

HERALD

Lake Union

HERALD

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



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in this issue...

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the best kept secrets in North America. Yet, our faith speaks to current issues—from a comprehensive understanding of the everlasting gospel and the controversy between Christ and Satan, to international relief and our understanding of the body temple and its implications for health care. In this issue, you will learn how the church is meeting contemporary needs at multiple levels.



Gary Burns, Editor

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY DON LIVESAY, LAKE UNION PRESIDENT

Let Me Tell You About My Church

ne of the exciting aspects of my responsibilities is seeing and hearing many positive and dynamic activities of my Church.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is caring for God's kids. Worldwide we have

1.5 million students in elementary and secondary schools, and in institutions
of higher education. We have Pathfinder clubs where simple things like earning
honors is common and major events like the International Camporee at Oshkosh
hosts 37,000 Pathfinders and staff every five years. We have summer camps where
youth are led to Christ in a wholesome environment and staff experience leadership development. We
have countless Sabbath schools, vacation Bible school programs and a growing intentional focus to protect
our children against abuse.

Adventists understand the Bible as a revelation of God's will. While so many Christian communities are softening their understanding of the authority of the Bible, we hold the Scriptures as the definitive authority for life and salvation. While our message is faithful to Scripture, it is also logical, practical and full of hope.

My church cares for the whole person. The world has taken note of our understanding that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. They have documented the benefits of the value we place on being as healthy as possible through the basics of fresh air, sunlight, water, exercise, nutrition, temperance and rest in the context of a personal relationship with our Creator. And when health is compromised, the Seventh-day Adventist Church engages in quality restorative health care through world class health care institutions and medical schools.

God has provided encouragement to the church through the person of Ellen White whose inspired insights into the controversy between Christ and Satan, the character of God and the life of Jesus continue to guide us back to the solid truths of Scripture. The biblical principles of health revealed to her were decades ahead of her time. Her insights and leadership helped to advanced the small company of believers into the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The service of our dedicated members is an honor to God. Each week, across our Lake Union footprint, thousands of lay men and women give countless hours of service by their stewardship, caring for the church facilities, keeping financial records, staffing Pathfinders and various ministries and outreach programs, and serving on church and school boards—often working late into the night only to arise early to meet their employment commitments the next day.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America provides financial support to the world church. Our commitment to returning God's tithe and our sacrificial giving of offerings is truly an engine for mission, and millions of God's children will enjoy eternity because of our faithfulness.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is one of the largest and most effective humanitarian organizations in the world, benefiting more than 45 million people a year. I love the dramatic increase of lay evangelistic efforts being held both here at home and worldwide. We have many evangelistic organizations and media outlets—both denominational and other self-sustaining entities—that reach millions of households and communities with our message of hope in the coming of the Lord.

There is so much more to tell, and that's what the rest of this month's Herald is all about.

VEW MEMBERS

Indiana I (Nique James) grew up in a home with a devoted Seventh-day Adventist family. However, all my life I never came to the understanding of what my religion was truly about. I understood the basics of the Sabbath and other generals, but my lack of biblical knowledge and understanding had an effect on my life.

In May 2009, at our church in Indianapolis, Ron Clouzet, an evangelist from Michigan, provided an excellent series of



When Nique James (left) was baptized, she said, "Truthfully, it was the best day I've lived. It was the day I let Christ in my heart." Also pictured: Greg Taylor (right), youth pastor, Glendale Church

meetings about where our foundation in faith as Seventh-day Adventist Christians should be. As a rebellious individual who was not seeking faith, I reluctantly attended one of his sermons and found myself wanting to learn more after just one program. He preached about being a follower of Jesus or the Antichrist, and it was then I saw the error

of my ways. I finally learned being a child of God is to love Him through obeying Him (see I John 5:3).

After the series of meetings was over, I was disappointed because I felt I didn't know what to do with my newfound spiritual life. I was at the crossroads of either forgetting all I learned and returning to my ignorant life, or seeking more in the Light and staying there.

I decided to proceed toward the Light and baptism. Life is too short to let the thief of time steal my chance of salvation. Our youth pastor, Greg Taylor, gave me some empowering Bible studies that honestly uplifted my spiritual needs. On my baptism day, I remember he said something to me before I got baptized, "This will be the greatest day of your life, even before your wedding day." Truthfully, it was the best day I've lived. It was the day I let Christ in my heart.

Nique James, member, Glendale Church

Indiana Thank you for inviting me to join your church family. I (Sibrina Evans) was born, dedicated and raised in another church. My family and relatives were all avid churchgoers. I have a cousin who is a minister, one of

his brothers is a youth minister, and another a deacon in my original church.

About four years ago, my family moved to Greenwood, Indiana. It was a new city for us. During the last couple of years, I have felt a deep desire for something that would satisfy my spiritual longings. It pulled on my heart. At first, I didn't know what it was, but it was constantly there. Later, I decided the pull was my desire to go back to church. I knew I couldn't go, because I had a job, no transportation and did not belong to a church. So I began to pray and cry to the Lord for an answer.

One day, Mom and I looked on the Internet for churches in our area. I was amazed there were so many. We decided to attend the closest one. We found the church had wonderful music, but Mom hated it because it was too big. I had to agree. A church should have more than good music to fulfill one's spiritual hunger.

Another Sunday, I woke up with an intense desire to attend church, but with no transportation to get there. Mom suggested I turn on our television and watch a church service. I was skeptical, but gave it a try. As I watched, I began to believe that most television ministries wanted money. However, I watched a church service that didn't ask for money, and the pastor's messages were meaningful. They sent chills down my spine, and I felt he was talking to me.

One day, on my way home from work, I again had that inner pull. When I looked up into the sky, I saw beautiful sunbeams shining through the clouds. I had always thought

of sunbeams as elevators to Heaven. My thoughts turned to a poem about three wooden crosses on a hill. The poem spoke of Christ bearing my burdens and giving me hope. I felt Jesus was showing me a sign of His love,



After she was baptized, Sibrina Evans (right) remarked, "I am a joyful member of the Adventist church and praise Jesus Christ for my salvation." Also pictured: Fred Troxell, pastor

which I had known many years before. During my time of searching for a church, I kept praying for God to help me. I wanted a church with good music, good people, good sermons and one that would make me feel like I was a part of their church family. I didn't want to be brushed aside because I was only a visitor.

Soon my boss hired a new girl, and she was nice and friendly to me. I was skeptical since many times new friendships do not last. I promised myself I would give her an op-

portunity to develop our friendship. I am glad I did, because now she is my very best friend, and I love her and her family. We talked a lot, and she shared her religious beliefs. Since I have tried to give other people's religious ideas a chance, I just listened. You see, my mom never pushed me to join a certain denomination, but wanted me to make up my mind.

One time my new friend invited me to a summer festival at her church. I went and had so much fun. No one there treated me like a stranger, so I felt like I was wrapped up in a huge hug and loved it!

Two months later, I was invited to attend a Sabbath vespers program. When I walked into church, I saw some of the same people I had met at the festival. One of the members asked me, "Aren't you Sibrina?" I was shocked they remembered my name, since it had been some time since I had been a part of their fellowship. From that day on, I wanted to know more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and understand its beliefs. The longer I worshiped with the Irvington Church family, the more I realized this church had everything I had been searching for. It satisfied the spiritual pull on my heart. I knew God heard my prayers and helped me find them.

I had a wonderful visit with Fred Troxell, pastor, and he arranged for me to take Bible studies. Soon I wanted to be baptized. Today, I am a joyful member of the Adventist church and praise Jesus Christ for my salvation.

Sibrina L. Evans, member, with Charlotte Dodd, communication leader, Irvington Church, and Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, Lake Union Herald

Michigan Pete and Shelly Denner grew up in Southwest Michigan—Pete in Paw Paw and Shelly in Battle Creek. They met when both worked in downtown Battle Creek. At the time, Pete planned to attend a Revelation seminar, and he asked Shelly to go with him. That was their first date!

Pete grew up in a strict religious home, and as a boy he served in his parents' church and attended the church's elementary school. After leaving home, he became discouraged with his former church, and for a short time even abandoned God. Pete had heard of Seventh-day Adventists, but thought of them as those crazy people who went to church on Saturday. Then one day he saw an advertisement for a Daniel and Revelation seminar at the Urbandale Seventh-day Adventist Church in Battle Creek. Because Pete was interested in history and the Bible, he decided to attend. Pete enjoyed it so much that when another seminar was advertised a year later, he asked Shelly to attend with him.

Shelly had attended Sunday school as a child, but received no spiritual training at home. When she was a senior in high school, her five-year-old brother was hit and killed by a car on his way home from school. Shelly was devastated by the loss, but was prohibited from talking about it with her parents and siblings. Hurt and angry, she experienced a deep depression.

Shelly had several encounters with Seventh-day Adventists. After her boys were born, she attended an Adventist cooking school and later a mothers group that was held at the Battle Creek Tabernacle. Shelly also attended a depression seminar, where she became convinced that there was a God, that He cared for all people and that He loved her.

Although Shelly did not complete the Daniel and Revelation seminar with Pete their dating continued, and they eventually married. In a few years sons, Luke and Seth, joined their family. Now that they had children, the Denners wanted to find a church where all of them could attend. They tried several churches in Battle Creek, but always found themselves disappointed. Even though they knew the Sabbath truth from the seminars, Pete said they never thought about going to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As a result, the family did not attend any church for 20 years.

In 2008, the Denners received a flier in the mail inviting them to attend another Daniel and Revelation seminar—this one at Battle Creek Academy. While attending, they both became convicted of the Sabbath truth and decided to give Seventh-day Adventists and the Battle Creek Tabernacle a try. "We told ourselves we would study and attend for one

year, and then make a decision about being baptized and becoming members,' they said.

It wasn't long before they realized how much they loved the Adventist church and the people at the Tabernacle. Shelly was the first to decide to be baptized. Pete still had reservations and held off his



Pete and Shelly Denner agree that their new church family has helped them grow in their relationship with the Lord and with each other.

decision until just a week before Shelly's baptism. They were baptized together on May 16, 2009, by Bruce Moore, pastor.

The Denners agree that their new church family has helped them grow in their relationship with the Lord and with each other. Shelly says, "When I feel lonely now or start to feel depressed, I ask God to give me peace and comfort me like a good parent, and He does."

Charlotte Erickson, communication leader, Battle Creek Tabernacle

YOUTH in Action.

Sharing the Good News with Food

BY JOSÉ BOURGET

n the last three years, a local mission project in Chicago has brought church families together to share the Good News with food to refugee families. What started as an outreach of Oasis, a young adult ministry, has grown to include youth and young adults from several churches and even community youth. World Relief is the non-profit organization that gathers their clients, refugee families who have recently arrived in the United States, for a Thanksgiving celebration. Many are still learning English and have a difficult time finding work and suitable accommodations, and they struggle to meet their family's needs.

The Oasis Thanksgiving dinner is hosted at the North Shore school gymnasium. More than 50 volunteers serve approximately 150–200 refugees. The refugee families are both eager and cautiously curious about the meal—their first experience with a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner.

Several different activities take place during the Saturday night event. In one corner of the gym are children's activities and crafts for the more than 40 kids who range in age from birth to 14. A volunteer photographer takes studio quality por-

traits for the refugee families. In 2009, the Chicago Unity Korean Church brought their youth orchestra and provided classical music.

The feasting doesn't end with the Thanksgiving dinner. During the previous two weeks, 40-plus North Shore Path-



finders collected more than 2,000 cans of food. Before a refugee family leaves the gym, they receive an overflowing grocery bag full of cans and dry goods. The evening closes with a joyous celebration of cultural songs

and heartfelt goodbye hugs. This event inspires some members to "adopt" a refugee family to help them transition.

Recalling the 2008 refugee dinner, Natanya Brown of the Oasis ministry exclaimed, "There were people there from more countries than I can remember, and many more compared to last year. I wish I could have talked to each one



Jari Szkutova was one of the young adults who shared the joy of Thanksgiving with refugees.

of them to learn about their experiences prior to coming here, and what it's been like since they arrived in the U.S. One can only imagine what they are going through culturally, emotionally and financially. The Thanksgiving dinner, in my opinion, was a great way to welcome them here, show them support and also introduce them to one of the best 'all-American' holidays!"

Richelle Haines, the World Relief representative, shared her gratitude: "Every time I looked around, I saw smiling faces from each one of you! Thank you for spending your weekend cooking, serving

and cleaning! Your work brought smiles to [the] newly arrived refugee families from [more than] 10 countries!"

"It was nice to be a small part of an important holiday for so many families. Hopefully, the dinner provided them with a moment of peace and happiness during a time of much uncertainty," said JoiAnda Bruce, a young adult from the Independence Church.

This mission project is a prophetic fulfillment of Matthew 25, "When I was hungry, you fed me." The refugees and neighbors are experiencing the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chicago sharing the Good News that Jesus cares. For hungry families in a strange place, the Good News is shared through food.

José Bourget is the young adult ministries coordinator of the Illinois Conference.

BEYOND our BORDERS

Fixing Your Eyes

"Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you" (Proverbs 4:25 NLT).

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

t was the end of her freshman year at Andrews University that Korissa Mattson says she started to feel unsatisfied with life. "I felt too focused on myself and worried about superficial things. I decided it would help to do something for someone else."

