blessing to our readers. By the way, we all appreciate Diane, our managing editor, and we slipped this tribute into the magazine without her knowledge. Surprise! —*The editor*



THANKFUL FOR

Love

BY GARY THURBER

My story begins when I was a junior at Mt. Pisgah Academy. I was very shy about asking girls out on a date. Banquet time was especially painful because there was intense peer pressure to find someone to go with. During my first two years at the academy, I had asked several young ladies for a date—some of them were even nice enough to accept. I am quite certain, however, that I bored them to death. You cannot imagine how difficult and awkward it was for me to think of even one logical sentence to keep the conversation going.

"Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all He has done"

COLOSSIANS 2:7 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION).

As my junior year began, there was one girl I was determined to ask out on a date. Diane Wynn had been at Pisgah the year before, but I could never find the nerve to ask her out. She was very pretty, smart and president of her class. Finally, in an intense knee-knocking moment, just prior to a Saturday night school sponsored film, I asked her if she would sit with me. I can still remember the title of the film, "The Long Grey Line," but I have no idea what it was about. My attention was on this girl next to me. When the movie finished, a miracle happened. I was actually able to talk to her in full sentences! There was something about Diane that made her easy to talk to and fun to be around. I was astounded by this new development, and from then on I looked for any opportunity to spend time with her.

Our friendship grew over the year into a steady dating relationship. Not only was she a joy to be around, I even liked myself better when I was with her. I became a better student, shed some bad habits and most importantly, grew spiritually. Diane had a walk with Jesus and her witness to me was a wonderful blessing. As a couple, we made our relationship with Christ a priority.

As the school year was winding down, I was dreading the thought of not seeing her every day. We had to go in different directions for our summer work, but we stayed in contact with each other through letters and the occasional phone calls. (There were no cell phones back then!) I was anxious for school to start so I could see her every day.

Just a couple of days before registration, something happened that drastically changed my plans for my senior year and my relationship with Diane. My sister and I were traveling home from the academy late one night when we were involved in a severe car accident. My sister escaped the accident with a number of painful bruises—I wasn't quite as fortunate.

The first memory I have of the accident was when a Good Samaritan was pulling me from our car. Even though my eyes stayed shut most of the time, I could hear and understand all that was going on around me. The urgency of my rescuer, the EMTs and emergency room staff began to paint a terrifying picture in my mind about my condition. I knew a surgeon had been called in, and was anxious to hear what he had to say.

When Dr. Etten entered my room, he gave me his assessment of my condition. "Son," he said, "You have a broken pelvis, back and extensive internal injuries. We are going to have to go into surgery immediately to stop the bleeding." All I knew to ask was, "Doc, am I going to die?" He patted me on the shoulder and said, "There is that possibility, son, but we are going to do all we can."

I can remember two distinct thoughts. First, I wanted more than anything to see my parents before I was taken to surgery. They had been called and were in route, but our home was about 40 minutes from the hospital. I just mostly wanted to tell them I loved them. Secondly, I rehearsed in my mind how wonderful it was to have a Savior like Jesus and that no matter what happened on the operating table, it wasn't going to be the end of the story.

As I was being wheeled down the hall toward the operating room, my parents burst through the double doors at the end of the hallway. They rushed to my side. Mom planted a big kiss on my cheek and my dad held my hand and prayed. I had my chance to tell them, "I love you!" What a gift from God that moment was.

When I woke up the next morning in intensive care, all I could do was shout, "Hallelujah!" The nurses thought there was something terribly wrong because with all the tubes I had running everywhere, I sounded more like an injured cow. All I knew was that I was alive and that I had so much to live for! The Lord had answered the prayers of my parents and many others. What a gracious God we serve and what a blessing it is to be a part of a faith community who lifts one another up in prayer.

Diane was one of the first to travel and visit me. Despite



my rearranged nose and lack of teeth, she still recognized me and just the sight of her brought me tremendous comfort. I will never forget her taking my hand and praying for me. She asked God to spare my life and bring healing.

Within a week or so, I was “out-of-the-woods” in terms of life threatening issues. Now the doctors began to focus on the other injuries I had sustained. I knew that school had started and all I could think about was getting back and being with Diane as soon as possible.

When the neurosurgeon and orthopedic surgeon came for a consultation, the news was difficult to take. The orthopedic doctor said with the upcoming back surgeries, I could forget about school this year. The neurosurgeon’s prognosis was that he had doubts I would ever walk again or be able to have children. This was devastating news for me because I loved my class and wanted very much to graduate with them. I also wondered what this meant for my relationship with Diane.

Over the next few days, I made a decision of what I needed to do. I asked my mother if I could dictate a few thoughts to her. Then, while I was upside down in a striker frame, I dictated two letters as my patient mother sat underneath me and transcribed my words. First I wrote my class to give them the news. This group contained so many dear friends—including my closest, Jon Messenger, who had been my roommate from my freshman year. (He continues to be one of my closest friends today.) Then I wrote Diane. I thanked her for the wonderful times we had together and told her what a blessing she had been to me. After that, I did what I felt I needed to do—I released her from our relationship. I shared with her what the doctors had said, and that she should now move on with life. We were both so young and we were going to be living in such different worlds. I could tell by the tears on my mother’s cheek that she didn’t want to write this letter. But I knew it was the right thing to do.

In return, I received a box full of letters from my class filled with words of encouragement. From Diane, I received a reply with a little different tone. I don’t remember the exact words but it was something like, “You are crazy! You are not get-



ting rid of me that easy!” She went on to say that there might be reasons one day why we should break up, but this accident wouldn’t be one of them. I could never

express how healing her words were. Not only did I receive a fresh new insight into who she was, but it also helped me realize this accident didn’t have to define my future.

The very first weekend of school, Diane drove the nearly three hours to see me. When she walked in the room, the first thing she did was to take my hand and pray. She prayed a very specific prayer. “Lord, please heal Gary so he can graduate with his class.” She visited the next weekend as well and the one after that.

The principle of our school was concerned about all of Diane’s travel. He called her in and said, “Diane, your support of Gary is admirable, but we simply can’t let you go every weekend to see him. We have some weekends that are ‘Closed Weekends’ that no students are allowed to leave. We are also concerned about your grades.”

Diane said to him, “I understand your position, so I will be dropping out of the academy so I can continue to support Gary.” The principle was taken back—Diane was one of their “star” students! He then quickly came up with a new strategy so that Diane could continue to visit and still stay at school.

With the amazing support of her parents, Diane never missed a weekend to come and see me. Each weekend visit began the same way—a prayer for me to be able to march with my class.

As the weeks went by, the Lord began to answer Diane’s and others’ prayers on my behalf. Some of the muscles the doctors thought I would never have use of again began to twitch. With the skillful and encouraging care of my physical therapist, walking again now seemed like a possibility. First came the parallel bars and then finally, the crutches. It wasn’t pretty, but I was actually walking again!

