

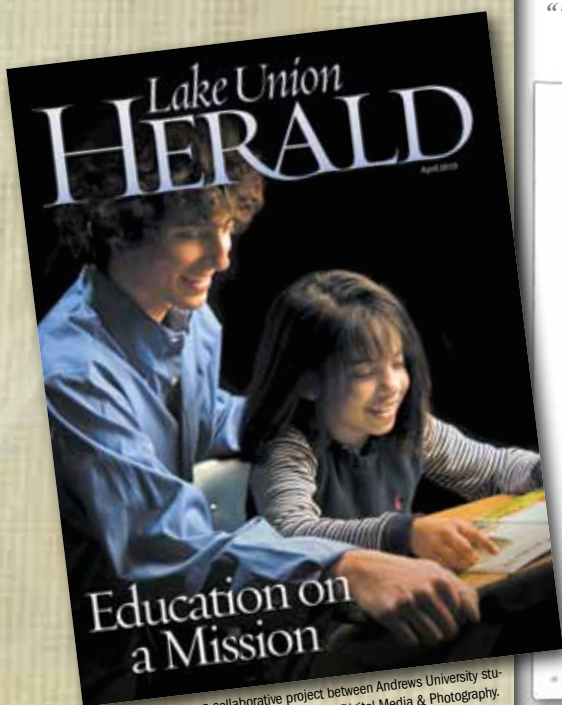
Lake Union HERALD

April 2010

A young man with curly hair and a young woman with long dark hair are sitting at a desk, looking at a book together. They are both smiling and appear to be engaged in a study session. The man is wearing a light blue button-down shirt, and the woman is wearing a dark blue and white striped long-sleeved shirt. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the two students.

Education on
a Mission

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



The cover image was a collaborative project between Andrews University students in the departments of Art & Design and Digital Media & Photography.



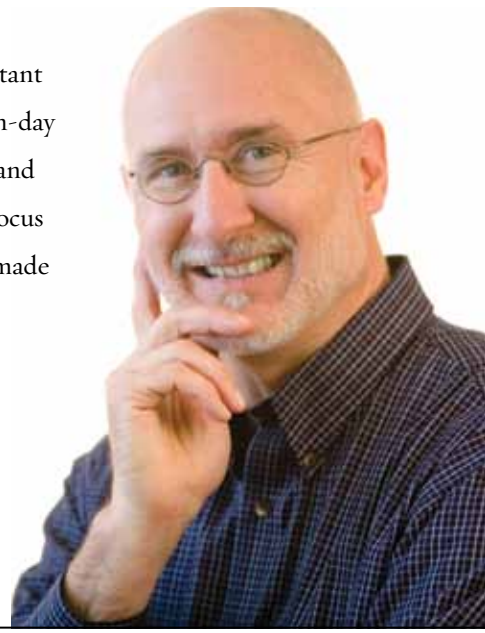
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In this issue...

Even though it operates the largest Protestant educational system in the world, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is retooling its educators and educational systems, returning to a greater focus on the basic mission-driven principles that made it so great.


Gary Burns, Editor



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Christ's Imminent Return

Last month, we spoke of how central the Second Coming of Jesus is to our Adventist hope and how important it is to base that hope on the truth of Scripture. I trust you caught my concern for the setting of dates and why. Having said that, there are strong reasons to feel the nearness of the Advent!

A recent article in *Time* magazine called the past ten years the “Decade from Hell”—starting with the thousands killed in the 9/11 attacks, major disasters included the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, two market crashes, the anthrax letters, the Washington, D.C., snipers, the Minneapolis I-35W bridge collapse exposing our decaying infrastructure, a wave of Wall Street scandals, Hurricane Katrina and the Indian Ocean tsunami, an inordinate number of bankruptcies, and GM and Chrysler on the brink of failure.

The *Time* article went on to say, “If we are now watching the sun set on a Decade from Hell, does it naturally follow that the next decade will be all good and glory? Of course not.”¹ Enter Haiti.

In February 1975, Barbara and I were living in the Maplewood Apartments here in Berrien Springs, Michigan. I was taking in odd jobs that included some cabinet making while attending the Seminary. We were eagerly anticipating and preparing for our first child. Our neighbor had just put together an “elegant” book shelf system made of boards and concrete blocks and was so proud of his work; he called us to see the beginning of what is now known as “Dwight Nelson Library.” Barbara was so impressed she went into labor right then and there. It was the beginning of her birth pains. Christina was born eight hours later.

Jesus said, “When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains” (Mark 13:7, 8 NIV).

I did not know exactly when Christina would be born, but I went into a different mode when Barbara went into labor. Rather than focusing on me, my focus was completely on her and the miracle about to take place. We don't know when Christ will return, but we do see the signs announcing the beginning of the Advent. His return is imminent. It's time for us to go into a different mode. Rather than focusing on ourselves and our own security, we are to go into mission mode—moved to introduce as many as possible to the loving and life-giving Savior.

Believing Christ would return any day, the early church in the book of Acts was already in mission mode. They were in tune with Jesus, and their focus was sharing Him with the world. They embraced His commission to “go and make disciples of all nations.” By receiving the Holy Spirit, they became witnesses to the power of the resurrected and returning Christ. They lived with the assurance of an ever-deepening and intimate walk with Him “to the very end of the age.” And so can we! (see Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 1:7, 8).