Like many other students who "know the feeling," Korissa tried to refocus her attention on God and others by going on a short-term mission trip in summer 2007. She'd been several times in the past and enjoyed mission trips, always returning home with redirected thoughts and a fire burning inside for Christ. But this time, God had a different story for Korissa to tell a story she wouldn't have picked for herself, until now.



Korissa Mattson (right) says her missionary experience was the hardest but most rewarding year of her life. "I do not regret going, and I encourage everyone to keep the door open-and if God calls you, go!"

After talking with her mom, Korissa contacted Japhet De Oliveira, chaplain for Missions at Andrews University. There were no short-term mission trips during the summer, he told her, but there were lots of opportunities to go overseas as a teacher during the school year.

Though hesitant at first, Korissa decided to travel to Majuro, Marshall Islands, to teach second grade for the 2007–2008 school year. The experience was not what she expected.

"Before I left someone told me, 'You're not going to grow and change until you've been completely broken.' I thought I had been broken before," Korissa says, "but what I experienced there was more brokenness than I had ever felt in my life."

Korissa had 32 students with no help, and felt abandoned by God, alone, confused, tired and lost.

In December, she came home for Christmas and did not

want to return to the islands. "My students are what really kept me going, though," Korissa says. "I promised them that I would be their teacher for a year and that's when I remembered that I wasn't there for myself, but because God had called me."

Korissa claimed Proverbs 4:25, and fixed her eyes on what lay before to make it to the end. She learned to rely on God and not on herself or friends by letting go

and allowing God to take control. When Korissa returned home at the end of the school year, she noticed even bigger changes in herself.

"I was more confident with who I was and more confident in God," she says. "The experience was like a Refiner's fire. If I hadn't gone through that experience, who would I be today?"

Because of the missionary experience, Korissa decided to change her major to social work, and hopes to help kids who are troubled or were abused in the past.

Her missionary experience, Korissa says, "was the hardest but most rewarding year of my life. I do not regret going, and I encourage everyone to keep the door open—and if God calls you, go!"

Ashleigh Jardine is a student news writer at the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University. Korissa Mattson lives in Watervliet, Michigan. She is a junior at Andrews University and works as a student mission coordinator.

FAMILY TIES

It's All About Perspective

We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.—Ellen G. White

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

ne day, the father of a wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from the trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden, and they have all the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard, and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on, and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us; they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

This story is all about perspective. Parents add perspective to their children's lives. It is either a perspective that broadens and enlivens them or a perspective that closes them to the wonders of God's world all around them. This story illustrates that we can be thankful for whatever we have. It also shows us that sometimes a child's perspective differs from a parent's perspective. In this case, the father



was ready to teach his son a lesson; but perhaps the son taught his father the most important lesson. The father's perspective was right, but the son's perspective was larger. They both had important lessons to teach and to learn.

Parents are the primary perspective makers for their children's understanding of their church. Some children learn their church is narrow and constricting. They are taught that God is a score-keeper, anxious to catch them doing something wrong. They hear criticism and fault-finding about members and church leadership. They don't learn about the larger picture.

How much better to focus on the miraculous leading of God in our own lives and in the continuing ministry and development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This progressive movement includes a worldwide ministry of education, missions and evangelism. You might want to ask your children what their perspective is of their church.

In the Lake Union Conference's Adventist Book Centers you can find biographies of many of the founders and early leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I invite you to bring these resources into your home to use for your own personal learning and enjoyment as well as sharing with your children. It's all about perspective!

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.

HEALTHY CHOICES

Your diet of choice may determine your mood.

Diet Dilemmas

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

here are so many diets on the market today. New ones keep appearing. The diets come and go. Since one in three Americans is on some sort of a diet, we see why the diet industry is a multibillion dollar business. There is the "Master Cleanse Diet," "Fat Smash Diet," "Flat Belly Diet," "Cabbage Soup Diet," "Hallelujah Diet," "Personality Type Diet," "Master Your Metabolism Diet," "Martha's Vineyard Diet," "Detox" and many others. People are getting tired of fad diets that don't work in the long-term, and leave them feeling and looking no better than they were before the diet.

There is an ongoing discussion as to whether a low-carb diet (such as an "Atkins Diet") is the most effective for losing weight, or if a low-fat, low-calorie diet is the best and safest. So where should we focus-cutting carbs or reducing fats and calories?

Human experiments have demonstrated that persons following low-carb diets experience a greater weight loss over a six-month period than do those following a low-fat diet. After 12 months, there is no significant difference. Why does a low-carb diet work more effectively in the short term?

Low-carb diets are high in protein, which induces a stronger satiating effect than fat and carbohydrates. Since fat delays the emptying of the stomach, a meal that is higher in fat will satisfy hunger longer than low-fat foods. All but eliminating most carbs (rice, bread, cereals, pasta, potatoes) means a simple, monotonous diet. Restricting food choices limits the intake of calories considerably. Carbohydrate restriction also leads to depletion of glycogen. Hence, the early weight losses may be due to loss of water rather than fat.

Typically, traditional low-carb diets provide favorable changes in blood triglyceride and HDL levels, while LDL



levels unfortunately increase substantially. Low-carb diets tend to be low in fiber, potassium, magnesium, folic acid and other B vitamins, so a multivitamin supplement is necessary. Those who consume low-carb diets often complain of bad breath, constipation, headache, muscle cramps, lack of concentration and physical weakness. Long-term risks of using a low-carb diet are unknown at this time.

An Australia study reported that both their low-carb and low-fat diets produced an average 30-pound weight loss over 12 months, with both groups

experiencing mood improvement after eight weeks. However, after eight weeks those on a low-carb diet reverted to a negative mood, while those on a low-fat diet maintained their improved mood throughout the year.

People in the National Weight Loss Registry (a database of people who have lost weight and successfully kept it off for more than a year) typically eat a diet rich in fiber and complex carbohydrates, and eat less fat than the average American. Bulky, fiber-rich meals increase feelings of fullness, and delay hunger. More fruit and vegetables in the diet will help one to manage their weight more effectively.

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

EXTREMEGRACE

My Church

A FINELY KNIT GARMENT

BY DICK DUERKSEN

here's a new brick building and a bright shiny new well under the cashew tree that used to be the meeting place for the Seventh-day Adventist congregation of Inhamissa, Mozambique. The new church has red steel windows, a bright steel roof, a hand-crafted wooden pulpit and pews for more than 200 worshipers—almost all of which are filled each Sabbath. There is even a concrete baptistry (painted blue and filled with candidates at least once a month)—new members who have learned about God using Bible Studies prepared by the Voice of Prophecy.

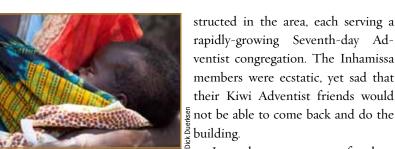
The church was built by a Maranatha volunteer team from Invercargill, New Zealand. The pews were designed, manufactured, donated and shipped by Gates Concrete Forms in Denver, Colorado. The pulpit (and its matching communion set) were crafted by furniture artists in Mozam-

bique. The well was drilled by a Maranatha crew from Hawaii and South Africa, and the pump (made in Germany) was installed by Maranatha laborers from Mozambique. It will be maintained by a community council led by the ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) country director who hails from Salt Lake City, Utah.

Owen and Margaret Saunders operate a ranch in Invercargill and heard about the need for churches in Mozambique while listening to Maranatha's TV program on the HOPE Channel—whose headquarters are in Maryland and whose leader comes from Canada. The Saunders gathered some of their Kiwi friends and joined Maranatha in June to build the church for the members in Inhamissa.

While in Mozambique the Saunders team was supported by Maranatha's volunteer coordinator, Ron Kedas, from India, and two college-age student missionaries from Avondale College in Australia—young women who were driving a vehicle donated by an Adventist businessman in Norway.

The Kiwi volunteers fell in love with the Inhamissa members, listened to their stories and offered to do even more to help the local church grow. Their generosity made it possible for two additional church buildings to be con-



Instead, a new team of volunteers from Canada, the Cayman Islands and a dozen states around the U.S constructed both buildings in early November 2009. While in Mozambique, that team also conducted a medical clinic in the new Inhamissa church building, deepening the value this world-connected congregation brings to their community. The clinic's professional medical personnel included a cardiac surgeon, a family practice physician, a U.S. Army medical technologist and nurses from six states.

During a November 2009 Sabbath celebration, I listened to the members tell stories about their friends from New Zealand, America, Canada, the Caymans, India and Australia. I heard their voices rise with the joy of family love. And I met the neighbors who are coming to church because these members are "connected" with so many special people from so many places, all of whom want to serve our people.

The threads of God's grace are long, multi-colored, far-reaching and strong. They keep the wind out and the warmth in. The garment He weaves with them is soft, protective and a perfect fit. When we wear it we are safe.

Dick Duerksen is the official "storyteller" of Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact the author at dduerksen@maranatha.org.



It Begins with God

BY GARY BURNS

e begins the conversation with, "Where are you?" What a question—as if He doesn't know. He knows every blade of grass and every leaf of the garden-including the fig leaves recently plucked and woven together to form makeshift clothing to cover their shame.

Adam and Eve hear the sound of His presence, even before they hear His voice. The sound had always brought delight. In their eagerness to greet Him, all other interests were abandoned as they'd rush to His side. Now, the mighty hand of fear grips their hearts as though it will stop them from beating. They cower, trying to hide among the leaves. Hide from their Creator? Hide among His leaves? In His garden? How utterly ridiculous!

"Where are you?" There's a strange sound in a familiar voice—a voice still full of love. They've never heard the sound of a broken heart before. It's a heavy sound. It trembles. So do they.

"Where are you?" Yet there's something inviting about His voice. Adam ventures an honest re-

"I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

"Who told you that you were naked?" God asks. "Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

Adam feels the walls of consequences closing in and grasps for an escape clause. "The woman you put here with me..." Adam can hardly believe his ears. Subconsciously, he senses he has rejected the love of his life—his completed and fulfilled self—and lays the ultimate blame on God Himself. He continues down the path of no return, "She gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Now it's Eve's turn. "What is this you have done?" She now feels the squeeze.

"The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

"Where are you?"—a question that starts a conversation initiated by God to restore broken relationship. The dialogue that follows is full of painful consequences—for everyone, including God Himself. But it's also full of hope. "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

I've discovered that every prayer, every conversation I've had with God was really initiated by Him. I cannot seek Him out before He first seeks me. When I sin, when I choose to put something between me and God, He calls. He calls me to prayer—to a conversation with Him where I find hope and restoration amidst the painful consequences.

He calls, "Gary, where are you?" And I answer honestly, "I've been avoiding You. I am naked and ashamed."

And thus begins a conversation with God, initiated by Him, which leads to my healing and restoration.

Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference

Biblical references are from Genesis 3 (NIV), paraphrased.

SHARING our HOPE

Yay for Jesus Anyway!

DUSTY'S STORY

BY SAMANTHA NELSON

usty Rall pleaded, "God, if you're real, please help me out of this mess!" The Lord heard and answered her prayer. When Dusty first contacted The Hope of Survivors, a supporting lay ministry that addresses pastoral sexual misconduct, she wasn't sure how we could help or whether we could even be trusted. The only two religious leaders she had known up to that point had abused her.

We learned about the abuse Dusty constantly faced and her horrendous upbringing. Dusty was born into a Satan-worshiping family, her father a high priest in the Worldwide Church of Satan. She was exposed to and endured unspeakable horrors, and Dusty was taught Satan is the creator and God is powerless.

During one visit as my husband, Steve Nelson, read the

Bible and prayed for her, the ugliest voice spoke through her, threatening to kill her as well as me and Steve. Through heart-wrenching prayer, an anointing, the reading of Scripture and pleading the divine merits of Jesus Christ's blood that was shed on Calvary for the remission of sins, Dusty was delivered—solely by the power and authority of Jesus Christ. She gave her heart and life to the Lord that night, even though she could not even say the full name of Jesus yet.

A couple weeks later her family sexually and physically assaulted her again. She spent two-and-a-half weeks in the hospital with a feeding tube inserted because of the ongoing poisoning she was given. We held a special anointing service for her for physical healing with Shelley and J.D. Quinn joining us. The next day Dusty called me and said, "Yay for Jesus!" We praised God for loosening her tongue so she could praise the name of Jesus!

Healing has been a slow and often painful process. How-



Dusty Rall (center) shares her testimony of deliverance from Satan. She was interviewed by Steve Nelson (left), her pastor, and Samantha Nelson (right), co-founder of The Hope of Survivors.

ever, Dusty had seen the power of God conquer the enemy and set her free. She chooses to cease complaining and to praise Jesus through it all.

As a new babe in Christ, Dusty shares her faith with others. One specialist wanted to remove her stomach, since it no longer worked. She told him, "I've been talking to God, and He's going to heal me." The physician laughed at her

and told her God was a fable. She was quick to reply, "Oh no, He's not! I know He's been healing me and if you don't believe it, then here (she handed him Steve's business card), call my pastor!" God is honoring Dusty's faith and she is healing.