By the end of January my caregivers were willing to release me from the rehab center. The first part of Diane’s prayer now seemed possible, I could walk down the aisle at graduation, but receiving a diploma from Mt. Pisgah Academy seemed im-



possible. First, the doctors would not sign off on my going back to school. Second, the academy was built on a hill. Even if I could go back, I could never negotiate the terrain.

I had only been home a few days when my parents had a surprise for me. “Gary,” they said, “We know how badly you want to be back at school and graduate with your class. So we purchased a golf cart for you so you can get around the campus.” What cool parents! They made me promise I wouldn’t “spill the beans” to the doctor where I was and loaded me up and drove me to school.

I quickly learned that getting back to school and graduating were two completely different hurdles. There were some challenges in trying to survive school both physically and scholastically. Jon, my roommate, unselfishly helped me with my transportation and physical obstacles. Diane not only did all of my laundry, but she also kept me on schedule to finish the home study courses I had to complete to graduate. With their help, I was able to make it through to the end of the year.

I was overwhelmed with emotion when the familiar strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” floated towards the rear of the gymnasium on graduation day. Walking down the aisle, with only the help of a cane, I was reminded of all that I had to be thankful for. I believed with all my heart it was a miracle. What a Savior, what wonderful parents, and what a special young lady God had brought into my life.

After high school, we went on to college and my love for Diane continued to grow. We had the normal ups and downs of any relationship, but knew God had brought us together. In recognizing her exceptional character and heart, I ask her if she would marry me. Amazingly, she agreed. On June 7, 1981, we were married in her home church in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Admittedly, I have thrown her a few curve balls since that blissful day. For one, I had no intention of ever entering the ministry and I don’t believe the thought ever entered her mind about being a pastor’s wife. When the Lord made it clear that this was where He was leading, however, she graciously



encouraged me to move forward in faith. This transition meant that instead of living in one town, as she had growing up, she now would be called to live in many places—and some of them not too long. Seven

moves and nine ministry assignments later, she still brings to my life immense joy and support.

I have watched her juggle ministry in our churches, motherhood and work with great skill and grace—and all without complaint. She has given our two sons, Ryan and Justin, and me a beautiful gift of warmth and love in our home.

That is my story. What is yours? I know you have one. When was the last time you sat thoughtfully and recounted all the many ways those who love you have blessed you on your journey? It is my contention that we don’t do it nearly enough. I believe it is when we lose our thankful hearts that Satan has his best chance of bringing rifts into our relationships. Have you ever found yourself with a harsh or ungrateful

spirit toward someone close to you? It’s amazing how fast we can forget all the blessings of the past in a difficult moment when our hearts are not filled with gratitude.

Of course none of us have ever been so loved and cared for as we are with Jesus. Yet there are times ungratefulness enters our hearts. This is a dangerous place for us to be. There is a cure for a heart in that condition. We must stop and take time to recount all that the Lord has done for us. In doing so, our hearts will once again be filled with praise and awe.

Paul says in Romans 2:4, “It is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance” (NASB). This, I believe, is one of the reasons why the Psalmist encourages us to take time to meditate on our Savior; it will lead to a thankful heart and bring us closer to our Savior.

So this Valentine season, take time and thank all those around you for the many ways they enrich your life. With our hearts filled with gratitude, we can face a future where the best is yet to come.



Gary Thurber is the president of the Indiana Conference.



BABY

BY JOHN THURBER

FRANCES



On one particular road trip, I traveled with other members of the King's Heralds quartet to the Dominican Republic. It had been a long day, filled with travel and appointments, and we were all very tired. We were quite happy when our hosts dropped us off at the motel that Friday night.

I entered my room on the second floor, down at the end of a breezeway. Nothing prepared me for the sight that met my eyes. The walls were riddled with bullet holes! This made me rather uncomfortable, so I made my way quickly back to the desk to try to change rooms.

"A man named Francis stayed in that room last night," the desk attendant explained. "He was trying to overthrow the government, so the army came to get him."

"Well, they must have gotten him," I replied. Judging from the number of rounds fired, I felt sure of that!

"Actually, they didn't," the lady told me. "Francis heard they were coming, and escaped just in time."

I asked for a new room, but the desk attendant said that room was the only one she had for me.

"You'll be okay," she tried to comfort me, adding that they didn't have revolutions *that* often in her country.

I went back to my room and tried to sleep. I heard every sound the whole night through—plus a few that weren't there. When dawn finally broke, I could hardly wait to leave the room. It was very early and quite a long time before we were to leave for our next appointment, so I decided to take a walk.

I started down the hotel stairs to the first floor. That's when another sight met my eyes as I looked beneath the room I stayed in. There, sitting on three chairs and still hanging over, was the most unusual human being I had ever seen. As I stepped onto the sidewalk, she waved.

"Do you speak English?" she asked.

"Yes," I replied.

"Would you like to talk with me?" she asked.

"Sure."

I walked to where she sat. She was huge, *very* huge.

"Would you mind telling me how much you weigh?"

I asked.

"Eight hundred forty-seven pounds," she told me.

In the next few minutes I learned her nickname was Baby Frances (aka Frances Josephine Voges), and she was the fat lady in a circus. She said she had to buy three airline tickets to travel. Though she was very, very wide, she could still scrape through a door sideways.

Baby Frances had been on every diet imaginable with no weight loss.

"One time I ate nothing but lettuce and drank only water for three weeks," she told me, "and gained nine pounds."

"You won't be able to help yourself," her physician had warned, "no matter how hard you try."

Baby Frances had a wonderful personality. As she talked I learned she traveled to the Dominican Republic every year with a circus from the United States. The people there loved her, and she loved them, too.

Her motel room was directly under mine, and I couldn't help but notice the big hole in the wall behind her. So, I asked if she knew how the hole got there.

"Well," she began, "two nights ago there was a man named Francis rooming above me. The army came to get him, but he escaped in time." That's when someone told the army Francis was just below, in her room.

“Since my name is Baby Frances, they thought [he was in my room],” she sighed. So, the army drove up in a tank, and shot a hole in her wall!

“The vibration was so strong,” she told me, “it lowered the two double beds I was sleeping on, right to the floor. Thank God, the ammunition went right over me, for Jesus protected me.”

“Are you a Christian then?” I wanted to know.

“Oh yes,” she replied. “Jesus is my Savior.”

I asked if she went to church, but the answer was no. When Frances entered a church, people stared and some laughed, especially the young people. She said she drew attention from the message being presented. Frances decided to stop attending church because she didn’t want to interfere with the spiritual growth of others. Sadly enough, the last time Frances visited a church she broke a pew.

“I don’t go to church anymore,” she said, “but I have a pastor and he travels with me while I’m in the States.