1. <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1942834,00.html>. (February 22, 2010.)



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

A Filmmaker's Journey

BY MARTIN DOBLMEIER

Martin Doblmeier has become a dear friend for whom I have great respect. I first met Martin at a Society of Adventist Communicators convention where he introduced Adventist communicators from North America to his soon-to-be released film, "The ADVENTISTS." I had come to love and appreciate his work in "Bonhoeffer" years before. I had the pleasure of learning more about Martin's journey as a filmmaker with a calling and a mission last November in his office in Alexandria, Virginia. It is my privilege to introduce him to our readers.—Editor

I think throughout my whole life, as far back as I can remember, I had an interest in understanding a little bit more about the workings of God in the world. And my readings always out of my own interest were in that direction.

I remember about my junior year I was given *Letters and Papers from Prison*, which was the book that Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote at the very end of his life. When I read that book, it was so moving and profound for me that I used to carry it with me. I was playing baseball at the time, and I would carry it with me in the dugout. I would read it in the dugout because I was so taken with this man who was so committed to the way that God had come into his life and had given him direction in his life; I couldn't put the book down. I decided, I think I want to study religion in a more serious way. And that's never left me.

I was a writer for a couple of years right out of college at a newspaper, and I enjoyed the writing, but I had always loved television and film. My undergraduate degree was in religious studies—comparative religions—so I went to Boston University for graduate school to study broadcast journalism. So now I had set upon a journey to take religion—to be able to speak about it, and use the language of television and film as a way to communicate that.

I had worked in commercial television for about three or four years. I was still in my 20s, and I decided that I wanted to create a television series. I came up with this idea for a national television magazine show that became

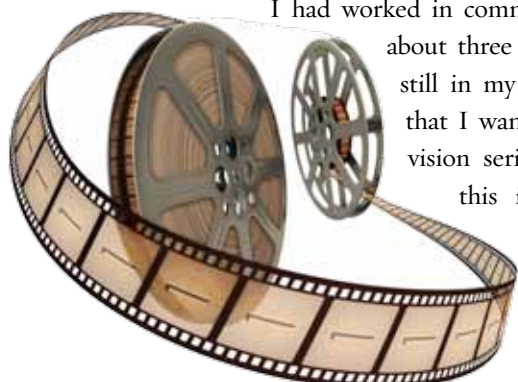
known as "Real to Reel." I'm sort of following my instincts that I really do want to do things related to faith, religion and spirituality, but I didn't have any confirmation of that yet. I had this idea, but really no confirmation.

So I went to visit the Convent for Mother Teresa in the South Bronx. I met the Provincial of the Sisters there, and I guess she liked me. She said, "When Mother Teresa comes to the United States, I'll call you and let you know." I said, "Don't call me too soon because I've applied for the grants to start this television series, but we don't have the money yet. So don't call me too soon! Give me a little time."

Sure enough, about three weeks later she calls up and says, "Mother Teresa is here in New York and she's granted you the only request to come and do an interview with her."

I said, "I don't know if you recall, but I don't have any equipment yet. I don't have a camera. I don't have a crew. I don't have anything! We'll have that soon." She said, "No, no, if God wills it you'll be here on Friday." And she hung up the phone.

So I started calling up all my friends and I said, "Can I get a microphone?"; "Can I borrow a camera from you?"; "...a tripod from you?" And on that Friday—I remember it very clearly—I was sitting in the back of the Convent with Mother Teresa. There must have been 200 people outside the convent, because there was a news report about her being in town and she had just won the Nobel Prize for Peace. She couldn't be more in demand. She said, "Yes, we'll grant you





Claudia Escarcega embraces her son, David, after a successful pediatric heart transplant.



Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier (center) directs re-enactors for a scene in "The ADVENTISTS."



Re-enactor Meredith Garrison portrays Ellen White, one of the early founders of Seventh-day Adventism, in "The ADVENTISTS."

the interview.” I was the only one allowed to interview her.

Mother Teresa was very gracious that day. It was really quite a transformative moment for me personally. She talked about the intersection between love, peace, the gospel message and how to transform the world. That’s exactly the kind of things that we wanted to get to.

That became my first confirmation that maybe I was following down the right path. I’ve been staying on that path now for the last 30 years. It’s been something that I find endlessly fascinating, and the people that it allows me to engage with. I just love the conversations that I find myself engaging in all the time. It’s an opportunity for me to explore not only about how people are thinking about God in their lives, but how do I really think about God in my life?

All of the films that we do are on topics of religion, faith and spirituality. When I make a film, my first thought is to see how I can touch and bring alive the God in you. And if I can do that and make that connection then I think I’ve done what I’m called to do. I think that’s true communications. It’s not so much releasing the ego and saying, “Here’s who I am,” and “Here’s what I think,” and “Here are my ideas,” and “Here’s how God is alive in my life.” I think what I try to do is realize that that person has God alive in their life, too. My job is to get to that sense of the Divine in the other person. If I can resurrect that for a moment—touch that at the deepest level—I think they will never forget that for that one moment; we’ve made the Divine connection.