On October 10, 2009, Steve baptized Dusty into the Fairfield (Illinois) Church. The smile on Dusty's face and the joy in her heart were especially evident to all. Satan lost this battle. Jesus delivered Dusty and gave her new life. The service ended with the congregation singing "Jesus Loves Me," the very first song Dusty learned.

Please keep this precious child of God in your prayers. Next time you're tempted to complain and think life is unfair, think of Dusty and join her in exclaiming, "Yay for Jesus anyway!"

Samantha Nelson is co-founder of The Hope of Survivors. For more information on The Hope of Survivors, you may visit www. TheHopeOfSurvivors.com.



RECONÉCTATE CON JESÚS EN 2010

POR CARMELO MERCADO

"Recuerden los jóvenes, que aquí han de formar caracteres para la eternidad, y que Dios requiere de ellos que hagan lo mejor que puedan. ... Si los jóvenes buscan a Cristo, él hará que sus esfuerzos sean eficaces" (Mensajes para los jóvenes, p. 17).

ientras escribía este artículo recibí la trágica noticia del fallecimiento de una joven que trabajaba como estudiante misionera en la isla de Yap. Kirsten Wolcott era una persona que amaba a Jesús y su iglesia. Ella había participado en otros viajes misioneros a las islas Galápagos y a Alaska y estudiaba en la Universidad Adventista Southern cuando decidió postergar sus estudios por un año e ir a la isla de Yap para enseñar en la escuela adventista. Cuando había solicitado ser misionera había dicho que deseaba un desafío y que quería hacer algo que nunca antes había hecho. Estando ya en Yap decidió un día salir a correr antes de ir a enseñar sus clases. Llegó la hora de comenzar las clases, pero ella no apareció. Más tarde encontraron su cuerpo; había sido víctima de un homicidio.

Al principio, esta tragedia me causó una gran tristeza. Me imagino que las personas que conocieron a Kirsten estarán en un estado de incredulidad y tendrán dificultad en comprender por qué le ocurrió a ella esta tragedia. Sin embargo necesitamos recordar que como cristianos tenemos una esperanza. Pues aunque tendremos que pasar por la muerte una vez, Dios cumplirá finalmente su promesa de darnos la vida eterna. La realidad es que a pesar de que haya perdido la vida en El orador principal del Congreso su juventud, ella tenía una íntima conexión con Cristo y como resultado recibirá su corona de justicia cuando Cristo venga otra vez.

Mi anhelo sincero es que los jóvenes de nuestra Unión tengan también una íntima conexión con Jesús. Es una alegría para mí saber que en este año 2010 los líderes de jóvenes hispanos de nuestras cinco asociaciones han puesto como meta unirse para planear un congreso de jóvenes con el propósito de animar a los jóvenes a conectarse con Jesús. Este congreso se realizará del 4 al 6 de junio en la Universidad Andrews. El lema de este congreso será "Reconéctate con



de Jóvenes de la Unión del Lago, el pastor José Vicente Rojas

Cristo," cuyo objetivo principal será ayudar a los jóvenes a tener y mantener una relación verdadera con Cristo. Los oradores serán los pastores José Vicente Rojas, Carlos Acosta y Harold Altamirano. Además de excelentes predicaciones habrá buena música, seminarios inspiradores y testimonios de cómo Dios trabaja con los jóvenes.

El costo de registración para este evento es sólo \$60. Esto incluye el costo de las comidas, los seminarios y varios recursos más. Los dormitorios de la universidad estarán disponibles para los que se hayan registrado y

tendrán un costo aparte de la registración. Para obtener más información les encomendamos que vayan inmediatamente al sitio cibernético www.conectate2010.org.

Apreciados jóvenes, les animo a que se acerquen a Jesús y aprovechen de, no sólo asistir al congreso, sino también invitar a sus amigos a que hagan esa conexión con Cristo mientras que son jóvenes.

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

We Discovered New Perceptions

LET US TELL YOU ABOUT OUR NEW CHURCH

BY NANFTTE AND HERB GUNDT

Although their television ministry has had a global impact for more than a decade, the Pioneer Memorial Church members recognized they neglected the nearly one million viewers in their own backyard. Since 2007, they have supported "New Perceptions," a weekly broadcast of their worship service on WHME-TV. Following is the experience of two viewers, Nanette and Herb Gundt.—Editors

e actually met at a bar. I think we'd have to say that God had always been a factor in our lives. We both believed in a God, but we didn't have a clear, concrete relationship. You know how people are—especially now days. There is a form of spirituality without real knowledge. We weren't obedient. We did things that we'd just shudder to think of doing now. We remember saying prayers now and again; but truthfully, we were far from where we were supposed to be. It was sad.

Nanette: I had faith in God. I was raised in a Christian home, and we went to church all the time. Then something happened after we got married. Because I married outside my faith, we couldn't get married in my church. After that I just fell away and didn't go to church for many, many years.

Herb: I kind of got beat up by life over the years—many disappointments. The question that kept going through my mind was, *Is this all there is?* I didn't really see the point. If you just live your life and then you die and it's all over with—that's it—then I was unhappy with that. I was in a career path that I wasn't very happy with anyway, and had actually become pretty much angry about that and uncomfortable with what I was doing.

I remember driving to work. It was wintertime, it was dark and I was by myself. I just dreaded going to work. I was talking to God (I was really yelling at God), saying, "If you're not going to change my life, just take me and put an end to this. I really don't want to live this way anymore."

Unfortunately, that wasn't a "wake up" for me right then and there—you know, where the sun comes out and there's a beautiful rainbow and everything is all nice and wonderful from that point on. It took me a long time. I was really slow to wake up. In the midst of that I was watching my father dying over a three-year period.

We had hospice in the home, and my father didn't die in a

very graceful way. Church had always been a part of his life. I looked at that and I was thinking, Here's this man that I thought was strong in faith, and it really shocked me that he didn't die more peacefully. So all these things were sort of scrambling around in my head.

When I became self-employed as a full-time model maker, I spent a lot of time working by myself. I had plenty of time for God to be sort of talking to me, day in and day out. I wasn't always listening, but I could tell a change was taking place in the way I was thinking. It was a very, very long process.

We went through my mom's deteriorating health, and she finally died. And then we went through a similar thing with Nanette's dad. When Nanette's dad died, she started going to church with her mom, because she had made a promise to her mom that when her dad passed away she would continue to take her to church.

Nanette: It was good to be back in church with my mom, but I had many questions about the inconsistencies I saw. It just wasn't filling a need I had. Herb and I had talked about the fact that we missed the fellowship, we missed being with the people at church, but where would we go? We weren't comfortable with my church, and we weren't comfortable in the church where he had been raised. We didn't know what to do, so basically we didn't do anything. We stayed home, and seventually got to the point where we'd read the Bible together.



Herb: Nanette taking her mom to church turned out to be an opportunity for me. I was home on Sunday and doing the channel-surfing thing (I think I was looking for a football game), and I saw the "New Perceptions" television program. Dwight Nelson (Pioneer Memorial Church senior pastor) was speaking. Usually, I would run right through a television minister's programming and say, "Aagh!," you know? "I just don't have time for this." But something stopped me, and I paused and listened. I didn't stay for the whole program that week, but I listened maybe five or ten minutes.

The next week I was doing the same thing. I'd watch just a little bit longer; and then, before I knew it, I would actually be sitting down in the chair and intentionally watching the hourlong "New Perceptions" program. I didn't even tell Nanette about this thing. I was just doing it.

Then, to the best of our memory, we had a snow day and Nanette couldn't take her mom to church that morning. I had the program on and she said, "What are you watching?"

"Oh, this is a man that I have been watching on Sundays when you've been gone with your mom," I said. "Sit down and watch this guy. I think you'll like him."

Nanette: I was impressed. I was shocked, because mostly when Herb did channel surfing he'd be ridiculing any television ministry. He didn't feel that he was getting a lot of truth from the television ministries that were out there. He found this one to be different—very different! I could tell there was a change. After that, if I had an opportunity, I would sit down and watch with him. Listening to Dwight was different. It's difficult to describe.

Herb: Listening to Dwight was the first time I actually listened to a minister. Rather than finding fault with the points that were being made, I actually found myself almost always being in agreement with him. That really surprised me. And I thought, *Wow! This is really interesting.* This was like a totally different way of looking at the world for me. It was just really surprising.

Nanette: There were many things growing up in my faith that I had questions on. It seemed like they kept changing the rules. And I thought, *Why are you changing these rules?* It kind of had me wondering, *What was I doing? What was my belief?* I believed in God. I believed in Jesus Christ, but not to the extent that I do now. It's hard to put into words how I feel now.

I remember it was one of those snow days, and Herb and I were at home, and I told Herb I wanted to be baptized. I knew I was baptized as an infant, but I wanted to make that decision myself as an adult. And I remember saying to Herb, "There is no priest that is going to baptize me." And I didn't know anyone who would.

Herb told me that on the "New Perceptions" program they had announced that they were going to have an event at the Century Center, and Dwight was going to be there. Herb asked me if I would be willing to go. And so we went. The next day, the "New Perceptions" series was on "The Chosen," and Dwight was talking about modesty and he touched on the wearing of jewelry. It just happened that when I went to this event at the Century Center the night before, I had quite a bit of jewelry on and I felt ashamed. I couldn't sleep that night after I heard that sermon, so something prodded me to send off an e-mail. I didn't expect Dwight to respond, but on Thanksgiving day I got an e-mail from him that was very lengthy and he was explaining his intent. The very last thing that he said in the e-mail was, "Maybe the three of us can get together sometime and talk about this." And I thought, Wow! I didn't know if that would be possible, so I wrote another letter and asked him if he would be willing to meet with us,

Herb: Well, this is a strange journey. My dad actually graduated from a seminary. He never became a pastor. I was raised in a house where we always talked about religion, we always talked about politics, so I was comfortable in that environment and talking about those things even though other people might not be. I used to think that I had a relatively decent degree of education in religious thought. I have since learned differently.

In the church I grew up in, we would have evangelists come in for maybe ten days and talk about Revelation. I just didn't buy it. It didn't seem right to me.

In our Bible studies with Dwight, he presented Revelation and it was like, Wow, this is totally different than what I've heard in the past—from almost every direction. It actually made some sense to me for a change. I wasn't sitting there waiting to shoot holes in the perspective that was being presented to me.

We'd ask a question and right away he'd say, "Well, let's see what the Bible has to say." We were constantly opening Scripture and looking at it. That was refreshing too, because it wasn't listening to someone's opinion about it. It wasn't, "What do you think about it?" It was, "What does it say right here?"

Nanette: When we were doing our Bible studies Dwight said to me, "I'm hoping that this is enhancing your belief." I didn't have the sense that he was coming to try to change us into becoming Adventists. It was the fact that we were searching for the truth. And we felt that we had finally found it.

The very first service we went to at Pioneer Memorial Church happened to be communion, and it was absolutely incredible. Neither of us had been to communion in some



"It just feels like this is what the body of believers should be. This is how people should treat each other. There's a lot of love, concern ... it's just different—different than anything I've ever experienced.

time. Herb had missed going to communion, and I wasn't allowed to go to communion because I had married outside of the church. Dwight was up there and asked everyone, even visitors, to come to the foot washing.

Herb: If I had been by myself, I probably wouldn't have gone. And this is what's funny, it's almost like we had a role reversal. Nanette wanted to go do this and it's like, *This is Nan?* She doesn't do things like this.

Nanette: But it was just like, *I want to do this! I really do!* So, I grabbed Herb's hand and I said, "We're going!" and he followed me. It was so spiritual. It was absolutely wonderful!

I had never experienced a church like this in my life. I had never actually belonged to a church. If I did belong to a church it was just because that's where my parents went. The people at the church are so welcoming. It feels like home. It really does. I want to go to church. I can't wait.

Herb: I remember when I went to church before, I never looked forward to going to church. It wasn't something I really wanted to do. It's almost, and I'm embarrassed to say, it was more like a chore. Now, I find myself looking forward to the Sabbath and going to church.

It's hard to believe that we feel at home in a church with nearly 4,000 members. But we have Sabbath school, and we get to deal with it in bite-sized portions. We happened to meet an Andrews University student at "House of Prayer" on Wednesdays, and it was just one of those things where we were sitting there and Thomas (the student) noticed that we didn't have a hymnal. So, he got up and gave us a hymnal. I ended up praying with Thomas that night. Afterward, we sat

and talked and we developed a friendship. Since then, Thomas has graduated and he's working as a missionary in Kenya right now. We stay in touch and exchange e-mail back and forth.

This coming Sabbath we're having some students over to our home for dinner, and that was one of the things that Thomas was a part of. He was actually the catalyst for this group of Andrews students that we've formed a relationship with. As we keep going, we can't help but meet someone new. It's just how it works.

Nanette: It just feels like this is what the body of believers should be. This is how people should treat each other. There's a lot of love, concern ... it's just different—different than anything I've ever



experienced. And God definitely answered my prayer. When I asked to be baptized, it was just incredible. It took maybe a year, but I've been baptized and I'm very thankful.

Herb: I feel pretty much that I'm in training, and I think I probably will be for the rest of this life. I'm amazed at what I don't know now. I'm actually starting to feel comfortable just letting go. I tried so much to control my life in the past, and I just was not very good at it. And now it's like, *Okay*. It just doesn't seem to matter anymore. I have a Guide, a Mentor, that I don't have to worry about. I don't have to doubt. You know? "Where do you want me?" I want to be obedient. I want to be faithful.