“He’s showed me the way to Jesus,” she went on. “I’ve taken several Bible courses from him, and plan to take more when I get home.”

Then she said something that sent a tingle right up my spine.

“My pastor’s name is Richards, out of Los Angeles, California. You should meet him someday! That’s my greatest desire—to meet him and tell him what he’s meant to me.” She went on to say that she’d really like to meet the “male choir,” too.

Of course, she had no idea who I was or that the “male choir” was the quartet staying right in that motel. And I didn’t want to tell her—at least, not yet.

“I’ll be back soon,” I said, after we’d talked a while longer. “There’s someone I want you to meet.”

Soon, I was back with Jim McClintock, Jack Veazey and Bob Edwards, the other quartet members. She still didn’t know who we were, but I kind of wanted it that way. You see, there was a very special song the King’s Heralds sang at the beginning of each Voice of Prophecy broadcast. It began, “Lift up the trumpet, and loud let it ring. Jesus is coming again.”

I knew the minute we sang that song, she’d know.

Jack blew the pitch pipe, and as we started singing the most beautiful smile of recognition came across her face while the tears flowed freely down her cheeks.

When we finished the song, Baby Frances got up from her chairs and came toward us. Her arms were held out wide—wide enough to take us all in—as we huddled together to receive a most wonderful soft and loving hug. What a moment of rejoicing that was!

We sang several more songs for Baby Frances, and then she requested special prayer.

“When I go back to the States, I’m having surgery,” she told us. Baby Frances only had a 50/50 chance of recovery, but without the surgery she had no chance of living very long at all.

We had prayer with Baby Frances, and were able to tell her more about the wonderful Jesus she’d come to love and believe in.

Deep in my heart, I’ve always known it was a miracle of God’s grace that brought us to Baby Frances. And this experience was a real encouragement to me, for after hearing her story I knew, without a doubt, that God’s grace is big enough to save a soul like hers—all 847 pounds worth.

Baby Frances’ radio pastor, H.M.S. Richards Sr., was speaker/director of the “Voice of Prophecy” radio program. He was not with us when we met her, but we told him her story. He wanted to meet her and pray with this dear lady, of course, but it wasn’t too long after we returned from our trip that we learned of her death in the *Los Angeles Times*.

We were saddened to hear Baby Frances passed away, but glad to know she died with the hope of a resurrection. It encouraged me to think that God loved and cared enough for this one searching soul—no matter how large or small—that He brought her and the quartet together, deep down in the Dominican Republic.

John Thurber sang with the King’s Heralds quartet from 1961 to 1967. He writes from Rossville, Georgia. This story is adapted from Thurber, John. *The Music of Heaven*, Michigan: Remnant Publications, 2001.

The “Voice of Prophecy” is one of the oldest continuous radio broadcasts. Founded in 1929 by H.M.S. Richards Sr., the program is presently aired by more than 1,500 radio stations around the world. For more information, visit www.vop.com.

A Glimpse of My Daddy

BY SARI BUTLER

His arms were crossed and his head down. Standing at the end of a low counter, five-year-old Jakob was alone in the classroom. When I walked in, he raised his head. It was obvious he had been crying.

“Where’s your daddy?”

“I don’t know.”

I was uncertain: *Was he in time-out, disciplined for some earlier misdeed or was he afraid?* I crouched down so I could be eye to eye with him.

“What’s wrong?”

“I don’t know where my daddy is.” A great sob escaped as a tear rolled down his cheek.

“Would you like me to help you find him?”

“Yes!”

Brightening with hope, Jakob wiped his face on his sleeve.

His father David was a fellow teacher, and I had an appointment with him that Friday afternoon. I knew David was somewhere in the building. More importantly, I knew he would never leave his son uncared for. I figured he stepped out of his office to run a quick errand somewhere else in the building.

Jakob and I walked into the library that connects several classrooms with the rest of the school. Across the top of the bookshelves, I saw David enter the library and begin cutting across in our direction. I told Jakob that I saw his daddy. In his excitement, Jakob began to run straight toward another set of doors. It was obvious Jakob would miss his daddy because of his limited view behind the shelves. Just before he went too far, I told Jakob to stop and turn to the left through the row.

The parallels from that scenario were easy to draw. I, too, have been like little Jakob, losing faith and losing peace when I don’t see my Father. I have been saddened, too, by friends’ stories of loss of hope in God, even though “Dad-



dy is still in the building.” Even with as clear a promise as we have been given, “I will never leave you or forsake you,” we think we know better because if He were still with us, Mother would not have gotten cancer, or the job would have worked out. We defiantly and dejectedly cross our arms, put our

heads down, and say we don’t know where our Daddy is. And we cry in self pity rather than choosing “ruthless trust,” but He is still in the building.

Then there is the role of the helper. What responsibility do I, who have gone further down the road of a grace-filled relationship, have to help those who lose sight of Daddy? Can I offer hope to those who have lost hope? I, who repeatedly have been reassured of His faithfulness, know that Daddy is not far and is faithful. “You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13 NIV).

Lastly, how do we view our Father, a view often distorted by our less-than-perfect earthly parent? Maybe you were told that “big boys don’t cry,” or your tears were laughed at or ignored. Maybe you were told that you could cry only if there was blood. Or maybe there never was a daddy to see the tears you cried all alone.

David scooped up his son, hugging him tight. And I was privileged to see a glimpse of my Daddy in little Jakob’s parable.

Sari Butler is a counselor at Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Pediatric cochlear implant surgery provides gift of hearing for young patients

Tears filled her parents' eyes the moment Lauren White heard the sounds of their voices for the first time. Deaf since birth, the 18-month-old Wheaton toddler blinked in surprise when her cochlear implants were programmed at Adventist Paulson Pediatric Rehabilitation Center.

"Nothing can compare to that moment," said Jennifer White, Lauren's mother.

Lauren was the first child to undergo simultaneous bilateral cochlear implant surgery at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, the only hospital in the western suburbs performing cochlear implants on pediatric patients. Her journey from surgery to recovery was documented by Suburban Life newspapers, which ran a three-part series on the subject.

In October, neurotologist Robert Battista conducted the surgery, which

involves implanting in the inner ear a tiny electronic device called a cochlear implant. Unlike hearing aids, the implant does not make sound louder or clearer. Instead, cochlear implants bypass damaged parts of the inner ear and send electrical signals directly to the hearing nerve. The brain processes these signals into sound. The implants are activated by devices worn outside the ear on both sides of the head.

During the next few months, Lauren will return to Adventist Paulson Pediatric Rehabilitation Center several times for additional implant programming sessions to ensure that her sound levels are set at appropriate levels. She also will continue to undergo speech and physical therapy during the next several months or years, but her parents hope she can eventually attend a mainstream school.