Prayer’s a big part of it. I never start any project without prayer. I ask, “How come You put me here? What do You want me to see while I’m in this place, at this moment, with these people?”

I was given an invitation to present one of my earlier films, the film on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, out at Loma Linda University. We had a wonderful evening; about 1,000 people came out that evening to see the film, and I was speaking on the film. While I was out there for the weekend, I was given the tour of the medical facilities. What I saw was this unique balance between a really progressive sense of health care and mission and ministry in health, and yet erupting out of a rather conservative faith tradition. I thought the balance of those two things—cutting edge health and a biblical sense of who God was in the world—was the foundation of a great film. And then, after some research, to find out that Adventists are living eight to ten years longer than anyone else—that was just one more piece of the puzzle that convinced public television that maybe there was a good film here.

So here comes a film about a faith tradition—a denomination, Seventh-day Adventists—but it’s going to have inter-

est, I think, in the wider culture because it does speak to the fundamental issue about how to live a stronger, healthier and maybe even a happier life, and how that all erupts out of a biblical tradition. I think that’s a good message to get out on public television today.

We like to make films that, after you’ve watched the film, you need to think about it and talk about it, and interact with it on another level. Maybe it means gathering as a small group and talking about the ideas that you heard. Maybe it means simply going off and praying about some aspect of the film that touched you deeply. That’s the kind of film I like to make. We hope that there’s some entertainment value in the films we make, but mostly what we want to do is we want to touch on things that touch at the deepest fabric of who we are as human beings—body, mind and spirit.

What I hope the film, [“The ADVENTISTS”], does is put a light on Adventists not only for the wider community, the country really, but also for Adventists themselves. I think when I’ve traveled around the country and I talk about what I’m taking away from actually making the film, people have said to me continuously, “Well, you have to share that with Adventists, too, because a lot of people aren’t aware of that. They haven’t studied Ellen White like they should.” And I came away with an appreciation for the writings and the thinking of Ellen White, a great appreciation; and I find that despite the fact that, yes, she’s known within the Adventist communities at least to some degree, the message that she’s been able to extract from scriptures and to be able to put into practical use, I think it’s such a valuable message that needs to be heard and read by more people.

As I was doing the film and spending more time in the hospitals, I watched the physicians and the healthcare teams address not only the suffering of the body, but also the suffering of the soul. It was a moment that really inspired me to think, *This is really the way healthcare is supposed to be done*. I walked away believing that we not only need to hear that the body is the temple of God, and that’s why we have to care for it, and that’s why when people come into our midst needing care they have to be cared for as if Christ Himself had come into our midst; but it’s possible to take what you see in the film and what’s being practiced every day by the Adventists in their healthcare facilities all across the country as maybe a model for the way healthcare has to go in the future. There’s a lot of changes that we have to address as a country and how we care for each other. We’re constantly waiting until someone is chronically ill to put technology on to that person, rather than saying, “As a human being we have an obligation to care for our bodies” and “We’re going help you, in a pre-

ventative way, to care for your body before you become ill.” To me that’s at the core of what the Adventists are trying to do—to talk about prevention as well as acute care. That’s a message that’s really lost in our healthcare facilities today.

Making the film was a great joy. I mean, I really felt as though I grew as a result of being in the healthcare facilities. I still think every day about the places that we went over the making of this film; and, as a filmmaker, I like it when the crew that I’m out working with wants to work all day and then at night when we sit down and have dinner, we’re still talking about what it was that we saw during that day—something from an interview that people heard. Maybe the sound man or the cameraman or the lighter wants to say, “Well, you know, I’ve been thinking more about what I heard today...” That’s when what you are doing really works. You don’t shut it off when you walk out of that hospital; you don’t shut it off when you walk out of that healthcare facility. You’re actually still thinking about what it was that you heard because it has impact on your life. And to me that’s been our path for the last 25 years—to be able to make films that you still want to think about and talk about, because it gets to something deeper at the deepest level of your soul. And for me that’s what the film-making is all about.

Martin Doblmeier is the president of Journey Films.

Editor’s Note: Since 1981, with the launch of his syndicated weekly magazine television series on religion, “Real to Reel,” Martin has kept his camera focused on compelling stories of faith and quietly emerged as a leading filmmaker in the world of religion. Two years later, with the founding of Journey Communications (now Journey Films) in Alexandria, Virginia, Martin moved from vignettes to production of full-length documentary films that introduced millions of Americans to unique religious communities like Taizé, l’Arche, and Northern Ireland’s peace community of Corrymeela. His films explored topics like the intersection of faith and art (“American Byzantine”), the role of the church in ending gang violence (“Take Away this Anger”), or the struggles of those facing terminal illness (“Final Blessing”). In all, Martin’s films have taken him to more than 40 countries and given him the opportunity to work with some of the leading religious figures of the day, including Desmond Tutu, Thich Nhat Hanh, Elie Wiesel and others.

Martin’s theatrical and PBS release of “Bonhoeffer,” the dramatic story of German theologian and Nazi resistor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, drew wide critical acclaim. The *New York Times* described it as “a touching narrative on the nature of faith. *Chicago Tribune* called it “mesmerizing and well-crafted.” “Bonhoeffer” was Martin’s 20th full-length documentary and won both the Wilbur and the Gabriel awards for Best Documentary Film in 2004.