Herb, a self-employed design engineer, builds unique models (see p. 15) for a variety of clients. Nanette works at The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care in South Bend, providing love and support for their patients' final days. Herb also works there as a Hospice In-Home, Bereavement and 11th Hour Volunteer.

Together...Forever

MI OHOKOH IAMILI

BY DIANE THURBER

n my lifetime, I have witnessed so much growth in my church. I continue to be amazed as I witness God working through the committed Christians who are a part of our community of believers.

As a "lifer," a Seventh-day Adventist who was born and raised in the church, my journey may not be that different from some. However, I believe as we learn about one another's path to Jesus, we see glimpses of His mighty hand and pieces of His plan for all His beloved children. I am thankful for the heritage I have, and the many who guided me on my journey.

WHEN I WAS FIVE...

My earliest memories of my church in Spartanburg, South Carolina, are wonderful. I attended weekly prayer meetings with my family, where we sang all our favorite hymns, knelt on wooden floors for what seemed like an hour while Pappy Turner earnestly petitioned the Lord, and then our pastor preached with fervor for what seemed like another hour. I didn't mind this (most weeks), because of the joyful spirit present.

Sabbaths were a delight, too. It was in Kindergarten Sabbath school where I was first challenged to memorize all 13 memory verses for the quarter, and the prize—a crisp five-dollar bill—doubled my bank account. Taught were valuable

lessons about storing up the treasures of God's Word in my heart, and some verses I've never forgotten. We learned to save ten cents of every dollar for tithe, and to give more to join the mission of the church.

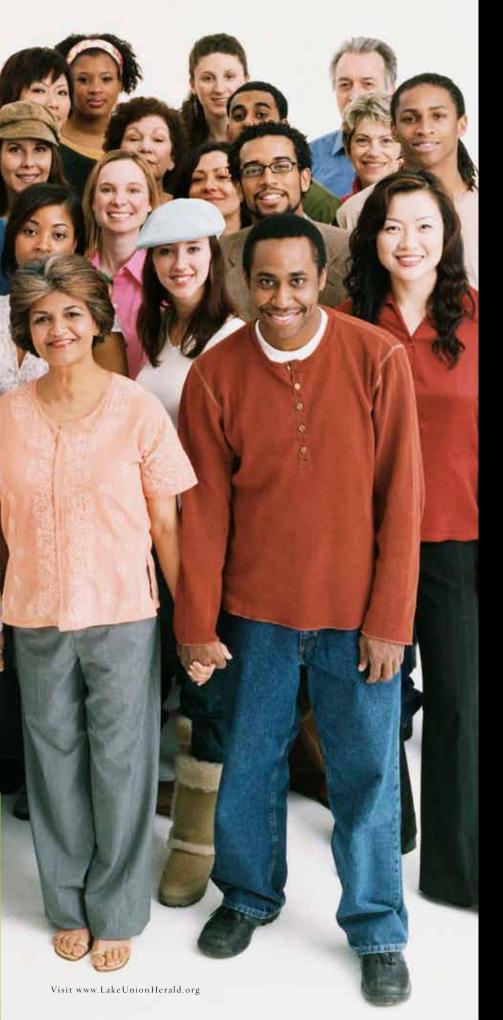
In Primary, Junior and Youth Sabbath school classes, I found enthusiastic leaders who knew the best way to get us involved in church was outreach activities in our communities followed by social activities. I remember hayrides, bonfires, sledding, Ingathering (collecting funds for special projects to help others), singing to shut-ins, Pathfinders (a youth group) and so much more. We planned Sabbath school, played the piano and presented the mission story or special music for the grown-ups. My church was a large, loving family who looked out for each young person who came through its doors. Some even slipped us chocolate with a wink and a smile. My church reinforced in word and action everything my parents taught at home, to prepare me for service for mankind on Earth and a life to come in Heaven with Jesus.

A visiting preacher, Ron Halvorsen, partnered with my church pastor and offered Bible studies at my elementary school. I decided to join the loving, church family who had

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MY CHURCH

My church is awesome. The sermons are actually geared toward youth. I love the family atmosphere. We are always there for each other.—*Alina Walker*

I love the Cicero Church's commitment to their elementary school. When the elementary school puts on a program, the church comes in force. I frequently see members volunteering at the school planting bulbs with kids, answering phones, running the library, listening to kids read, etc.—*Kris Haynal*





QUICK FACTS

HIGHER EDUCATION

107 Colleges and Universities

COUNTRIES

Adventist work in 201 of 230 countries

LANGUAGES

Communicate orally and in print in 880 languages

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

7,442 Elementray through University-level schools

STUDENTS

1,479,136 students enrolled

MEMBERSHIP

16 million members worldwide

Source: Adventist News Network

nurtured me to that point. I still vividly remember my baptism day and the commitment in my heart to always love and serve Jesus.

Was it really such a blissful beginning, or were there problems in the church or school then? Of course, there was any kind of trouble the devil could stir up—but did the young people know about it? Not usually, unless adults with loose lips spoke loud enough for inquisitive young ears to hear.

WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN...

I left home to attend Mt. Pisgah Academy. There, I found another caring church family and some faculty and staff who encouraged, sacrificed, lovingly disciplined (guided) and showered grace. In that environment, spiritual lessons were reinforced, like sharing with others less fortunate, helping a weaker one learn, standing up for Jesus and befriending everyone—regardless of status or race.

In academy, I met a charming young man, Gary Thurber. We had a special, innocent friendship that progressed along nicely until an automobile accident shattered dreams and left us questioning why it had to happen. As Gary moved from hospital to hospital for surgeries and rehab, he was never alone or forgotten. That warm, caring church family kept showing up to encourage and strengthen him and those by his side. They were definitely part of the healing process, and Gary discovered God had a plan for his life—a life the devil tried to snuff out.

WHEN I WAS IN MY TWENTIES...

I graduated from Southern Adventist University, married Gary and life picked up pace. We left the community where a hush seems to fall over "Happy Valley" during the Sabbath hours and moved to Santa Rosa, California, where Gary would teach. We were alone—really alone—for the first time in our life.

We visited several churches, but still felt alone. On several Sabbaths we found ourselves tuning in to "radio church" at Pacific Union College, until one afternoon a group of Redwood Academy students phoned. "Hey, Mr. Thurber, didn't

see you at church today. Where were you?" That was the last Sabbath we had church in our living room. We invited the students to the house that night to play games and shared some snacks, and suddenly we had a warm, caring church family again—a family that soon called us "Mom" and "Dad." And we realized our part in God's plan for those students.

God next directed us to Kent, Washington. I was now a pastor's wife, something I didn't see coming. My first "assignment" was the Kindergarten class, voted by the nominating committee before I ever arrived. I had never taught children and wasn't sure I ever wanted to, but I remembered those faithful teachers who lovingly guided me, and I knew the children needed someone to show them Jesus each week. I soon learned God placed me in that class for a purpose besides pointing children to Him. I learned about temperaments and learning styles, valuable lessons I used when I became a mother. I also learned that sometimes God asks us to try new or difficult things, and He blesses our efforts. I'm thankful for our church's publishing organizations, Pacific Press Publishing Association and Review and Herald Publishing Association, which print resources to help us on our journey with Jesus. Visit www.adventistbookcenter.com to find resources to learn about your spiritual gifts, and how you can use them to bless others.

I landed a great job as office manager for Sorrel & Palken, attorneys at law, in downtown Seattle. But one day I was asked to do something that went against what I believed. I realized I had a choice to follow my passion there or follow my God. I reflected on God's purpose for my life, and that incident became a turning point. I left the job I loved and accepted a position working at the local church, where I discovered that what I thought was my passion before wasn't my true passion. My true passion turned out to be serving those warm, caring church members, and even the ones who were cold and prickly at times. I thanked God for my new job and told Him that if He would continue to open the doors, I would serve Him wherever He leads.

I really like how everyone is a family. There is a lot of love among the church people and every newcomer is welcomed real well.—Christian Piñango

Forty years ago I came from another Christian tradition. I'm proud of my Adventist Church because it is unique: Bible grounded, Christ centered, mission oriented. In the cultural context: sensitive, diverse and open to embrace our Hispanic sacred devotion to God, the family and our sense of celebration.—*Antonio Rosario*

My local church family is just that ... a family. I always feel loved when I walk in that door.—Ashlee Chism

WHEN I WAS IN MY THIRTIES...

And He kept opening doors I never pictured myself entering, like the door to work in our church's health care ministry in Kansas. It was there I gained a broader perspective of what my church is doing to "extend the healing ministry of Christ," a mission statement adopted by the network of hospitals in the U.S. known as Adventist Health System. This organization is doing a phenomenal work to bless the communities they serve (see www.ahss.org). But did you know we also operate medical and dental clinics and hospitals in places like Lesotho, Africa? I visited the Maluti Hospital in Lesotho, a modest Adventist hospital where I met Wilbur and Lyn Hurlow, Adventists who are shining God's light in



a community where they have to assume that every patient coming for treatment has tuberculosis, HIV or AIDS. Their efforts are blessed by our gifts to Hope for Humanity (formerly Ingathering), the oldest charitable organization in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I'm so thankful our church encourages sacrificial giving to help address the needs of so many worldwide while we share about the love of Jesus. We have so many wonderful, caring ministries in our church, and

I believe God wants us to partner with Him as we give our time, talents and resources to them (see www.hope4.com and www.adra.org).

In Florida, Michigan, Maine and Indiana, God opened doors to serve Him and work within the church organization. And then the Lake Union Conference called, and I now gratefully serve with that ministry team until He decides to place me elsewhere in His master plan. It just blows my mind sometimes to see His plan for me unfold, and I have been blessed beyond measure. God has a plan for each of us (see Jeremiah 29:II).

While serving in Michigan, Gary and I went to Barbados with Lake Union public high school students. We were invited by Andrews University to help complete construction of a school building started by students from other Adventist academies before their arrival. I was so impressed to see how the project was organized—using different groups from different parts of the United States to work together for a common purpose. It took so much planning, hard work, coordination and sacrifice. Adventist Missions took on a whole new meaning. I saw the value of God's plan that we work together to accomplish greater things. Opportunities to volunteer for short-term trips like these are available in greater number than ever before, and there are longer mission experiences also (see www.adventistvolunteers.org).

WHEN I WAS IN MY FORTIES...

I am so thankful for the network of Adventist educational institutions our two sons have attended, where they were taught more about Jesus and encouraged to serve and be sensitive to the needs of others. Our Adventist schools also offer an excellent academic experience. Did you know that a recent Cognitive Genesis study, with a sampling of 30,000 Adventist students, shows overall achievement (composite) for Adventist students is above the national norm in all grades (3–9 and II)? And in addition, students score higher in both achievement and ability the more years they spend in an Adventist school (see www.cognitivegenesis.org).

Our sons have been exposed to several Adventist institu-

Every year we start about 100 new churches in North America. From my office one can go North, South, East or West and be at a McDonalds restaurant before driving two miles. What if we had that many Seventh-day Adventist churches in our cities? We need to provide more places for people to meet Jesus and worship Him.—Don Schneider

I like that everything we believe comes from the Bible.—Jessica Tapscott

We are an open-arms church, because we invite other people in no matter who they are or where they came from.—Tristen Campbell



tions of higher learning. Andrews University offers a music festival each spring, and I believe my sons' participation helped strengthen their love for music—something I believe they will use in ministry for the Lord their whole lives. At an Adventist university, our sons are offered numerous opportunities for mission service and community outreach. I recently helped our oldest son tweak his resume for a law school application, and he couldn't recite all his collegiate community service experiences-there were too many to number. Our other son recently told of an Adventist in the community who opens her home and provides soup and snacks for a group of college students who meet weekly to study the Bible. This partnership with the school is a blessing, and my son enjoys the Christian fellowship he finds there. His dormitory R.A. (resident assistant) also offers additional devotionals not required by the school, and presents them in a way that draws our son closer to Jesus.

Adventist colleges and universities are places where young people can immerse themselves in a culture with professors who care, where they have opportunities to strengthen their faith, where they can meet Adventist friends, and then they take what they learn about Jesus and share it in the workplace—whether they are a pastor, teacher, physician, computer analyst, architect or graphic designer. Much of the success of our Adventist school system is because of sacrificial giving and prayers of hard-working teachers and support staff, parents and that loving church family. To learn more about Andrews University, visit www.andrews.edu. To learn more about Lake Union Adventist elementary and secondary schools, visit www.education.lakeunion.org.

In September, my husband and I moved again, and this time God placed us in the Rocky Mountain Conference. We've traveled many miles away from our loving church family in the Lake Union, but have already discovered that some members of our church family in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming are "old" friends from the past—like Roger Domeny, a pastor in Wyoming (one of those students who called us "Mom" and "Dad" in Santa Rosa, California).

God's family is like that. It's intertwined for a purpose, and

I enjoy being part of His plan to build up the community of believers until we are in His presence. And the good news is, because of technology and the generosity of Lake Union Conference leadership, I don't have to leave behind my Lake Union church family after all and can continue with the *Lake Union Herald* team who tells the stories of God at work in His people in the Lake Union territory. What a joy!