"Lauren's ability to hear will gradually improve because the brain needs time and training to learn to process the new sounds it hears," Battista said. "Eventually, we hope she will be able to distinguish Bach from Beethoven."



A smiling Lauren White prepares to have her cochlear implants programmed at Adventist Paulson Pediatric Rehabilitation Center. Her parents and grandmother are in the background.

Pediatric audiologist Dawn Wolcott Maniskas, who activated Lauren's implants, called the services provided by the hospital and the rehab center "life changing."

"Rehabilitation and teaching are important parts of maximizing outcomes for children with cochlear implants," Wolcott Maniskas said.

Battista and the other physicians at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital's Center for Hearing Restoration and Ear Research offer patients and their families a comprehensive range of diagnostic services and surgical treatments for ear and hearing problems. This includes profound deafness treated with cochlear implants, perforations of the ear drum, otosclerosis, acoustic tumors, balance disorders and facial nerve problems. Doctors at the center provide local patients an opportunity to receive expert services close to home. The center also participates in national clinical trials, giving patients an opportunity to be among the first to experience cutting-edge medicine.



Pediatric audiologist Dawn Wolcott Maniskas, left, is pictured with Jennifer and Todd White and their daughter, Lauren, who was the first simultaneous bilateral cochlear implant pediatric patient at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. Born deaf, Lauren now can hear because of the surgery.

Lisa Parro, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

Service in a suitcase benefits many

“Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World.” A Christian perspective for affecting positive change in the world is a big reason why many students come to study at Andrews University. During the last couple of years, the Andrews University Department of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences (CLS) has become especially dedicated to this credo by focusing their students’ career plans toward mission-oriented service.

Marcia Kilsby, associate professor of clinical laboratory sciences and department chair, expressed concern with past trends indicating CLS students were unlikely to return to their home countries after completing their education to work in the developing world. “For years I have been frustrated. My faculty were frustrated,” she says. “We’ve had students graduate from 64 different birth countries [during] the past 20 years, but we’ve only had a few return home to work in a developing country. We want to keep a sense of mission before our students.”

Another frustration has been the lack of usable laboratory equipment for students who do go on short-term mission trips. “Our CLS students are going out and they’re doing blood pressures; they’re pulling teeth; they’re fitting eyeglasses; but there [hasn’t been] a lab for them to go to, to do the testing they know how to do, because there was no lab there,” Kilsby says.

Then CLS faculty learned about International Aid’s Lab-In-A-Suitcase—a portable laboratory capable of diagnostic testing, all run from a battery unit. The battery can either be recharged by electricity or a solar panel. All contained within the space of a suitcase, it seemed like the perfect solution. Kilsby contacted International Aid, and they realized the department’s goals were in line with

their organization’s mission. As a result she, along with Richard Show, associate professor of clinical laboratory science, was invited to sit on International Aid’s international advisory board. Kilsby and Show have worked with the organization to improve the Lab-In-A-Suitcase equipment.

Andrews University students have assisted as well. Two years ago, CLS students were assigned the task of identifying the key diseases in each country of the world and determining whether or not Lab-In-A-Suitcase could support the testing to diagnose those diseases. Following that research, Kilsby wrote a letter to International Aid recommending equipment improvements. Changes were made to Lab-In-A-Suitcase, altering the contents of the portable laboratory. Andrews CLS faculty accepted the task of rewriting the laboratory’s old manual to relate to the new contents.

In order to keep the new manual usable on an international level, CLS tapped into one of Andrews University’s strongest assets—diversity. The department didn’t have to look far.

“In our CLS senior class from last year, I had students who collectively spoke 21 languages. And I said, ‘Okay, it’s time for you with your red pens. I want you to rip the manual draft apart. I want you to edit it. Is there jargon in there? If it was translated into your language, would it come across in a strange way? What would make this as user friendly as possible in as many cultures and languages as possible?’” says Kilsby. “The support of the students and

the activity of the faculty—those two things came together to produce a very nice, quality manual to accompany the Lab-In-a-Suitcase.”

In October 2008, Kilsby traveled to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) and presented a week-long training session on use of Lab-In-A-Suitcase to the laboratory personnel at four hospitals. There she was able to see and experience the results of the department’s faculty and students’ commitment and work on the Lab-In-A-Suitcase. She says, “Diagnostic testing is vital to providing quality healthcare. It has been a privilege for the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science to be engaged in work that can help save lives and improve quality of life.”

Currently, Andrews University CLS seniors are aiding the faculty in the effort to have Lab-In-A-Suitcase receive endorsement from the World Health Organization.

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



Ji-Ming Yune, a senior clinical laboratory science student, repacks Lab-In-A-Suitcase equipment.

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Fifth grade class makes a difference

Illinois—The fifth grade class of Hinsdale Adventist Academy experienced what it means to give back when they participated in an outreach with Feed My Starving Children, a non-profit organization that packs and sends food to starving children throughout the world.

The students and their parent/chaperones diligently weighed and measured chicken, veggies, soy and rice into plastic bags for shipping. They then packed these bags into boxes to be sent to Haiti. The students were amazed that the 44 boxes they packed made up 9,504 meals valued at \$1,516.15!

According to Brian Kim, “It was hard work, but it was worth it! Doing this really opened my eyes and showed me that I should help out more and not complain when I am hungry. ... I hope that everyone who reads this will also help out starving children around the world and pray for these people.”

Madison Kerbed said it was something she will remember forever, “It was a great experience. We were able to give back to God for what He has given us!”

If the fifth graders have their way, according to Heaven Newsom, “everybody wants to come back here again!”

Educating our children for a life of service in this world is a big part of what we do here. In fact, the fifth-grade teacher, Jamie Alabata, is a graduate of Hinsdale Adventist Academy’s class of 2003 ... so I would say we’re doing a pretty good job!

Rebecca Garrett, marketing director,
Hinsdale Adventist Academy



From left: Trevor Wightman, Brian Kim, Ryan Dieter and Victor Vargas helped pack more than 9,500 meals valued at \$1,516.15 for hungry children in Haiti.

International Appreciation Week encourages appreciation for diversity of cultures

Michigan—When we get to Heaven, we can look forward to the day when people of all nations of the world gather together to worship and praise God. Andrews Academy is blessed with having so many nations and cultures represented that we can experience a little taste of what the worship experience might be like in Heaven.

In the fall, we celebrated International Appreciation Week. During the week, various cultures presented our daily school-wide worships. For example, six students from Africa sang a song of thanks to God in one of the languages of Malawi and wore the traditional dress of the country. On another day, the Korean students presented a different special music. Scripture and prayer were offered in various languages of the world. A number of students also presented highlights of the mission trips abroad they were involved in; some described their studies abroad. One group of students highlighted the activities of this past summer while they were involved in an archeological dig in Jordan.