“The Power of Forgiveness” examines the role forgiveness can play in alleviating anger and grief, as well as the physical, mental and spiritual benefits that come with forgiveness. It won Best Film award at the 2008 Sun Valley Film Festival.

Production is now complete on “The ADVENTISTS,” a new one-hour documentary that tells the story of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its pioneering work in health care. The film is set for broadcast on PBS stations April 1–8, 2010.



Pediatric heart surgeon Leonard Bailey holds one of his patients, David Escarcega, featured in the film, “The ADVENTISTS.”



Leonard Bailey (center), pediatric heart surgeon, performs a pediatric heart transplant surgery at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital.



Linda Lynch, chaplain, consoles Nikki Floyd as she prepares for both back surgery and delivery at Florida Hospital.



A re-enactment scene portrays the mid-19th century event called “The Great Disappointment,” featured in “The ADVENTISTS.”



Martin Doblmeier shares his perspective filming “The ADVENTISTS” from his offices at Journey Films in Alexandria, Virginia.



An infant’s heart is transplanted into a recipient patient in the film, “The ADVENTISTS.”

Caring, Sharing and Learning!

BY REBECCA GARRETT

Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) celebrated its 100th day of school on January 28 by helping the children of the Holy Family Orphanage on the island of St. Lucia. The theme for the 100th day celebration was “100 Days of Caring, Sharing and Learning.”

A group of HAA students and faculty are planning a mission trip to St. Lucia during spring break. One of the stops during the mission trip will be at the orphanage, to assist with the children and provide much-needed maintenance to the facility. To show support for the student missionaries, the entire school collected items needed at the orphanage. Danaran Frederick, pastor and organizer of the mission trip, asked the orphanage to provide the school with a list of supplies most needed, and the HAA students went to work! Each class in the school selected one of the items on the list and pledged to collect 100 of each of the items.

Toothbrushes, books, clothing, socks, coloring books, crayons, shampoo and school supplies were among the items listed. A bin for each class was placed in the school lobby, and every day for two weeks students and parents could be seen placing items in the appropriate bins. On the 100th day, each class counted their items. All but one class collected more than their 100 items!

Danaran has a personal connection to St. Lucia. “Every child wants to make their father proud. When I saw the outpouring of support for the orphanage in St. Lucia, my heart quickly jumped to 1987. My sister and I traveled to St. Lucia with our dad, back to his hometown. In the trunk



Teacher Marie Ott's third-grade class proudly displays the 125 boxes of crayons they collected for orphans in St. Lucia.

of his car were two boxes of clothing he had purchased, and my sister and I wondered what our father was going to do with this clothing. After a tour of the island, my father drove our car off the beaten path, deep into the fields of banana plants, where he stopped and told us to stand back. We watched as people came to us—mothers holding babies, children and adults, young and old, in need of clothing. They were

so happy and appreciative of these gifts from my father. As I observed the love pouring out from the HAA family to the children of St. Lucia, I felt the joy of the people of St. Lucia. And I knew that we had made God, our Father, very proud!”

Hinsdale Adventist Academy was founded on the principle of excellence in three areas: Christ-centered service, spirituality and, of course, academics. Reaching out to children in need by collecting these very basic supplies, in conjunction with our planned mission trip, personifies what is meant by “Christ-centered service.” It’s what we are here to do!

The mission trip will take place during spring break, scheduled March 28 to April 3. For more information on the 100th day collection or HAA, please contact me at 630-323-9211 or 630-258-3940.

Rebecca Garrett is the director of marketing for Hinsdale Adventist Academy.





A Peruvian Harvest

BY ADAM CASE

Peru, South America, is the land of the ancient Incas and home to millions of people—a land with great wealth and extreme poverty.

On December 1, 2009, 31 missionaries sponsored by the Wisconsin Conference departed for Peru. Organizer James Fox, ministerial director, led 16 teams in an evangelistic endeavor to spread the gospel. Some were trained ministers while others were lay people, but all had a desire to share Jesus. Some had preached dozens of campaigns while for others this was their first.



Missionaries sponsored by the Wisconsin Conference led 16 teams in an evangelistic endeavor to spread the gospel in Peru. Some were trained ministers while others were lay people, but all had a desire to share Jesus.

We arrived in Peru to a warm welcome. The churches in Peru were friendly and very receptive. Our host pastors and translators served in an indispensable capacity.

During the day we toured the city of Lima as well as many of the Adventist facilities. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) office in Peru was especially impressive. The work to help those in need has made an obvious impact in their country. Most recently, ADRA built 50 homes for families who were homeless, and received a special acknowledgment from the mayor of Lima.

In the evenings we preached. The joy of these meetings was three-fold. We were able to participate in baptisms, because of those who worked before us. We were able to call others to commit to baptism. And we were able to plant seeds that someone else will reap in the future.