LOOKING AHEAD...

I am encouraged to see God leading in these final days of Earth's history. I'm feeling more of an urgency to gather more of His children into that caring church family so they can know the Jesus I know and experience the indescribable blessings He has in store for them now and in the earth made new. Others feel this urgency as well. I see the passion in those from my generation sharing the Gospel for the first time, and in our young people as they try new methods and technology (like Twitter, Facebook and YouTube) to reach their generation for Christ. Ministry may seem a little chaotic as we adjust to new ways of doing things and as the young people learn from the experience of their predecessors in ministry who truly do have valuable insights to share. But I believe our church will go forward in a mighty way (as a loving, caring family) as we approach His return. I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God. I look forward to being together, forever.

If your experience in the Adventist church wasn't similar to mine, and instead of a warm, caring church family you found discouragement, I invite you to come home again—give it another try. There are many of us who learned from earlier mistakes as we've discovered more about Jesus' love and grace on our own journey, and we are anxious to embrace you and "bind up the brokenhearted" (see Isaiah 61:1, 2). Visit www. lakeunion.org to share some of your journey and suggestions with the Lake Union administration at the Lake Union Family Forum, or contact us at the same site to help you find a church family near you.

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

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is an education church. From Sabbath school and Revelation seminars to Bible studies and Christian education, we believe that to love God means to know Him; to follow His will means to understand His Word; to serve Him takes preparation through study. In fact, we may truthfully say about our church: No education, no mission. Other churches have omitted the education component, but we have been blessed by it. The prophet Hosea warned long ago, "My people are destroyed by lack of knowledge." The reverse is equally true: My people are sustained by the knowledge of God's truth.—*Niels-Erik Andreasen*

I love the warm Sabbath hugs and support my church gives me when I most need it.—Celeste Maldonado

In Support of Liberty

HAVE AN ADVOCATE

BY GARY BURNS

arcia Harycki's employer for 11 years recently offered her a better position. Marcia worked in that position for a short time some years before, and her commitment to her beliefs regarding the Sabbath had been accommodated. With this recent offer, however, she was told she must be available to work on the Sabbath.

Marcia contacted the Lake Union Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty regarding her situation. Over the next, as she described, "very long and arduous months," the situation was finally resolved in a very positive way.

"As I look back over my experience," Marcia reflects, "I can see now how the Lord was kindly preparing me to be a strong witness to His love and law."

The previous spring, Marcia's husband's name was selected in

a national drawing as a winner of a new car. This provided some relief for any potential financial hardships they might experience, as she put it, "even before I was aware that problems were heading our way!"

In December of the same year, Marcia and her husband believed the Lord was leading them to a decision to double their tithes and offerings for 90 days as an "experiment" in learning how to trust Him at a deeper level. "As we wrote many outrageous checks during those three months, my husband and I just looked at each other and laughed ... as our faith grew deeper and deeper roots."

The Haryckis needed those deeper roots to face the challenges Marcia encountered with her work situation as the new position was withheld from her because of her commitment to keeping the Sabbath.

"I also reflect on the emotions I experienced during the



time the position was withheld from me: dismay, depression, discouragement, degradation, dejection," she recalls. "These emotions eventually ran their course because they were always tempered by the knowledge that I had made the right decision. I was encouraged by reminding myself that perhaps God put me in this situation in the first place because He knew that with His divine help I could be enabled to do the right thing.

"What an honor and a privilege the Lord gave me this past year! He allowed me the opportunity to publicly stand in loyalty to Him in observation of His sacred Sabbath!"

Vernon Alger, director of the Lake Union Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, is available to assist you with challenges in the workplace when personal faith becomes an issue. He is dedicated to providing assistance that protects our religious liberty under our statutes and constitutions. Vernon is part of a network of professionals in the Seventh-day Adventist Church who are vigilant and engaged in protecting religious liberty by representing our collective interests. This service is provided at no cost. You have an advocate.

Gary Burns is director of communication at the Lake Union Headquarters, and Marcia Harycki tells her story from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.





Adventist Hinsdale Hospital supporters enjoy the new Hinsdale Assembly Wellness garden.

New wellness garden a retreat for patients, families, employees

With its picturesque fountain, wooden pergola, decorative plant and flower containers, and group seating areas, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital's newly renovated Hinsdale Assembly Wellness Garden serves as a respite for patients and their families, employees and other visitors to the hospital. Officials from the hospital and the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation gathered there Oct. 26, 2009, for a dedication ceremony to recognize the Hinsdale Assembly Board.

The garden is named after the Hinsdale Assembly Board in recognition of their generous donation that, in large part, made the garden possible. Additional funding came from many patients and their families, community members and hospital employees.

Located on the hospital's second floor near the east entrance, the garden is handicap-accessible. The space was designed with spacious pathways to accommodate physical therapy patients, who can plant flowers and herbs as part of their therapy. A new shed creates storage room and a sink area allows easy cleanup.

"The Hinsdale Assembly Well-

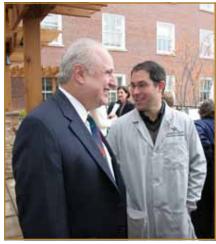
ness Garden is a beautiful example of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital's mission and values in action," said Susan King, executive director of the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation. "It is a comforting space that offers the many healing aspects of natural light, green spaces and the tranquility of a soft water fountain. We are extremely grateful to the Assembly Board for helping to make this amazing resource available for everyone."

Lex Buddig, chairwoman of the Hinsdale Assembly Board, said the garden complements the hospital's commitment to whole-person health—treating each patient's body, mind and spirit.

"Studies have shown the importance of natural outdoor spaces to health and well being," Buddig said. "We're proud to be able to bring this service to Adventist Hinsdale Hospital."

Liz Hulford, a chaplain, led more than 30 hospital employees, community members and other supporters in a prayer to dedicate the garden. She prayed that patients and their families would feel God's presence in the healing space.

"This garden extends the healing ministry of Christ beyond our hospital rooms and surgical suites," Hulford said. "It is a place where prayers ascend,



Alan Schneider (left), Adventist Hinsdale Hospital chief operating officer, and Francis Facchini, an interventional radiologist, enjoy the new garden.



Lex Buddig (left), chairwoman of the Hinsdale Assembly Board, said the garden complements the hospital's commitment to whole-person health treating each patient's body, mind and spirit. Also pictured: Dave Crane, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital chief executive officer

blessings descend, healing takes place, and love and fellowship abide."

Memorial and other naming opportunities are available within the garden. For more information, call King at 630-856-2000.

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist, Adventist Midwest Health

Andrews \(\Delta \) University



Andrea Wincek and her fiancee, Phillip Byrd, were one of 11 couples who participated in the October 2009 Adventist Engaged Encounter at Andrews University.

Adventist Engaged Encounter rebirthed at Andrews

In the spring of 1978, with lots of motivation but only a few years of personal experience as family life educators, Don and Sue Murray, along with three Seminary students and their wives, launched an experiential relationship enrichment program for the engaged couples of Andrews University.

The couples had only six short weeks to prepare for their first program; but miraculously it came together. The first weekend-long program was in May 1978. Then the Murrays were asked to make a long-term commitment to offer the program for engaged couples two to three times per year. "We agreed, but how could we know that 'long-term' would mean 26 years, 80 weekends and more than 1,500 couples attending?" says Don.

"Engaged Encounter" seemed to be a perfect moniker for the program. "Adventist" was later added to the title, and thus the beginning of Adventist Engaged Encounter (AEE) at Andrews University.

The weekend is a guided relational and spiritual journey of couple enrichment and growth for engaged and recently married couples who desire a Christian marriage. It is not a lecture series, a sermon, a group sharing experience, a Bible study or a weekend vacation. Each couple is given private time for personal reflection and couple sharing. A wide variety of subjects are presented, giving each couple the freedom to explore each important area.

"We live in a culture that is often obsessed with finding a 'soul mate' to marry," says Don. "Seeking to find someone we are totally compatible with has merit, but it is not a biblical picture of marriage. Commitment is more important than compatibility. Jesus loves us because He decided to, in spite of our incompatibility with Him. He loves us and gave His life for us because of that commitment. AEE builds on that important truth."

Since March 1998, Union College in Lincoln, Neb., has conducted AEE weekends, following the model started at Andrews in 1978. Walla Walla University and Southern Adventist University have also hosted AEE weekends led by the Andrews team.

In 2004, Don accepted a position out of state, and AEE was put on the shelf at Andrews. But the need and desire for AEE was still there. In August 2008, the Murrays were asked to mentor a new generation of AEE team leaders. After months of planning, the re-birth of AEE at Andrews occurred the weekend of Oct. 23-25, 2009, with 11 couples attending. One wife-to-be said, "We were impressed by all the special touches: the diversity of topics, the central focus of God's role in our lives, the Love Feast, couple communion and our personal poster."

AEE is Adventist in orientation. but open to any engaged couple who want to build a Christian marriage.

"Good marriages don't just happen!" says Don. "They must be developed through a process. The AEE experience offers couples insights, tools and confidence to enrich their relationship and strengthen their love and commitment to one another."

As with most things in life, a new generation is ready to take the lead. Don says, "It was always God's AEE program. We will continue to support and be a resource to the current team, but our role will change to reflect the recognition that the time has come for a new generation of AEE leadership."

The next AEE is scheduled for Mar. 26-28. Registration closes on Mar. 19. The cost for couples is \$35 if both are Andrews students, \$50 if one is an Andrews student and \$75 if neither is an Andrews student. Contact Andrews University's Office of Campus Ministries for details about the program. Call 269-47I-624I or send e-mail to cm@andrews.edu.

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



[EDUCATION NEWS]



Students from Spencer Adventist Christian School pose with some of Owen County's veterans following the Veterans Day services. Students (from left) are Madison Ingram, Nathan Huffman, Ethan Smith, Emily Self, Heather Huffman, Lauren Self and Bethany Olson.

Students remember veterans

Indiana—Wed., Nov. II, 2009, was Veterans Day, a holiday originally named "Armistice Day" to honor the veterans of World War I. The U.S. Congress later officially amended the original act to remember veterans of all conflicts. This is just one of the things learned by students of Spencer Adventist Christian School through their preparation for and attendance of this year's Veterans Day event that took place on the windswept and quite chilly Owen County Courthouse lawn.

The ceremony began promptly at II:00 a.m., conducted by the Spencer American Legion Post #285 and VFW Post #1405. Serving as the keynote speaker was Gulf War veteran Gunnery Sergeant 2nd Combat Engineer Marine Battalion, 2nd Marine Division (ret.) Terry Sips, currently a Spencer Town Marshal. Also speaking were Korean War veteran Henry Mathis and Ron Morley, a U.S. Navy veteran from the Vietnam conflict.

Students Nathan and Heather Huffman, Madison Ingram, Bethany Olson, Lauren Self, Emily Self and Ethan Smith created a large banner to thank the veterans for their service, which they displayed during the ceremony. The official proceedings were concluded by a 21-gun salute by the Honor Guard, and by the playing of "Taps" by the Honor Guard commander, Bob Clark. Spencer Adventist Church Home and School leader Sandy Culp announced to the crowd that the students had some gifts for the veterans, and asked if some would stay to allow the students to meet them.

The students distributed gift bags which included a few pencils, an American flag pen, two handmade thank-you cards from the students and a couple of Bible study cards which could be filled out and returned. Then the students met with a few of the veterans who were willing to answer questions prepared by teacher, Lutricia Whitlow, and assistant, Sylvia Haygood.

As the students interacted with the vets, they discovered these people are, by and large, ordinary men and women—our friends, neighbors and family members—who, under extraordinary circumstances, conducted themselves courageously and honorably, and accomplished amazing things as a group. The students felt good that they had the opportunity to meet and remember these veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Terry Self, communication leader, Spencer Seventh-day Adventist Church [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Church members witness miracles with student recruitment efforts

Michigan—Some members of the Jackson Church called it a miracle. Others attributed it to the fact that the pastor had a fair booth for the church in the previous year. A few thought a member, Darlene Stilson, had some influence with the fair office employees in getting a booth because of her 25-year working relationship with the County of Jackson. We only know all things were working the way God intended them to work.

The Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Jackson was at the crossroads of whether to stay open or to close due to the lack of students for the 2009-2010 school year. The membership voted to keep it open and allow God to bring in new students. The decision was made after deep prayer sessions to help promote the school. By promoting the school, members knew they had to make more people aware that not only the school existed but the church was an intricate part of the community. So in June 2009 the church members got to work in a booth at the "Worship Explosion," a local community event whose sole purpose is to focus on God. They also decided to have a fair booth at the Jackson County Fair, which would focus on recruiting new students for the school

All the members of the School Promotion Committee were excited about the fair booth; they just couldn't seem to get an open date for a meeting. It was the middle of summer with family picnics, family reunions and a series of Adventist events all taking place at the same time. The pastor was involved in many of the Adventist events, so the members started doing what they thought was their part without consulting or coordinating with each other. They were a "Just Do It Group."

Caryn Jordan went to the fair office two weeks before the fair to try to get a booth. She was told there were no booths available unless someone canceled, and there wasn't much chance of getting it because her name had to go at the bottom of the list following others waiting for a cancellation.