Midweek assembly involved a celebration of our school’s diversity. The Modern Language Department of Andrews Academy presented Fall Fest. The program began with prayer followed by the International Flags Entrance and students from 44 countries of the world presented their flag. Two skits were presented by students from the German and Spanish classes. An international cultural fashion show followed where students from many cultures of the world presented their traditional clothing. These programs enable one to realize how we are truly blessed by a diversity of cultures present at Andrews Academy.



Students carried flags from 44 different countries at the International Flags Entrance during the Fall Fest program.



Students in different costumes show the diversity of many cultures represented at Andrews Academy.

Following the Fall Fest program, the students and faculty enjoyed foods from around the world. International students and their families brought in their country's traditional treats for all to sample.

Keila Sanchez and Tom Baker teach the modern languages at Andrews Academy. They were appreciated for planning such an inspiring week of activities for everyone to enjoy. We learned to appreciate even further the diversity we experience each day of the school year.

Steven Atkins, science and mathematics teacher, Andrews Academy

Niles Adventist School surpasses 100,000 shoe box milestone

Michigan—As the third Roadway trailer pulled out from Niles Adventist School (NAS) on Nov. 25, 2008, with the remaining 13,521 Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoe boxes, NAS students and staff celebrated a record-breaking year! This was the school's 12th year to serve as a collection site for OCC. Not only was the school's 100,000 goal achieved, but they blew past it by 3,000 boxes!

The 100,000th box was filled to overflowing and wrapped in special

gold paper. Esther Jones was invited to assist with shoe box deliveries in the Dominican Republic in February, and she plans to hand deliver the special gold box to a little girl at that time. The box includes a picture of all the students and staff from NAS in its inside cover.

The NAS students and the fifth-grade class from Village School in Berrien Springs worked very hard loading the shoe boxes into the trailers. Jones said, "I so appreciate all the help from so many volunteers in preparing gift boxes, bringing cookies, hot chocolate and, of course, the 13 Relay Center coordinators (from Dowagiac, New Buf-

story of Jesus, which they receive with their box. One little girl of another faith was so excited after hearing about Jesus. She said that she had been praying to someone, she just didn't know His name before. She was so happy to know her new Friend, Jesus!

Adventist pastors and missionaries use these shoe boxes in their ministries in Belarus, the Russian Seminary, the Philippines, Rwanda and Uganda, just to name a few. These gift boxes are often able to get into places where Bibles alone would not be allowed. This is a great way to reach out and touch the poorest children and their families with the love of Jesus. Jones said, "I'm



Students at Niles Adventist School prayed for the children who will receive each shoe box.

falo and St. Joseph in Michigan, and Chesterton, Elkhart, Goshen, Granger, Hobart, Lake Station, Michigan City, Plymouth, Rochester and South Bend in Indiana)—we certainly couldn't have done this without them. They worked so hard in their communities to promote OCC and to provide a local drop-off location so their community could easily participate in this fabulous project for the neediest kids of our planet."

These gift boxes are not just boxes of toys for the children, but "gospel opportunities" to share the love of Jesus. Many children have never heard the

looking forward to meeting lots of 'shoe box kids' in Heaven!"

Please remember to pray for OCC and the delivery of these shoe boxes around the world.

Gina Meekma, editor, *Niles Westside News*, as shared by Esther Jones, volunteer area coordinator, Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a non-denominational international children's ministry run by Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse (www.samaritanaspurse.org). Since 1993, more than 60 million shoe box gifts have been distributed to the poorest children in more than 100 countries.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Rushville series leads seven to Jesus

Illinois—Rushville is a small rural town on the west side of Illinois with a population of 3,300. This year the group of believers were actually made into a “company of believers” who meet weekly for church services. Fourteen people signed on as charter members. This company of believers decided to have a ShareHim series of meetings in their little town.

The meetings started Nov. 7, 2008, and were held every night through Nov. 22, 2008. Each evening, the meeting started promptly at 6:55 with a couple of songs followed by a welcome, announcements and some gifts were given out. And each evening the ShareHim lectures were held and an invitation to accept Jesus was extended as special music was offered. Simultaneously, a similar program was offered for the children each evening in an adjoining room.

Adrian Amarandei, pastor, and Ed Barnett, Illinois Conference evangelism coordinator, spoke to the adults

each evening. Hanna Crosby, 12 years old, presented lectures in the children’s room. She used the ShareHim PowerPoint presentations for kids, and also offered crafts and music each evening as well.

On the night when the subject of baptism was presented, four people asked to be baptized in the adult meeting and two expressed an interest in recommitting their lives to Jesus by profession of faith. As the adults were leaving, Hanna came across the room with a radiant smile on her face. She said to the evangelism coordinator, “Pastor Ed, every day I have been praying that



Hanna Crosby, 12, led out in the children’s program, presenting messages by PowerPoint and offering crafts and music.



The Rushville Company was so pleased to welcome David and Eva Hewitt (center) to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

one of the young people that had been coming to the meetings would want to be baptized.” She excitedly held up a card that was given to her by a 13-year-old boy who attended the meetings faithfully every night and wanted to be baptized.

It was so exciting to see the way that God blessed in these meetings; there is nothing like seeing people led to Jesus Christ. So the Rushville Company has seven people now who want to join the church. There has already been one baptism, and more will follow. Praise God!

Glenn Hill, communication director, Illinois Conference, as shared by Ed Barnett, ministerial director/evangelism coordinator, Illinois Conference

Glendale Church organist honored for 30 years of excellent service

Indiana—Everyone who has attended services at the Glendale Church in Indianapolis anytime during the past 30-plus years was probably privileged to enjoy Herbert Harris' expertise on the organ. Each Sabbath finds Harris faithfully at the church organ, adding a heavenly nuance to the worship service. The members decided it was time to show their appreciation for Harris' loyal service. On a recent Sabbath, head elder Oliver Nelson surprised Harris by calling him to the front to receive a plaque expressing the members' pleasure and gratitude for his outstanding music and for his significant contribution to the spiritual life at Glendale.

Before coming to Glendale, Harris was minister of music at the Capitol City Church in Indianapolis for 16 years. Each summer finds Harris playing the organ for Sabbath services at the Indiana camp meeting in Cicero. "Music has definitely uplifted me spiritually throughout my life," Harris reflected. "I suppose the highlight of my career was being the artist soloist with the Butler University symphony, but nothing pleases me more than playing for the Lord in His Church on Sabbath morning!"



Judith Yeoman

Recognizing Herbert Harris' loyal service as church organist for more than 30 years, the Glendale Church family presented him with an appreciation plaque. From left: Oliver Nelson, Glendale Church head elder; Herbert Harris, Glendale Church head organist; Miled Modad, Glendale Church senior pastor

Although Harris is "up in years," he is still teaching in adult education at Martin University in Indianapolis, and he plans to continue making music for God as long as he has life.