I remember one young lady named “Hannah.” When the appeal for baptism was made, she came forward. Hannah had attended church for a few years, but had never made the commitment to follow Jesus Christ. During the message on baptism, she felt the Holy Spirit moving her heart. Hannah slipped out of her chair and came forward, taking her stand for Jesus. It was exciting when, on the following Sabbath, we were able to witness her being baptized. God used us to help this young lady and many more like her choose to follow Jesus.

On December 21, when we returned to Wisconsin, we were exhausted in body but energized in spirit. God used us during the month of December to spread the gospel in Peru. Together we were a part of more than 110 baptisms. In addition, more than 160 individuals made a commitment for baptism—not to mention the countless seeds that were planted that will someday ripen.

“Then He said to them, ‘The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” (Luke 10:2).

Adam Case is the pastor of the Milwaukee Northwest and the Sheboygan Churches in Wisconsin.



A Beautiful Place

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

A Sunday morning staple at our house is a program that ends with a segment capturing the natural sounds and beauty of nature someplace in our country. Recently, as that segment aired, I turned to my husband and said, “Laurelwood is one of the most beautiful places on earth in my book.” He agreed.

While no longer a part of the denominational secondary educational system, it is the boarding high school I attended for three years. Not far from Portland, Oregon, Laurelwood Academy is nestled in a beautiful little valley that looks much the same as it did when I graduated (50 years ago this spring). Whenever I return, I soak in the beauty of the place and recall many of my happiest teen memories.



sweet roll, apple and carton of milk didn’t generally last until morning. It is where I became a reader for another Bible teacher; and in the process of grading papers and talking with him, I learned much about faith, grace and redemption. I was nurtured by his wife as well. I have been forever grateful. Boarding academy is where I

was in a safe environment but experienced an independence that I relished.

I went to Laurelwood Academy because of the generous support of a member of the Bend (Oregon) Church. When I arrived, I knew only one student—Herb. He might as well have been home in Bend, as we weren’t allowed to talk with boys for longer than two minutes, nor could we walk on the same sidewalk. My first roommates were sisters, one in her late 20s and the other the same age as my parents. I wasn’t even a Seventh-day Adventist, although my parents had recently begun attending church. Talk about culture shock!

Was it a perfect place? No. Were all the rules fair and reasonable? I didn’t think so.

After the first few awkward days, I began to feel more at home. Patsy, who delivered our clean clothes and linens from the laundry, lived down the hall and learned who my strange roommates were. She asked me to move in with her. Cheryl, my Bible teacher’s reader, quickly noted that I knew next to nothing about the New Testament. She took me under her wing, explaining some basics that helped me begin to be more comfortable and successful in class. In no time I made friendships that I hold dear to this day.

Did the academics prepare me for college? Yes! Were faculty and staff caring? Yes, inside and outside the classroom. Perhaps my best lessons were learned out of the classroom. While my most poignant memories are from establishing friendships that span decades, my life was enriched and my world expanded by the ebb and flow while living among others my own age with the guidance of the adults on our campus. Having lived and taught on boarding school campuses for 13 years with my husband, I’ve also seen the challenges and benefits from the other side.

My boarding school experience was an adventure that I wouldn’t trade for anything! Opportunities to grow into leadership positions were a part of that. It is where I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It’s where I adjusted to a brown paper bag for Sabbath morning breakfast. The

Residential schools have been an important part of Adventist education for more than 120 years. Without question, these schools have positively shaped the course of the Church. There are voices today who question the validity of boarding schools and those who don’t consider it safe or worthwhile to “send” a child away to school. From my perspective, the boarding academy experience offers the same advantages I received, and I rest assured that God’s blessings are evident in the diversity of our Adventist educational opportunities.

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.

Stevia is a new herbal sweetener with zero calories.



High intensity sweeteners provide no calories.

Sweet Nothings

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

We are naturally attracted to sweet things. They are often the center of birthdays, anniversaries and special celebrations. At such times, the high sugar items such as cake, punch, pie and ice cream are usually preferred more than the natural sweetness of fruits. The quality of the diet does suffer when sugar intake is above 15 to 20 percent of the daily calories. Soft drinks account for about one-third of all the intake of added sugars.

Some have switched from sucrose (table sugar) to using honey, molasses, turbinado sugar and other less-refined forms of sugar believing these provide superior nutrition. Another sweetener, high fructose corn syrup (HFCS), is now ubiquitous in our foods and beverages. A heavy use of soft drinks, including those sweetened with HFCS, has been blamed for the present epidemic of obesity. High fructose intakes may cause elevated levels of blood triglycerides.

Foods and gums listed as sugarless usually contain sugar alcohols, such as sorbitol, isomalt or xylitol, which are poorly absorbed and thus provide less calories and a lower blood glucose response. In addition, they do not promote dental caries as other sugars do, but may have a laxative effect when large amounts are consumed.

Recently, we have seen a number of new high intensity sweetening agents hit the market. These substances are 200 to 600 times as sweet as sugar. Because they provide no calories and have no effect on blood sugar, these high intensity sweeteners are useful for those desiring a sweet flavor and who wish to better manage weight problems and their blood sugar levels, such as those persons with diabetes. In addition, these sweetening agents do not produce dental caries.