About three days later, Darlene Stilson says the Lord placed it on her heart to go to the fair office to see if a booth was available. She said, "I argued with myself about driving another 15 miles out of my way when a thought weighed heavily on my mind, coming through loud and clear: You need to go to the fair grounds, now!" Stilson walked into the fair office, and there was an old political adversary looking across the counter at her. Stilson said, "Prayers started flying through my mind, 'Lord, help me to be nice, help me to say the right things, don't let me blow it.""

Stilson complimented the "old political adversary" on her recent weight loss, and encouraged her by saying she was very healthy looking. The "old political adversary" responded that she felt good, then she said she was happy that all the politics of their youth were over. Stilson replied, "So am I."

When Stilson asked if the Seventh-day Adventist Church or school had booked a booth, the fair office attendant went to the computer and looked up the information. She found that the forms were sent

out in January, but they had not been returned. Stilson then learned there was a booth cancellation just before she walked in the door. Since the church had a booth the previous year, the fair office attendant offered the canceled space and handed Stilson a new set of forms for the pastor to complete.

Stilson recalls, "I walked out of the fair office on a spiritual high, not only for obtaining the booth, but for closing the door on wounds inflicted by each of us 20 years prior."

The fair arrived, and many volunteers helped distribute 350 children's packets. A DVD with the benefits of Adventist School education was played continuously for viewers, and a name



Members of the Jackson Church saw God's miracles as they worked together to recruit new students for the church's elementary school last summer.

was drawn for a family Bible from the interest cards collected. A six-year-old girl was the recipient of the Bible; it was the second Bible she had received during the summer. The other one was from vacation Bible school at the apartment complex where she lives. It is quite clear Jesus is knocking on the door of *her* life.

All of this was followed by a human interest story featured in the local newspaper about the church's elementary school hanging on by a thread. God handed us a pocket full of miracles to promote the school.

Jody Murphy, former correspondent, Michigan Conference, as shared by Darlene Stilson, member, Jackson Church

Portage Church embraces new members

Wisconsin—Is it really worth all the time, effort and expense to hold an evangelistic series? With several evangelistic attempts in the past ending in discouragement, why go through the exhausting process all over again?

These were some of the questions the members of the Portage Church had to answer when the Adventures in Prophecy team offered to come and hold a series of meetings at their church. After a few weeks of prayerfully considering the spiritual needs of Portage and the surrounding communities, the church members felt impressed it was time to reach out with a series of evangelistic meetings.

Beginning with the opening night, members and guests faithfully attended the meetings with several not missing a single presentation. At the conclusion, 17 individuals ranging from age eight to 83 made their decision to follow the example of Jesus in baptism.

When Don Schmidt was asked what difference the Adventure in Prophecy series had made in his life, he responded, "I've been attending the Adventist church with my wife for 30 years without a clear understanding of the theological differences between the Protestant church I was raised in and the Adventist church. By the end of the meeting, I had a clear understanding of each Bible doctrine." Narcissa Schmidt, Don's wife, was overjoyed as she watched her husband walk into the baptismal waters after praying for 30 years for him to make his decision.



Portage Church members debated the value of public evangelism, but moved forward with plans to reach their surrounding communities. God expanded their congregation, and they believe each new member makes a significant contribution. From left: Donald Schmidt, Beth Strangstalien, Ken Hageness, Betty Reynolds, Myles McKnight, Christian Ronalds (pastor), Marita McKnight, Dawn Carpenter and Cindy Clausen

We asked the six students who made their decision for baptism if evangelism is worth it. We didn't really need them NEWS

to give a verbal response. Their enthusiasm and willingness to help read the Scripture for the worship hour, lead a youth praise team once a month, assist in the offering collection and provide special music, as well as a variety of other tasks, says it all. If you enjoy watching young people on fire for Jesus, it will help you decide if it is really worth the effort.

Dawn Carpenter received an announcement in the mail and decided to attend the prophecy seminar just to see what it was all about. From the first night, she enjoyed fellowshipping with guests and members alike. Repeatedly, she expresses how much her new "family" means to her. Her beaming smile is one of the first to pass through the

church doors each Sabbath morning. Worshiping with Dawn is a true blessing.

Betty Reynolds has been a committed Christian for many years. When she received an invitation in the mail for the Adventures in Prophecy seminar, she thought it might be an opportunity to deepen her understanding of Scripture. From the first night, Reynolds faithfully attended each lecture. Her understanding of Bible truth grew from night to night. By the time camp meeting came along, Reynolds decided not to wait a moment longer to make a full commitment. It was thrilling to watch her walk out into the camp meeting lake as she took her stand and was baptized because of her love for Jesus Christ and Bible

Each of the 17 individuals making a decision for baptism has added a significant contribution to the Portage congregation. Each new spiritual birth has added new life to the church family. As we consider our question once again—Is it worth all the time, energy, and expense?—each new smiling face at church worship is all the answer we need now. However, as we look into the future and visualize being around God's throne, I'm convinced our hearts will thrill beyond words as we look into God's face and the faces of those we have prayed for and studied with. We will all agree, it was worth it!

> Greg Budd, member, Portage Church, as shared with Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, Lake Union Herald



Christopher Cross, seminar speaker, stands by the banner the Southside church members placed in front of their church to invite community guests to a four-part seminar series on the history of religious liberty.

Religious Liberty Seminar teaches value of separation of church and state

Indiana—The Indianapolis Southside Church sponsored an innovative outreach in June 2009. Christopher Cross, an Indianapolis attorney and head elder of the Southside Church, presented a four-part seminar on the history of religious liberty through the ages. "It was a unique project," Cross stated, "which I developed over a two-and-a-half year period." However, he credits the original idea to Ken Wherry, Southside's personal ministries leader at the time. "So it was really Ken's brainchild," Cross modestly stated. "With *The Great*

Controversy appearing to be more a book on current events and less a prophetic work, Ken had thought that a seminar on religious liberty would be a good introduction to what Seventh-day Adventists are all about, and he was excited when he learned I was thinking along the same lines."

In preparation for the seminar, Ellen Wherry created a flier to be shared with friends and family, and placed advertisements in the local newspaper. All were invited to "learn how God blessed America by separating church and state."

Cross reports there were at least ten to 15 guests in attendance from the community over the four nights. "I have a friend," he says, "who is from another denominational church in town, and his comment to me was that the Religious Liberty Seminar encouraged him to want to study more end-time prophesy, and he intends to attend the Daniel seminar our pastor, Brian Yensho, is having in a few weeks.

"I am not sure how one would measure good results," Cross continued, "but I know the questions in the Q & A session I conducted each evening showed me that people were amazed to find out how tenuous religious liberty is, and they expressed a deeper appreciation of their right to worship after looking at it

from a historical perspective during the seminar."

The seminar consisted of four presentations given on Friday and Saturday nights in two consecutive weekends. Each night Cross explained how the prophecies of Daniel were fulfilled during different periods of history—the pre-Christian era, the Dark Ages, the Reformation and American history. Several church ministries—the audiovisual committee, the social committee, as well as the deacons and deaconesses—all pulled together, making the seminar a team effort.

According to Ken, "The Religious Liberty Seminar was intended as an evangelistic outreach, but it is also a very good seminar to present in Adventist churches as a powerful reminder of our history and our understanding of Daniel and future events. This was a pilot study; it will not be the last time Southside presents it."

Southside's audio-visual team created a CD-ROM of the presentations. If interested in obtaining one, call 317-786-7002. Also, if your church is interested in having Cross present the seminar, you may e-mail xcross9@hotmail.com.

Helene Riggs, assistant church bulletin secretary, Southside Church

[YOUTH NEWS]



'Just Claim It!' prayer conference announced

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America will host its second World Youth Prayer Conference, Apr. 7–11, in Columbus, Ohio. Themed "Just Claim It: Experience the Power of Prayer—Claiming Communities for Christ" (JCI), youth from all over the world will participate in this power-packed experience to claim the power of God in their lives.

Crime, violence, drugs and sexual immorality have plagued homes, communities, schools and even churches.

"The purpose of this prayer congress is two-fold. First, it will draw serious attention to the challenges of senior youth by reintroducing them to a love relationship with Christ. Second, it will empower them to reclaim their cities through service to others while bringing a message of hope," said James Black Sr., director of youth ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

This new and unique spiritual experience will draw more than 15,000 attendees to JCI to begin a five-day prayer journey in the name of Jesus. In addition to the 120 hours of organized prayer, organizers have coordinated 15 workshop tracks (180 workshops), a special community mission project called "Just Make-Over," speaking opportunities for teens called "Youth Preach-Out," drama presentations focusing on biblical prayer encounters, a biblical floats parade, a music festival which will feature a 300-voice JCI mass choir accompanied by a 250-piece orchestra, and recreation.

To ensure JCI impact in every community, special invitations were sent to the president of the United States, his cabinet, members of Congress, the Senate, governors, state legislatures, mayors, city councils, community activists and world leaders of every nation. "We want leaders to come and have our youth lay hands on them and pray for their leadership," said Black. "Also, delegates are encouraged to bring non-Adventist relatives and friends to JCI—this voids the 'It's just for us' mentally. It's time our youth know their prayers can literally impact the entire world." he said.

For more information on the conference, registration, schedule details or to be a volunteer, please visit www. jci2.org; send an e-mail to info@jci2. org; or call 301-680-6420.

Gael Murray, ministries coordinator, Youth Ministries Office, Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America

[UNION NEWS]

ASI member shares God's Word for twenty years

Illinois—For the past 20 years, Dave Mayor, a member of Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries, has brought the Word of God to the community of Hinsdale, Ill. Though he leads a busy life as an emergency room physician at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Mayor gains energy and fulfillment through his personal ministry. He coordinates a Bible study program that walks people through the chronological study of God's Word in one year.

Mayor meets weekly with a group of 30 to 40 people committed to studying the Bible. As they discuss their reading assignments, the Holy Spirit reveals truths hidden in the Bible. The results? Many have become Seventh-day Adventists through this

Bible-study process and have grown in their faith and understanding of God's will for their lives. New members are often surprised by the fact that if they forgo one sitcom a day, they would be able to read the Bible through twice in a year! Because of the meaning they find and the warm community spirit, some come back year after year. Mayor shared that he does this for the community but also for himself. The other seekers of truth hold him accountable to diligent study that keeps him abiding in Christ (see John 15:5).

Each time through Mayor uses a different translation and makes notes that he refers to in the following year. Because he is at a different point of the faith journey, new lessons stand out each time he reads a familiar Bible story. "Studying the Bible never gets old," Mayor shares.

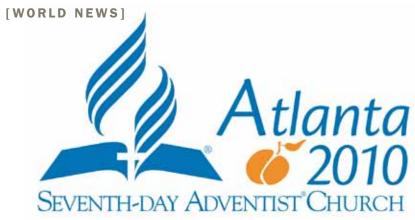
May his unbelievable commitment to the community and God's Word prompt you to ask God, "What do You want me to commit to in sharing You and reaching out to others?" If you are a professional, a leader in your community, and would like fresh ideas and encouragement in the area of intentional witnessing and using the gifts God has given you, consider becoming a member of the Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries. For more information visit www.asiministries.org.

Regil Mattson, president, Lake Union Chapter, Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries



Dave Mayor and the new group celebrate the Word of God on the first night of their weekly Bible study meetings





Proclaiming God's Grace

Atlanta, Georgia, to host Seventh-day Adventist Church 2010 World Session

The World Session of the Seventhday Adventist Church will bring an international flavor to Atlanta, Ga. This session gathering will be representative of the more than 25 million-strong Adventist families from around the globe, and will meet under a theme of "Proclaiming God's Grace."

"Grace is a powerful, living force; it changes and animates us," says Jan Paulsen, president of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church. "When God's grace reaches into our lives—and into the life of our church—it's impossible to go on with business as usual. It opens our eyes to needs around us; it compels us to go into our communities. By focusing on this theme, we're acknowledging that the experience of grace is absolutely central in the life of each believer, and we're asking: 'How can we, as Seventhday Adventists, reflect more clearly its depth, breadth, and transforming power?"

The Session, to be held June 23 through July 3, is primarily a business meeting for the global church family. Denominational leaders are elected, church business is attended to, and policy decisions are often made. Because the core "business" of the Seventh-day

Adventist Church is proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that challenge will permeate activities at the Atlanta 2010 convocation, Paulsen said.

Organized by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the top administrative body in the church's worldwide system, the quinquennial world session will be the 59th for the denomination since its first General Conference Session in 1863. The Atlanta convocation marks just the second time Adventists have held their worldwide gathering in the United States in 20 years. Daily attendance at the event is expected to average more than 35,000 people; on the two weekends, more than 70,000 are expected to attend.

Some 2,000 voting delegates from all over the world will gather at the Georgia Dome in downtown Atlanta to participate in meetings that will determine many of the church's administrative actions for the next half-decade. They will receive reports on the church's growth in those parts of the world where the Christian message is "reaching the unreached," and have the opportunity to meet fellow believers and church workers from other lands.

Around the world, Adventist Christians are among the fastest-growing churches today. Adventists work in 201 of the 230 countries and areas recognized by the United Nations, and communicate in more than 880 languages through publications and oral work.