Judith Yeoman, communication correspondent, Indiana Conference



Fifty years ago, under the direction of their pastor, Ralph Hiner (left), the Terre Haute congregation took on the huge project of building a new church with their own hands. Although the church cornerstone is engraved with the year 1956, the congregation actually moved into the completed building and dedicated it in 1958.

Terre Haute Church commemorates 50th anniversary

Indiana—Nov. 8, 2008, marked the 50th anniversary of the dedication ceremony of the Terre Haute Church. To commemorate the occasion,

Barbara Lawrence (whose father was among the builders of the church) gathered treasured photographs with the help of family and friends, for a special Sabbath service to be held on the exact day and time the dedication ceremony took place 50 years ago.

In the old photos, generations of the Terre Haute Church family were pictured in various activities from the actual building process to taffy pulls. Church patriarchs

and matriarchs, former pastors and their families, as well as Terre Haute Adventist school children were identified by long-time church members. Joan Guess, a faithful matriarch of the church, recognized her much-younger self in one of the group photographs.

Herb and Phyllis Wrate, now members of the Lewis Church, were the first couple to be married in the new Terre Haute Church 48 years ago. They brought their wedding album to share at the anniversary commemoration.

Inspired by the commitment and dedication of their predecessors, the church's current thriving programs were highlighted, including their prison ministry, Pathfinder club, nursing home ministry and



The Terre Haute Church today has a congregation engaged and actively spreading the gospel.

church school. Ernie Peckham, the current pastor, offered a prayer of re-dedication for the gospel work of today's church building and congregation. He believes the builders of the church would be pleased that the current congregation is engaged and actively spreading the gospel and is committed to that task until Jesus comes.

Karen Peckham, communication leader, Terre Haute 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.

Weddings

Julia Goncalves-Rosales and Mazias deOliveira Jr. were married Aug. 24, 2008, in Bloomington, Ind. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Pedro Huaranga.

Julia is the daughter of the late Alvaro and the late Elirane Rosales, and Mazias is the son of Mazias and Edinir deOliveira Sr. of Pharr, Texas.

The deOliveiras are making their home in Bloomington.

Maria V.C. Bulilan and Terrance P. Flanagan were married Aug. 10, 2008, in Hinsdale, Ill. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Ramon Baldovino.

Maria is the daughter of Lucesio and Potenciana Bulilan of Abuyog, Leyte, Philippines, and Terrance is the son of Bernard and Catherine Flanagan of Orland Park, Ill.

The Flanagan's are making their home in Chicago, Ill.

Julie Roush and Nathan Fountain were married May 31, 2008, in Lansing, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Gary Thurber.

Julie is the daughter of Duane and the late Diana Roush of Grand Ledge, Mich., and Nathan is the son of Harry and Claudette Fountain of Plymouth, Mich.

The Fountains are making their home in Plymouth.

Anniversaries



Elizabeth M. "Betty" and Elvin L. "Bud" Pettigrove celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 30, 2008, by a quiet dinner with immediate family at the home of their youngest daughter. They have been members of the Traverse City (Mich.) Church for 40 years.

Elvin L. Pettigrove and Elizabeth M. Durrell were married May 30, 1948, in Atlanta, Ga., by Pastor Keith. Elvin has been an employee of the State of Michigan. Elizabeth has been a nurse aide.

The Pettigrove family includes Janet and Greg Arguson, Roy and Jan Pettigrove, Brenda and Norm Brown, and Eric Pettigrove all of Lake Ann, Mich.; Mary and Tim Molamphy of Morristown, Tenn.; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.



Earl and Annabelle Zager celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 24, 2008, with a dinner reception given by their children in the Lapeer (Mich.) Township Hall. They have been members of the Lapeer Church for 15 years.

Earl Zager and Annabelle Vartenuk were married Aug. 22, 1948, in Akron, Ohio, by Elder Walter Gibson. Earl has been a pastor/evangelist in Ohio and Mich. Annabelle has worked as a secretary at Adelphian Academy Mill, and other places including the Review and Herald.

The Zager family includes Judy and Gene Foose of Loma Linda, Calif.; Stephen Zager of Cleburne, Texas; Janice LeoGrande of Redlands, Calif.; Stanley and Susan Zager of Apopka, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

Obituaries

AHLERS, Lloyd A., age 66; born May 18, 1942, in Clam Falls, Wis.; died Sept. 21, 2008, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his son, Andre; brother, Floyd; sister, Ilea McDaniel; and two grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Pastor Dan Augsburg, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

ALLEN, Evelyn J. (Drury), age 88; born June 18, 1920, in Phoenix, Ariz.; died Sept. 29, 2008, in Whitestown, Ind. She was a member of the Glendale Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

Survivors include her husband, John E.; and daughter, Jana L. Withrow.

Memorial services were conducted by

Elders Harry Bennett Jr. and Harry Bennett Sr., and Pastors Miled Modad and Paul Yeoman, and interment was in Pleasant View Cemetery, Whitestown.

BOSTON, Alice (Osborne), age 87; born Sept. 30, 1921, in Cedar Lake, Mich.; died Oct. 16, 2008, in Houston, Texas. She was a member of the Linden (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Velma Wood; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Gotshall, and interment was in Cedar Lake Cemetery.

CONKLIN, Donald V., age 84; born May 4, 1924, in Assyria Cty., Mich.; died Oct. 11, 2008, in Allegan, Mich. He was a member of the Gobles Pinedale Church, Gobles, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Allene F. (Fairchild); son, Frank; daughter, Sharon Whitcomb; brother, Ronald; sister, Kathryn Shire; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Don Williams, and interment was in Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Battle Creek, Mich.

DAVIS, Sharon (Shipley), age 67; born June 24, 1941, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Aug. 26, 2008, in Muncie, Ind. She was a member of the Anderson (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, John Sr.; sons, Scott "Bob," John Jr., Tim and David; daughters, Sandra Clabaugh and Sarah Reinhart; and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Terry Nennich and John Davis Jr., and interment was in Huntsville (Ind.) Cemetery.

FERGUSON, Elsie M. (Frances), age 80; born Nov. 9, 1927, in Gladwin, Mich.; died Sept. 21, 2008, in Fenton, Mich. She was a member of the South Flint Church, Burton, Mich.

Survivors include her sons, Douglas and Donald; daughters, Penny Polston, Patricia Roux, Danielle Starr and Corinne Ferguson; brothers, Warren Oliver and Dana Snowden; sisters, June Elias and Dixie Isbell; 13 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Melvin Santos, with private interment.

FERNALD, Geraldine J. (Grzybowski), age 84; born Dec. 18, 1923, in St. Paul, Minn.; died Aug. 2, 2008, in South Bend, Ind.

She was a member of the Plymouth (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Richard; daughter, Judy Lamon; two grandchildren; and five step-grandchildren.