While saccharin (Sweet 'N Low) has been around for a

long time, newer high intensity sweeteners are now available, including aspartame (Nutrasweet or Equal), sucralose (Splenda) and acesulfame-K (Sunett or Sweet One). These are all approved as general-purpose sweeteners. Because they provide sweet taste with little volume, manufacturers combine the sweetener with a bulking agent (such as polydextrose or maltodextrin) to make it easier to use. Reliable data shows that normal humans can consume aspartame safely, and it is not associated with serious adverse health effects such as skin and respiratory problems, as reported in the media. Persons with phenylketonuria are warned to avoid aspartame since they have an inability to process the amino acid phenylalanine.

Stevia (Truvia and PureVia) is a natural (non-synthetic) sweetening agent. Originally from Paraguay and used extensively in various parts of the world, stevia was approved last year in the U.S. for use in food, soft drinks and as a tabletop sweetener. Water extracts of stevia leaves are 300 times sweeter than sucrose. Like other high intensity sweeteners, stevia provides no calories and has no effect on blood glucose—so it is an attractive choice as a natural sweetener for the management of diabetes. Clearly, there are many sweetening agents from which to choose.



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



EXTREME GRACE

Kalimera Didáscale

GOOD MORNING, TEACHER

BY DICK DUERKSEN

“Dick Duerksen, please stay after class for a few minutes today,” my teacher asked—an invitation that came with a smile that made me begin thinking about other places I really ought to be.

She understood me, and that was more than a little scary. I had seen it in her eyes for the last few class periods, especially when she noticed I was using her class to study for American History or draw cartoons in the margins of my textbook. Several times she called on me when it was obvious I didn’t even understand the question. I returned flippant answers that elicited laughter from the other students, but I knew they were really laughing at me rather than with me.

I hated the class. The content was irrelevant. I would never use it even once in my life. Though my chosen degree required two years of the subject, I wanted nothing to do with even one hour of the stuff. But she was the teacher, and she loved every irrelevant page of the boring textbook ... so did some of the other students. Their eagerness made me sick. I didn’t fit and I knew it. But the rules gave me no choice. My degree required me to sit, smile, learn and pass with at least a B-.

It was going to be close. Then she invited me to stay after class. I said, “Sure,” and wished I could develop a quick case of leprosy.

“You don’t like this class, do you?” At least she was direct and to the point.

“No,” I mumbled.

“Can I convince you to change your attitude?”

“No.”

I was counting the number of tiles on the classroom floor, a task that made it impossible for me to look up and meet her gaze.

“I have a proposal for you, one I’d like for you to accept.” I looked up and saw her eyes were twinkling mischievously.

“If you agree to study only this subject while in class and



not disturb the others who are truly trying to master the classwork, I will give you a passing grade.”

Amazement and disbelief must have “cometed” across my face for she laughed out loud at my response.

“How can you do that? I can’t learn it, won’t study and should probably just be flunked out!”

“That’s true,” she answered, and then added the final punch line—“I want you to promise me one more thing.”

“Like what?” I was once again a dedicated disbeliever.

“Promise me that when you graduate, get a good job and one day while you’re preparing a sermon and suddenly realize that you do need what I’m teaching here, that you’ll call one of the other students and ask for their help.”

She paused and looked at me the way moms do when they’re going to say something significant even though they know you’re not listening.

“You are going to need to know some Greek, Dick. Even though you don’t think so now.”

I started to mumble something about being sorry and promising to do better, but she shushed me right down.

“Do we have a deal?”

“I guess so.”

So I was good. I quit making jokes, put away my history book, learned how to parse a few verbs, passed on my own and then promptly forgot everything I’d learned about Greek ... except two things: 1) Adventist teachers must love students even more than they love their subject. Madelyn Haldeman loved me like Jesus loves me; and 2) the phone numbers of a couple of my classmates, whose Greek knowledge has helped me often through the years.

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



Dear God...

BY DON JACOBSEN

This has been a week of discovery for me. I know You know all about that, but I love to talk to You about it anyway.

You know that it's a temptation for me to use my prayer time like a fast food drive-through ... I drive up, give my order and drive away. But, also like a drive-through, I'm not finding that very satisfying. You know I want to know You better. If I can press the parallel, I want to get better acquainted with the Master Chef.

Then, this week—the discovery. I discovered a pattern in your Word I hadn't noticed: Whenever You showed up and did something dramatic, it was on purpose—so the people could get to know You better. It wasn't just for entertainment. It wasn't just to create bedtime stories for my kids. It wasn't just to provide interesting history. It was so I could read the stories and know You better. I learned that's why You did that stuff ... like the Red Sea event: "When Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, the people ... believed in Him" (see Exodus 14:31).

Israel crosses the Jordan in flood season: "This is so that all the people of the earth may know that the Lord's hand is mighty..." (see Joshua 4:24).

Three young Hebrew lads end up in a pressure cooker from which they are miraculously delivered, and a heathen head of state sends out this notice to his entire nation: "I am pleased to tell you about the miracles and wonders the Most High God has done for me" (see Daniel 4:2).

Through Peter, God restores a young woman to life; and when "this became known through-

out all of Joppa, many believed in the Lord" (see Acts 9:42).