Seventh-day Adventists operate one of the largest Protestant educational networks in the world, with 7,442 elementary through university-level schools worldwide, with more than 1,479,136 students enrolled. Of those, 107 are colleges and universities.

Participants of such world convocations have often favored the international evening programs, which feature reports from all over the world. These reports will be translated into 15 different languages, as well as into American Sign Language for the hearing impaired.

Other special events associated with the Session will aim at creating a global awareness and sensitivity to the world community, which is a part of the Adventist mission to the world. In addition to these special events, there will also be a major exhibit hall set up, which will include such things as church supplies, children's ministry materials, religious books, kiosks representing the various universities and colleges of the Adventist church, and a large variety of Christian music, and much much more for Session attendees to visit and see.

"As a denomination we believe in grace," stated one Seventh-day Adventist church leader. In continuing to describe how the theme would impact the Session, this church leader went on to also say that the theme of grace would be "a force driving many of the devotions, worship and presentation topics."

Organizers are planning to use the media to bring the Atlanta 2010 event to viewers via Adventist television networks and other communication delivery organizations, including Adventist World Radio. Regular reports will be available to delegates of the Session and church believers around the world through the church's weekly magazine, Adventist Review, and the worldwide press coverage of the Adventist News Network.

The meetings are open to the general public. More information can be found at www.gcsession.org

Garrett Caldwell, public relations director, Seventh-day Adventist World Church

MILEPOSTS

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

Baglan Segisbayeva and Dennis Chin were married Sept. 5, 2009, in Kokomo, Ind. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Blake Hall.

Baglan is the daughter of Serik Segisbayev and Roza Dzhalamonova of Kazakstan, and Dennis is the son of Ten Sin Chin and Ngang Hua Yeo of Malaysia.

The Chins are making their home in Kokomo.

Sue H. Seeley and Jesse J. Story were married Sept. 19, 2009, in Ricelake, Wis. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Curtis Denney.

Sue is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Seeley, and Jesse is the son of Ronald and Jane Story of Birchwood, Wis.

The Storys are making their home in New Auburn, Wis.

Anniversaries



Harriet and Charles E. Lawrence celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Sept. 2, 2009, with their daughter on Sept. 1, and on Sept. 2 the Port Charlotte (Fla.) Rehabilitation Center staff gave them a special anniversary dinner. They have been members of the Broadview and Hinsdale (III.) Churches for 70 years.

Charles E. Lawrence and Harriet Olson were married on Sept. 2, 1939, in

St. Louis, Mo., by the Justice of the Peace. Charles has been a painting contractor in the Chicago area, retiring in 2000. Harriet has been a homemaker.

The Lawrence family includes the late Charles H. and Sharron Lawrence of Dayton, Ohio; Bruce and Janet Lawrence of Oceanside, Calif.; Alan and Sandee Lawrence of Lake Suzy, Fla.; Michael and Sandy Lawrence of Chattanooga, Tenn; Sharon Lawrence of Gurnee, Ill.; 11 grand-children; and seven great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

BEERS, Shirley J. (Cuthbert), age 68; born Feb. 13, 1941, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich.; died Oct. 5, 2009, in Davison, Mich. She was a member of the South Flint Church, Burton, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Dale; son, Charles A. Panter Jr.; mother, Josephine (Smith) Cuthbert; brothers, Jed O'Boyle, and George and David Cuthbert; sisters, Bonnie Thornton, Joyce Daly and Kay Walker; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Christopher Ames, and interment was in Flint Memorial Park Cemetery, Mt. Morris, Mich.

BUNCH, Raymond J., age 84; born June 7, 1923, in Clarksburg, W. Va.; died Apr. 15, 2008, in Southfield, Mich. He was a member of the Farmington (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his daughter, Janis Bunch; brother, Fourest; and sister, Beulah Myers.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Robert Stewart, and interment was in Rural Hill Cemetery, Northville, Mich. DINGMAN, Ruth F. (Conklin), age 101; born May 25, 1908, in South Haven, Mich.; died Aug. 21, 2009, in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was a member of the Wyoming (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Lorraine VanDuinen and Norma Jean Carpenter; 10 grandchildren; 14 greatgrandchildren; and eight great-greatgrandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Dan Rachor, and interment was in Rosedale Cemetery, Grand Rapids.

DUTKUS, Joan T. (Tinsley) Slater Kerby, age 83; born July 27, 1926, in Duncan, Okla.; died Sept. 24, 2009, in Warsaw, Ind. She was a member of the Warsaw Church.

Survivors include her sons, Jerry, Terry and Bill Kerby; stepsons, Randy and Thomas Dutkus, and Terry Mathias; daughters, Gloria Bess and Mary Ceballos; stepdaughters, Phyllis and Charlotte Slater; brother, James Tinsley; 19 grand-children; seven step-grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Harry Hartmann, and interment was in Hillcrest Cemetery, Pierceton, Ind.

GERBERDING, Betty Lou, age 83; born Jan. 3, 1926, in Pittsburg, Pa.; died Nov. 15, 2009, in Madison, Wis. She was a member of the Madison Church.

Interment was in Sunset Memory Gardens, Madison.

LA TOUR SR., Frank H., age 75; born Nov. 3, 1933, in Hammond, Ind.; died Sept. 4, 2009, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Kathleen (Vickers); sons, Donn and Frank W.; daughter, Cheryl Finkbeiner; brother, Richard; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Mickey Mallory and Jerry Finneman, and interment was in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich.

LITCHFIELD, Roberta A. (Bliesath), age 66; born Nov. 20, 1942, in Napoleon, Mich.; died Oct. 11, 2009, in Bartonsville, Md. She was a member of the Jackson (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, N. Bradley; daughter, Corinne Litchfield; stepmother, Arlene (Moore) Bliesath; sisters, Maris K. Hodges and Sheila Bliesath; and half sisters, Carol A. (Bliesath) Bostedor and Martha S. (Bliesath) Weiss.

Private inurnment has taken place.

MCGRATH, Robert, age 84; born Feb. 10, 1925; died July 28, 2009, in Jackson, Mich. He was a member of the Jackson Church.

Survivors include his sons, Robert C. and Mark A.; daughters, Lisa J. McGrath and Cheryl L. McGrath; brothers, Joseph and John; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor W.H. Ted Struntz, and interment was in Roseland Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Jackson.

PARRISH, Viola M. (Taylor), age 85; born Mar. 2, 1923, in South Branch, Mich.; died Oct 27, 2008, in Grand Haven, Mich. She was a member of the Wright Church, Coopersville, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Elton; sons, Harley and Leslie; daughter, Beth-Ann Cabana; 17 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dick Bullock, and interment was in Blendon Twp. Cemetery, Hudsonville, Mich. Classifieds

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$32 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$43 per insertion for all others. A form is available at www.LakeUnionHerald.org for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The Lake Union Herald cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The Lake Union Herald does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at www.LakeUnionHerald.org.

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Travel Opportunities

VACATION ON KAUAI, HAWAII, "THE GAR-DEN ISLAND." Kahili Mountain Park is a scenic mountain getaway located at the base of Kahili Ridge. Just minutes from popular Kauai attractions, the park has an assortment of 1–4 room cabins with sleeping for 2–6 persons. See pictures and rates at www.kahil ipark.org. For more information, email reservations@kahilipark.org, or call 808-742-9921.

Miscellaneous

WANTED TO BUY: 1–10,000 Adventist books. **FOR SALE:** used Adventist books. The half-price sale was a

huge success, and I'm continuing the sale for all book sales not just at my house. For more information, call John at 269-781-6379.

NEWSTART LIFESTYLE PROGRAM at Weimar Institute of Health & Education: Our 18-day NEWSTART Lifestyle Program reduces the risk of and reverses obesity, high cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes, neuropathy, heart disease, fibromyalgia, stress and other degenerative diseases. For more information, call 1-800-525-9192 now! Read testimonies on our Web site, www.newstart.com.

SPONSOR A CHILD! \$30 a month can send a child in India to an Adventist School. It pays for tuition, housing, food, clothes and medical. Adventist Child India is an official project of Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists. For more information, call 303-530-6655; e-mail childcare@ sud-adventist.org; or visit www.adven tistchildindia.org.

Employment

southern adventist university seeks an instructor in the School of Journalism & Communication to teach public relations, advertising or new media. Candidates must have at least a master's degree, and preferably a doctorate, in the field, as well as professional work experience. They must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey at rumsey@southern.edu, or P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK seeks applicants for two tenure track positions. M.S.W. degree and minimum of two years post-M.S.W. practice experience required. Ph.D. in social work or related field and five or more years of successful teaching/administrative practice preferred. To learn more, visit our Web site at http://jobs.wallawalla.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a Graduate Dean for the School of Graduate Studies and Research. An earned doctoral degree is required. For more information and to apply, please go to http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a qualified individual to join the faculty of our Communication department. Must have a broad spectrum of communication skills with a minimum of a master's in communication or related degree. Two years teaching experience preferred. Interested candidates apply at http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

and an earned doctoral despecies and have experience in mobilizing and leading a complex academic structure to demonstrated levels of achievement. The successful candidate will have significant academic/management experience in institutions of higher learning. This candidate will also possess academic vision, problem solving skills, collaborative style, strong interpersonal

skills and an ability to champion positive change. Andrews University encourages applicants with diverse backgrounds to apply at http://www. andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_sala ried.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY has a unique job opportunity for an Aviation Airframe & Powerplant Instructor. Duties include teaching/developing curricula, materials, project and instructional aids for an FAA approved Part 147, Aircraft Maintenance Technician Program. Interested candidates apply at http:// www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_ faculty.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking an Associate Director of Clinical Services for the University Counseling & Testing Center. For more details and to apply, please visit http://www.andrews. edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

INDIANA ACADEMY seeks a missionary taskforce assistant girls dean for the 2009-2010 AND 2010-2011 school years. She must have a passion for sharing Jesus with others, respectfully enforce rules and supervise young ladies in the dorm. For more information, contact Kara Kerbs, head girls dean, at ia4god@yahoo.com or 317-984-3575.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY seeks full-time faculty in areas of Early Childhood Education and Developmental Psychology. Graduate degree required (doctorate preferred). Experience in administration and teaching in early childhood education pro-

grams beneficial. Position requires that the applicant be a member of the Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. Please submit a rèsumè and letter of application to John Wesley Taylor, Dean, at e-mail: sep@ southern.edu; fax: 423-236-1765; or mailing address: P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

SOUTHERN **ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S** SCHOOL OF VISUAL ART AND DESIGN seeks full-time professor to teach painting, foundation drawing/design and color theory. M.F.A. in painting strongly preferred. Current teaching experience desirable. Must be a member in good and regular standing of the Adventist Church. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae (including a statement of teaching philosophy), portfolio samples and at least three references to Randy Craven, School of Visual Art and Design, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & PSYCHOLOGY seeks applicants for a full-time tenure track position in Education. An earned doctorate in Education is preferred, with a specialty in math or science education or curriculum and instruction. Experience teaching at the secondary level is essential. For more information, visit our Web site at http://jobs. wallawalla.edu.

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For Sale

HOMESCHOOLERS, awaken the bookworm in your child with the familiar Bible stories in the *A Reason For Guided Reading®* curriculum. These ability-based leveled readers teach kids reading strategies for success. Now available at your local Adventist Book Center, online at www.adventist bookcenter.com, or by calling 1-800-765-6955.

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THE EGW SPANISH STUDY BIBLE is now available. This Bible contains Ellen G. White comments and scripture index, cross references, maps, diagrams, the **Spanish Adventist Hymnal** and basic Bible studies. Available for only \$69 plus shipping. To order, call 405-454-6211.

Pass the Peas

School Notes

BY KERI SUAREZ very mother wants her child to enjoy a well-balanced diet. Yet, for the first six years of her life my daughter, Josie, refused to let any fruit and vegetables besides peeled apples, corn or cooked carrots pass her lips. Instead, she loved breads, cheeses and yogurt. While those foods are undoubtedly better than potato chips and candy, I still longed for her to ask for an apple or eat green beans without putting up a fuss.

I started noticing subtle changes half-way into her first-grade year at Village Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Her teacher, Beth Stevenson, spearheaded a new nutrition program for kids called HOP (Healthy On Purpose). From fruit salad to hummus, every Friday the kids had a chance to

learn about food, taste new things and take part in the food preparation.

I came home one day to find Josie eating apple slices. I momentarily froze out of fear I would startle her and she would realize the peeling was still on the apple. Casually, I asked her if it was a good apple. "Yes, I love apples! Especially the green ones!" she said.

One day, we were at a potluck. I informed Josie she had to get at least one vegetable. After perusing her options, she requested peas. For a moment, I thought she said, "please," but the smile on her face told me what I had been waiting her whole little life to hear. She had learned the value of choosing healthy foods.

Keri Suarez is the Home and School leader at Village Adventist Elementary School. She is the mother of two daughters, Josie and Keira.