Private graveside services were conducted by Pastor Greg Crump, and interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Plymouth.

JOHNSON, Keith, age 48; born Nov. 2, 1959, in Fowlerville, Mich.; died Sept. 26, 2008, in Edmore, Mich. He was a member of the Cedar Lake (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Paul, Justin and Nicholas; daughters, Kellie and Autumn Johnson; mother, Christina (Labowski) Wetters; brothers, John, Andrew, Joseph and Louis; and sister, Christine Detrick.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Mickey Mallory, with private interment.

RICHARDSON, Mabel I. (Coffman), age 88; born Feb. 23, 1920, in Pennington Gap, Va.; died Sept. 28, 2008, in Richmond, Ind. She was a member of the Richmond Church.

Survivors include her sons, Daniel L., Brent D. and Bruce E.; sister, Edith Tompkins; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

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

YAREMA, Alex, age 79; born June 19, 1929, in Saskatchewan, Canada; died Oct. 10, 2008, in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was a member of the Gobles Pinedale Church, Gobles, Mich.

Survivors include his brothers, Nicholas, Mike and Jon; and sisters, Pauline Mirsau and Ellen Richards.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Don Williams, and interment was in Battle Creek, Mich.

YOUNG, C. Elbert, age 96; born Jan. 31, 1912, in Old Unionville, Ind.; died July 29, 2008, in Bloomington, Ind. He was a member of the Bloomington Church. He was also the builder of the Indiana Academy barn and gymnasium.

Survivors include his sons, Lamar W. and Floyd A.; daughters, Marjorie E. Farabee and Gwen Platt; sister, Lena Young; nine grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Fernando Ortiz, and interment was in Little Union Baptist Church Cemetery, Old Unionville.

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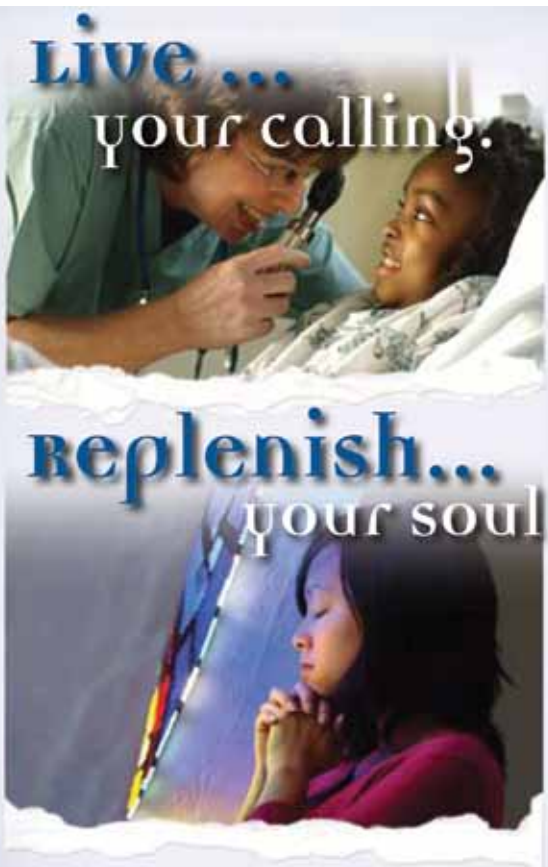


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Ph.D. in research or related area, teaching experience (preferably higher education). The position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. Interested individuals should send résumé and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; e-mail sep@southern.edu; or fax 423-236-2468.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Portuguese/Spanish instructor. Opportunity includes teaching university level Portuguese and Spanish classes, advising students, conducting research and serving on committees. Qualifications: minimum of master's degree in

Sunset Calendar

	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Mar 6	Mar 13
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:04	6:13	6:22	6:31	6:41	7:50
Chicago, Ill.	5:10	5:19	5:27	5:36	5:47	6:55
Detroit, Mich.	5:50	5:59	6:08	6:17	6:28	7:37
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:08	6:16	6:24	6:32	6:43	7:50
La Crosse, Wis.	5:20	5:29	5:39	5:48	6:00	7:09
Lansing, Mich.	5:55	6:05	6:14	6:23	6:34	7:43
Madison, Wis.	5:14	5:23	5:32	5:41	5:53	7:02
Springfield, Ill.	5:22	5:30	5:38	5:46	5:56	7:04

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF NURSING seeks an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner faculty member who holds ACNP certification and has current clinical experience. Requisite qualities include interest in research, successful teaching experience, enthusiasm, flexibility and commitment to nursing and Adventist education. Doctorate preferred, but will consider other qualified individuals. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Desiree Batson, Search Committee Chair, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, or by e-mail to drbatson@southern.edu.

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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

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 program. Comments must be in writing and signed. Comments cannot be treated as confidential.

Center for Adventist Research Symposium: You are invited to attend the fifth annual "Ellen G. White and Current Issues" symposium sponsored by the Center for Adventist Research, the Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office and the Seminary Church History department. It will be held on **Mon., Apr. 6**, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., in the chapel of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. The purpose of this symposium is to break new ground in

understanding Ellen White and issues relating to her life, ministry and prophetic gift that have current importance. There is no charge for attending the symposium.

2009 Workshop on Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy. Andrews University Seminary will offer its popular six-day workshop from **Aug. 2-7**. Besides university faculty, presenters include 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

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, a chaplain at La Sierra University. To obtain additional information about this **Feb. 20-21** event, go to www.trcamp.org. Or call Trish Thompson at the Indiana Conference youth department at 317-844-6201.

Healthy Beginnings Seminar, a condensed version of the CHIP program, will be held at the South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church starting **Mar. 1**. Each seminar will be held on Tues. and Thurs. from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for four weeks. There will be a soup and salad lunch on **Feb. 21** followed by an information session for anyone interested. The seminars will be held at 1936 E. Altgeld in South Bend. For more information, call 574-234-3044, or e-mail firstsda@sbcglobal.net.

Musical Festival is **Apr. 2-4**. All Adventist young people in grades 5-10 may participate in this motivational annual event! The grand-prize song from the third annual Scripture song contest will be performed Sabbath afternoon by the festival choir. For further information, contact Stacy Stocks in the Indiana Conference education department at 317-844-6201.

Sabbath Celebration is **Apr. 4**. Mark your calendar now for this annual spiritual feast at the Indiana state-wide mini camp meeting held at the Indiana Academy gymnasium in Cicero.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Feb 7** Local Church Budget
 - Feb 14** Adventist Television Ministries
 - Feb 21** Local Church Budget
 - Feb 28** Local Conference Advance
- Special Days**
- Feb 7-28** Black History Month
 - Feb 8-14** Christian Home and Marriage Week
 - Feb 21** Health Ministries Sabbath

North American Division

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 & 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 laahomecoming@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.