All through Your Book I am finding this pattern—people got to know You through the things You did. So, I'm learning to bypass the spiritual drive-through and simply come to Your Word as I pray and watch You at work. My prayer time has become a lot more valuable when I am praying through the Book, and saying, "God, please show me what You want me to learn about You from these stories as I read them."

I'm sure I'll always have a prayer list because there are people and situations, family and friends, my pastor, my nation and a host of other matters that I care about deeply, and I want to intercede on their behalf. But I want to make those requests after I've worshiped, after I've received fresh insights about Who I'm talking to, after my heart has been gentled by discoveries of who You are.

As I read Your biography I learn to trust. As I see You at work my faith in You increases. As I watch Your story I learn how powerful You are, what omnipotent means. As I observe Your love in action it completely changes my understanding of what it means to love.

So Lord, please keep me away from the drive-through. Help me to remember just to park and bask in who You are.

Your friend.

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

A Shelter of Hope

BY LYNETTE HILLMAN AND B. MARIE PETERS

The People's Choice Benefit Concert brought together some of the most exquisite local and international musical talents to bring attention to homelessness and the work of the Shelter Ministry. Shelter Ministry is an assistance program held each Friday evening at the Emergency (Homeless) Shelter in Benton County, Michigan, designed to meet "soul" needs through Bible-based study, as well as impart hope by offering assistance with basic needs—i.e., food, toiletries, diapers and on-demand pastoral support. The Shelter Ministry helps homeless families regain equilibrium while temporarily housed at the Emergency Shelter. The Shelter Ministry was started when a teacher's brightest second-grade student, Lonnie Thomas, was absent from school and found in a homeless shelter.

The benefit concert began with a devotional and prayer conducted by emcees Philip Giddings (seventh- and eighth-grade teacher, Ruth Murdoch Elementary School) and Eric Ollila (M.Div. Seminary student). Eric's devotional thought from Isaiah 58:6–8 paralleled what

the Shelter Ministry is doing for those they encounter. Philip talked about "real hunger"—hunger for physical food while not knowing about the hunger for spiritual food—and suggested that Christians should try to meet both.

A music video on homelessness asked the question, "Who Am I?" The video clip, from YouTube, showed pictures of the homeless around the world.

Outstanding vocal solos were performed by Juan Carlos Rodriguez, April Geisler and Alan Disena. Malechi Kittelmann used the piano as only a master music lover could. *Seminary Chorus* and *Girls of Mercy* graced listeners with their harmonies. Abigail Eagan and Glesni Mason gave a little "glimpse of Heaven" on their harps. Andrew Osano and April Geisler sang "In Christ Alone." The *Eagan & Mason Troupe*, consisting of two harps, two violins and two cellos, blessed the audience with "The First Noel." Gerilyn Jones and Jessica Constantine brought smiles to faces in their performance of the "Hungarian Rhapsody."

There was an offering taken after the last performance. Money donated will allow the Shelter Ministry to move



The People's Choice Benefit Concert brought attention to homelessness and the work of the Shelter Ministry.

forward in addressing the growing needs of the ministry.

Read by fill-ins off-stage, Lonnie, Barbara, Maria, Robert and Kathy Thomas told their stories of homelessness and why they were living in the Emergency Shelter. LaShonda Campbell-Perry, an evening shift supervisor at the Emergency Shelter, told of her homeless journey and living at the Emergency Shelter, where she first encountered the Shelter Ministry that helped her move ahead.

The program concluded with all participants joining in while the congregation sang "Joy to the World."

Comments overheard confirmed the program was insightful and inspiring. "I was very impressed with how well the program was put together. Everyone was so talented and there was a nice variety of selections. We really enjoyed the whole program. ... It was a good opportunity to learn about homelessness in our community. It is nice to know that the SDA church is helping with the homeless," remarked an attendee.

Information was shared about the Shelter Ministry initiatives, and an invitation extended for churches to become involved. To learn more about the Shelter Ministry, call 269-471-4108.

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Lynette Hillman is head of the maintenance and custodial department at Andrews Academy, and B. Marie Peters is the Shelter Ministry coordinator; she was coordinator of the People's Choice Benefit Concert.





La campaña “Secretos de la Vida” resulta en bautismos

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“La iglesia es la agencia de Dios para la proclamación de la verdad, facultada por él para hacer una obra especial; y si le es leal y obediente a todos sus mandamientos, habitará en ella la excelencia de la gracia divina. Si manifiesta verdadera fidelidad, si honra al Señor Dios de Israel, no habrá poder capaz de resistirle” (Hechos de los apóstoles, p. 479, 480).

Recuerdo muy bien cuando comencé a trabajar como pastor en el estado de Indiana y cuando me tocó dar mi primera campaña de evangelismo en mi nuevo distrito. Gracias a Dios que había recibido buen entrenamiento de cómo hacer una campaña pues había aprendido de evangelistas como Mark Finley y Víctor Schultz. Siendo que yo pastoreaba en el contexto de habla inglesa la iglesia mandó miles de volantes por correo en la ciudad, con la esperanza que muchos vendrían a las reuniones. Gracias a Dios muchos sí vinieron y el Señor bendijo con varias decisiones para el bautismo.