Lake Union Herald becomes forest friendly

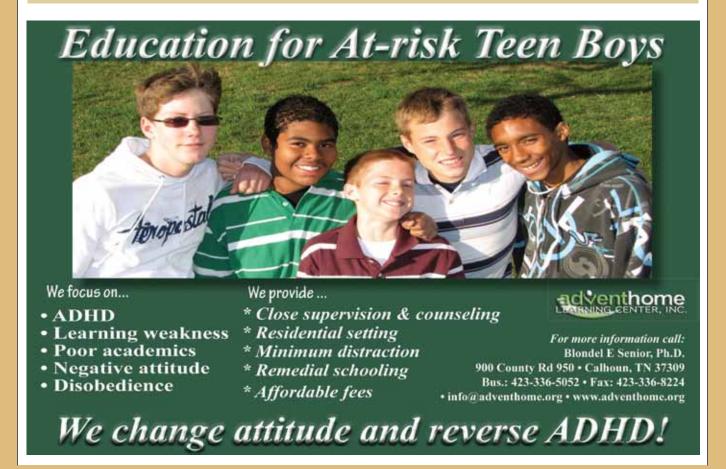
Beginning with this issue, the Lake Union Herald is being printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper. We have made this change because forests are God's method of providing clean water, fresh oxygen-rich air while moderating our climate. They also provide food, medicine and important resources such as timber and paper. In some countries, however, as much as 80 percent of the timber is harvested illegally and often in violation of human rights.

The FSC is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that promotes the responsible management of the world's forests. Established in 1993, as a response to concerns over global deforestation, FSC provides internationally recognized standard setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services for companies, organizations and communities interested in responsible forestry.

The Lake Union Herald has partnered with Color Press Publishing to bring you "stories of God at work in the lives of His people" on FSC certified paper, assuring that the paper we use is obtained legally, maintains the rights of workers and indigenous people and assesses environmental impact.

The good news is that we have been able to make this change without increasing our printing costs. We feel this is practicing good stewardship—not only financially, but ecologically.

Gary Burns, editor, Lake Union Herald



Announcements

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

Andrews University

Howard Performing Arts Center Events:

For more information about these events, call 269-471-3560.

Sat., Jan. 30: Jaci Velasquez

Tues., Mar. 2: Soweto Gospel Choir **Sat., Mar. 6:** Chi Young Yun, piano

2010 Easter Passion Play: Join Andrews University for our next exciting journey with the 2010 Easter Passion Play on Sat., Apr. 3. Our Easter Passion Play is an interactive indoor and outdoor walk-through experience for the entire family depicting the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The first rotation begins at 9 a.m., and the last rotation begins at 6 p.m. English rotations begin every 30 minutes. Two Spanish rotations will be offered. Bring your family or your church group! Reserve your free event reservation online at www.passionplay.

Indiana

andrews.edu.

Prayer Conference/Retreat, with guest speaker Dan Augsburger, is Jan. 8-9 at Timber Ridge Camp. Attendees will receive a comprehensive understanding of what is possible through prayer. In addition to speaking around the world, Augsburger teaches The History of Biblical Spirituality at the Seventhday Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. To register, contact Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201.

Winter Ski Fest: Enjoy two days of great skiing at Paoli Peaks, plus a special Sabbath at Timber Ridge Camp filled with good food, praise music and many spiritual activities with guest speaker Gary Macomber, chaplain, Indiana Academy. It all takes place Jan. 21-24. Go to www.trcamp.org to see the complete schedule and to

download your registration and consent forms. Or you may call Trisha Thompson at the Indiana Conference youth department at 317-844-6201.

Glendale Youth Sports: Every Sunday morning from 10:30 to noon during the months of January and February, children are invited to participate in a program designed to teach not only basketball but sportsmanship, team work and encouragement as well. At the beginning of each session, a devotional thought will be presented. Following prayer, the young people will be instructed on the rules and techniques of basketball and then divided into teams to play a full-court game. Multiple dads will help out each week. At the end of the season, trophies and T-shirts will be given to the participants. For details, e-mail or phone Greg Taylor, Glendale Church youth pastor, at gregtaylor9@gmail. com or 317-225-5021.

Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) Coming to South Bend beginning Feb. 7 and meeting three evenings each week until Mar. 11. The seminar will be held at the South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1936 E. Altgeld. Please call the church office at 574-234-3044 for more information or if you would like to schedule a FREE one-hour information session for your group or organization. The CHIP program is designed

to substantially lower high levels of blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, heartburn, angina and lessen depression. This world-class program has been conducted in hospitals, corporations and churches throughout North America. Thousands have been helped. You can be one of them because CHIP is coming to your community!

2010 Youth Rally: Hundreds of young people from all across Indiana converge for this annual event held Feb. 19-20. It begins Friday evening at 7:30 at Indiana Academy with guest speaker Amner Fernandez, youth pastor, Coral Springs Church, Fla. To spend Friday night in the dorm and receive a free Sabbath morning breakfast, make your reservation by calling Indiana Academy at 317-984-3575. Sabbath program begins at 10:00 a.m. at Indianapolis Junior Academy. You will receive a free lunch, followed by afternoon activities which end at 4:30 p.m. Enjoy the AU Gymnics program Saturday night at 7:30. Register your group for the weekend at youth@ indysda.org. For additional information, go to www.trcamp.org and click on calendar; or call Trisha Thompson at the Indiana Conference youth department at 317-844-6201.

Lake Union

Offerings

Jan 2 Local Church Budget

Jan 9 Local Conference Advance

Jan 16 Local Church Budget

Jan 23 Religious Liberty

Jan 30 World Budget (Silk Road 10-40 Window) **Special Days**

Jan 2 Day of Prayer

Jan 17-23 Religious Liberty Week

North American Division

Third Annual Adventist Health Systems CEO Reunion, Jan. 29-30, in Avon Park, Fla. For more information, contact Bill Sager at 863-452-2593 or e-mail wcsager@tnni.net; Tom Amos at 863-452-1979 or e-mail dtamos@gmail. com; or Jim Culpepper at 615-415-1925.

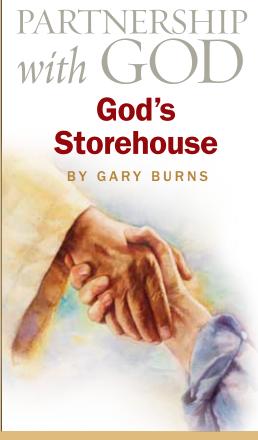
Union College Homecoming: Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming, Apr. 1-4. Honor classes are 1940, '50, '55, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90 and 2000. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or alumni@ ucollege.edu.

Cruise with a Mission, Dec. 12-19: The Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE) is holding its third Cruise with a Mission trip! This is an experience of a lifetime that offers mission work, a cruise and a spiritual retreat all wrapped up in one. The ports we will visit this year are Key West, Fla.; Falmouth, Jamaica; Georgetown, Cayman Islands; and Cozumel, Mexico. Prices start at \$599 per person for this seven-day experience exclusively for young adults ages 18-35. Regular rate: cruise fee + \$250 until Jan. 31; cruise fee + \$350 until Mar. 30; cruise fee + \$450 until Sept. 10. For more information, call 269-471-8341 or 800-YOUTH-2U, or e-mail cwm@adventistyouth.org. Please visit adventistyouth.org/CWM to book your Cruise with a Mission!

Sunset Calendar						
	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29	Feb 5
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:24	5:31	5:38	5:46	5:55	6:03
Chicago, Ill.	4:29	4:35	4:43	4:51	5:00	5:08
Detroit, Mich.	5:09	5:16	5:23	5:32	5:41	5:49
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:30	5:36	5:43	5:51	5:59	6:07
La Crosse, Wis.	4:37	4:44	4:52	5:01	5:10	5:19
Lansing, Mich.	5:14	5:20	5:28	5:37	5:46	5:54
Madison, Wis.	4:32	4:38	4:46	4:55	5:04	5:13
Springfield, Ill.	4:44	4:50	4:57	5:05	5:13	5:20

Announcements





found a dear friend in the pastor of the church right across the street from mine. We were both new to pastoral ministry and decided to get together once a week to pray for each other.

His church was larger than my three churches combined, and I was surprised when he asked me if my three little churches were bringing in enough money for us to make it. I was happy to explain the concept of the Lord's storehouse. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse," I reminded him. "For Adventists, that means that all the tithe from all the churches in our conference goes into one bucket. Each of the pastors gets paid on the same scale, regardless of the size of church, the number of churches or the wealth of the members."

"You're kidding!" he said in disbelief.
"You mean you get the same salary as a pastor of a thousand-member church?"
With a smile I said, "No, the pastor of a thousand-member church gets the same salary as a guy with three little churches."

God has blessed our shared tithe so we can place pastors where needed irrespective of the economics of a particular congregation. In addition, funds are often available for areas where there is great need but few resources.

As we partner together with God to fill His storehouse the strong are able to help the weak, and even the small may lead the great. And pastors are full partners with God in the process as we return our tithe to the storehouse as well.

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

Lost and Found

BY APRIL GRUBE

t was 12:30 a.m., and I intended to sprawl out on the empty seats beside me and sleep from Los Angeles to D.C. As soon as I saw him fumbling down the aisle, bumping passengers along the way, I knew he was my seatmate. "Name's Billy ... on my way to a conference."

As he continued to chatter, I wondered if he would ever come up for air. This guy was crazy! And yet, he had a strange joy about him.

"What did you say your name was?"

"April," I replied. "April Grube."

"Excuse me," he stuttered. "I didn't quite catch that."

I repeated my name more clearly, emphasizing the "b" in Grube that most mistake for "v." He looked puzzled, as if I was lying.

"I can't believe it," he muttered. "You don't know me, but I know you. I know how you think and feel. If it weren't for you, I don't know what would have become of me. April, it is a pleasure to meet you."

As I stepped off the plane from Chile to Panama three years earlier, it would be only a short time until I realized my precious book was missing. Searching for God Knows What changed my life when I'd been close to giving up on

Christianity. I wrote so many notes in that book there weren't even margins anymore!

Little did I know that at that very moment a man named Billy was taking the seat I so recently vacated. Billy was coming home. A year earlier, he'd had enough of his parents and work. So he took off, heading to Brazil and later, Peru. On his journeys, he realized a similarity everywhere he went: There was always pain, always suffering. Billy had long ago given up on God and His "loving" nature. No God

When there was nowhere else to go, Billy hiked to the nearest airport in Chile and

would allow such pain, he thought.

bought a ticket back to the States. He'd become an atheist and wanted everyone in America to know it.

As Billy searched for earphones in the pouch in front of him, he discovered instead a book filled with notes and devotions. His first instinct was to laugh at the sincerity of the reader, but was drawn to the written words inside. Billy had never known what he truly wanted. But somehow, he knew he wanted the same things the note writer wanted. He turned to the beginning of the book and began to read.

Billy finished the book early the next morning. As he turned the last page, he saw "April Grube" scrawled in a hurried cursive. Slowly, he closed the book, stared at the worn cover and put it back exactly where he'd found it. He

closed his eyes and began to think. Billy had no idea what he was going to do with his life once he stepped off that plane. But he had hope.

I couldn't help but cry when Billy finally explained how he knew me. I made an impact on a person without even knowing it! Somehow God used a 15-year-old girl, with a little help from her favorite author, to bring Billy back to the God who loves him more than anything. God works in the most outrageous ways.

April Grube lives in Riverside, California. She is a sophomore at Andrews

University pursuing a double major in history and political science with an emphasis in secondary education.

Profiles of Youth [WISCONSIN CONFERENCE]

Lillian "Lily" Cabrera is the daughter of Mirta and Ramiro Cabrera. She is a member of the Milwaukee Central Hispanic Church. Lily has spent her whole life in one school district in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and she has developed many Christian friends. Friendships are very important to Lily: "Good friends help you stand up to peer pressure. My friends are also Christian, so they stood up for one another. Good friends make you wise!"



Lillian Cabrera

Lily loves languages, and she loves talking and visiting: "I am focusing on French right now. When I finish high school, I will have 32 credits in languages both French and Spanish. I plan on majoring in architecture at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. I hope to travel abroad and continue my language studies while learning architecture as I travel."

Passionate about her walk with Jesus, Lily says, "I love the worship hour! I believe that church is so important; it elevates the soul. I gain great blessings with God when I am one-on-one with Him, but there is something special about worshiping God with others. You know you are not alone, and it makes you stronger."

Lily is finishing high school at Brookfield Central in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Her parents relocated to New Berlin and she had to move for her senior year, but Sheboygan is where her heart is!



Jonathan Wheeler

Jonathan Wheeler is the son of Carol and Carroll Wheeler. He is a member of the Sheboygan Church. A junior at Sheboygan North High School in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Jonathan is a high academic achiever with strong aptitude in math and science. While he excels in these cerebral studies, he prefers being with people: "Math and science are okay, but they are really no challenge in the way that interacting with people is."

The majority of Jonathan's teachers and students are respectful of his faith in God. He counsels, "Don't try to make it difficult for those around you—stand up when you have to, but try to deal with it yourself." Jonathan has declined many invitations from program directors at school to be part of their activities because of Sabbath conflicts. While he misses some opportunities, the majority of his clubs and sports work to accommodate his conscientious beliefs. "The kids and the teachers have been great," he says.

Jonathan really loves Jesus and church. He says, "At the end of the week, other things can be shuffled around or even canceled, but Jesus and church are always there! Sabbath always works."

After graduation, Jonathan plans to attend Andrews University where he will major in math and physics, with a computer science minor.

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