Enterprise Academy Alumni Association 90th Anniversary All-School Homecoming will be held **Apr. 10-11** on the campus

of Great Plains Academy in Enterprise, Kan. ALL alumni are invited to attend. For more information, visit www.alumni2009.org, or call Darcy Force at 785-263-8211.

Preview Union College During Home School

Sneak Peek: Home schoolers, explore your options for college and your future, **Apr. 16-17**. For more information or to reserve your place, call 800-228-4600 or e-mail gofar@ucollege.edu.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend includes a Golf Tournament on **Apr. 24** and Alumni Reunion Sabbath on **Apr. 25**. Honor classes are 1949, '59, '69, '79, '84, '89, '99 and 2004—all friends of LSA are warmly welcome! Keynote speaker: Lewis Walton. Come celebrate friends and memories on our Riverside campus. Contact the alumni office at 951-351-1445, ext. 244, or e-mail Isaalummi@lsak12.com to update information, find missing class members, and share news and class reunion gatherings. We also have a large selection of vintage yearbooks and group photos if you need replacements.

Platte Valley Alumni Association Homecoming will be held **Apr. 25** on the Platte Valley Academy campus in Shelton, Neb. For more information, visit www.greatplainsacademy.org, or call Darcy Force at 785-263-8211.

Courage to Stand International Camporee:

More than 9,000 Pathfinders are already registered to attend the largest six-day Adventist youth event in the world, **Aug. 11-15, 2009**. More than 30,000 participants will represent approximately 100 countries. To exhibit and/or participate, contact the Center for Youth Evangelism at 269-471-8380, or visit www.camporee.org.

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Love Is Patient

BY GARY BURNS



Our family made a covenant with God to get on the path to becoming debt-free. But what does love have to do with it?

I learned from my friend, Chris Blake, to apply the *so that* principle to every decision of life—to approach every decision motivated by love. “I choose to do this *so that* I can love better.” After all, it is the primary thing Jesus asked us to do.

Does living debt-free help you be a better lover? Well, to start with, you have to be patient to be debt-free—to forgo a present pleasure for a future gain. According to 1 Corinthians 13, patience is one of the qualities of love.

Practically, it is more loving to be debt-free because one typically pays up to three times the value of a debt in interest. On a debt of \$10,000, that's \$20,000 that could be avail-

able to invest in ministry to others (see Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25). What a joy that would be to be able to give at that level!

Realizing that God alone could bring about that desired result, we made a covenant with Him—a partnership with God—to follow a simple three-step plan: 1) Declare a moratorium on additional debt; 2) Apply all additional income He provides directly to debt; 3) Organize debts from largest to smallest and systematically eliminate them one by one.

Love is patient. A patient lifestyle will help you become debt-free *so that* you can love better.

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

Visit adventiststewardship.org for additional information and resources for debt-free living.

The Gift of Giving

BY JIN PARK

Last year I went to Honduras on my first mission trip. Although going on a mission trip was something I always wanted to experience, I made excuses for past mission trips and kept putting it off. Whether it was because I was scared or too busy with school, there was always something in the way. But there was something about the mission trip to Honduras that made me want to go. The more I prayed and asked for the Lord's guidance, the more I realized God was calling me to go.

As the trip drew closer, I began to have a lot of mixed emotions. Part of me was anxious and excited, but I was also feeling quite nervous and afraid. I had never been on a mission trip or to a third world country, so I didn't really know what to expect. Fortunately, the Lord kept reminding me that He would never leave my side, so I stayed firm in my decision to go.

The day of the trip finally arrived. I had hoped and prayed that God would not only use me for His work, but that He would also allow me to come back changed. We all met at the school, loaded our bags and headed to the airport. It was really early in the morning, but everybody was excited about what was ahead of us. Once we arrived at the orphanage, we immediately found ourselves surrounded by children who soaked in every bit of our love. At that moment, I knew the trip would be an experience I'd never forget.

As much as we enjoyed spending our free time playing with all of the kids at the orphanage, we also knew there was a lot of work to be done. Despite the extreme temperatures, we

helped build a new dormitory for the older students at the orphanage. We started off carrying cement blocks up to the second floor of the dorm, but by the end of the week many of us had learned how to mix cement and lay the blocks as well. We also planned vacation Bible school programs for the elementary and middle schools, as well as a nearby daycare. Teaching children Bible stories and singing praises with them was amazing. I just wanted to give them everything I could. Seeing how much they appreciated the few things we had to offer them, like a hug or even a simple toothbrush, made me realize how satisfying it felt to put a smile on a child's face.

The eight days that we spent in Honduras truly showed me the meaning behind the text found in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give, than to receive." I found the joy in giving the simple things in life that many times we take for granted. By sharing God's love with others, I was able to receive indescribable blessings that I will never forget.



Jin Park is a freshman at Andrews University where she is studying biology and pre-dentistry. She attends the Battle Creek Tabernacle and wrote this story while she was a senior at Battle Creek Academy.

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

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

Benton Baker, 17, is a junior at Battle Creek Academy (BCA). Benton is the son of Gwen and Marcus Baker, who are members of the Battle Creek Tabernacle.

"It's always interesting to see who emerges as a student leader," says BCA principal, Eric Velez. "Benton is one of those students." Leadership roles Benton has held include class president and vice president. He is currently the S.A. president and a member of the Student Council. Benton also plays in the award-winning BCA Concert Band.

"He is motivated and driven to excel," Velez continues, "whether it is school work or making repairs in the school building or mowing the lawn." Benton's favorite school subjects include chemistry and U.S. history. He is also a member of the BCA Ski Club, plays on the Tabernacle basketball team and often leads out in portions of the church worship service. Benton's other interests include biking, electronics and cars. He's looking forward to going on a mission trip to El Salvador this spring.

Benton's favorite BCA memories include annual band tours and Bible Camp at Camp Au Sable. After graduation, Benton plans to attend Andrews University and then continue in medical school at Loma Linda University. He wants to eventually reside in Denver, Colorado.



Benton Baker



Abigail Hayes

Abigail Elizabeth Hayes, 17, is a junior at Battle Creek Academy (BCA). She and her mother, Delores Hayes, are members of the Battle Creek Tabernacle.

An excellent student, Abigail enjoys English class the most because she loves the creative process that is involved in completing projects. She is on the varsity volleyball team, is a member of the academy band, teaches flute lessons and is a teacher's aide. Outside school, Abigail has volunteered at the local soup kitchen and participated in a roadside clean-up project.

Abigail is also a leader. She is president of the junior class and a member of the Student Council. According to Eric Velez, BCA principal, "she is respected by her peers. She is funny and caring, but her best attribute is that she is chatty. She is able to make friends with everyone." Some of Abigail's favorite BCA memories are goofing off with friends and walking around Disney World with friends while on band tour.

Abigail plans to attend college and is interested in pursuing a career in psychology.

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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