Ya han pasado más de 30 años y sigo viendo que el evangelismo público es un método indispensable para cumplir el mandato de Dios de conducir a la gente a tomar decisiones para Cristo. Podemos realmente dar gracias a Dios por la forma en que el Señor ha bendecido a los hispanos en toda la Unión del Lago en la ganancia de almas. Como fruto de los esfuerzos evangelísticos que nuestras iglesias hispanas realizaron en el año 2009 se puede confirmar que más de 800 personas fueron bautizadas, lo cual es un aumento de más de 200 personas del año anterior.

Un ejemplo de los esfuerzos de evangelismo es la campaña que se llevó a cabo en la iglesia de Wyoming, en la ciudad de Grand Rapids, estado de Michigan, en el pasado mes de diciembre. La campaña evangelística titulada “Secretos de la Vida”, fue presentada por el pastor Ramón Canals, Vicepresidente para Ministerios Hispanos de la Unión del Pacífico Norte. A pesar de la nieve y las bajas temperaturas los hermanos y los pastores de las tres iglesias hispanas de la Asociación de Michigan dieron su fuerte



El pastor Ramon Canals predicando en las conferencias “Secretos de la Vida” en la iglesia de Wyoming.

apoyo a la campaña con su asistencia y sus oraciones. Fue realmente impresionante ver una asistencia diaria de más de 200 personas, de las cuales 45 eran visitas. Al final de la semana un total de 161 visitas asistieron a por lo menos una de las conferencias y treinta y tres personas tomaron sus decisiones para el bautismo.

El pastor de la iglesia de Wyoming, Robert Amaya, dice lo siguiente: “A Dios sea la gloria por los excelentes resultados en la proclamación del evangelio, por las más de 120 personas que seguirán conociendo de la palabra de Dios y por los hermanos laicos que, a través de los grupos pequeños, continúan predicando las buenas nuevas de la transformación y de la salvación del ser humano.”

En este mes en el que muchas iglesias están auspiciando campañas de Semana Santa invito a nuestros lectores a que sigamos trabajando para traer almas a Cristo para así cumplir la misión que el Señor nos ha dado.

Carmelo Mercado es el vice presidente de la Unión del Lago.

Mission-Driven Education in Our Lake Union Schools

A P L A C E F O R E V A N G E L I S M

BY GARRY SUDDS

I've always been inspired by the bold leadership of Winston Churchill. In his first speech to the House of Commons, the young, newly-elected prime minister of Great Britain looked squarely into the faces of Britain's leaders and said, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."¹ With these words one young man grasped the reigns of a nation in peril.

A dark cloud had descended over the continent of Europe. Hitler and the armies of Germany had conquered all that was before them, eliminating life and freedom for many in their path. Now, one man and one small island nation stood in the way of unfettered and absolute control. With a sense of personal determination and commitment, Churchill presented his policy to fight "against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. ... You ask, 'what is our aim?' I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival."²

Less than two weeks later, Churchill addressed the House of Commons a second time with what has proven to be one of his most inspiring motivational speeches: "We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. ... we shall never surrender..."³

Hitler had expected to wipe out the Royal Air Force and invade Britain. What he had not calculated was the internal fortitude of a people who would never stop short of victory. Hitler failed miserably and subsequently turned his attention to the Eastern Front.

Winston Churchill inspired a nation in peril. One can't help to make a comparison to the peril our young people are in today. The onslaught of the enemy is taking its toll. The battle is not the Battle of Britain; it is the battle for the minds of our youth. Our youth are our Royal Air Force. If they can be wiped out, there will be no victory in carrying out the church's mission. What takes place in the home, church and classroom will have vast ramifications for the future of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Many of the leaders, movers and shakers in today's culture were in school just a decade ago. Their values and eth-



The Holy Spirit is beginning to create in the hearts of God's people an insatiable desire to know Him at an intimate level and to give their lives in absolute surrender to His grand cause.

ics were forged during that time. Satan has enlisted many of them in his army, and we are now reaping the results. The students in our elementary schools and academies will be next to lead. If we allow them to be overcome by the forces of evil, what will our future be?

Parents, pastors and teachers have the primary responsibility of cooperating with God to prepare young people for service in the context of a growing relationship with Jesus that guides them to an understanding of His plan for their lives. These mentors must provide opportunities to learn by experience what it means to be agents of Christ's grace.

Early in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, God provided a plan to implement a sound educational system based on a practical application of the fundamental principles of Scripture. The primary objective has been to lead each student in a personal and growing relationship with Jesus. Educators cooperating with parents provide resources, experience and guidance that enable students to discover their purpose in service to their Creator. This work of home and school evangelism is the whole purpose of Adventist education.

Part of this work of learning is doing. Students in Adventist schools are given opportunity to work in partnership with Christ to share their lives with others. They become messengers of hope to a generation in crisis and ministers of healing to a broken world. Students at Wisconsin Academy have received training and experience in doing door-to-door work. They worked with the Beaver Dam Church to give invitations to attend a weekend seminar on how to find joy. Several weeks later, some went to the Fall River area simply asking people if there was anything they could pray for.

Marissa Knudson and Vanessa Aguilar had a very positive experience. When they met a woman who had just experienced a painful divorce, they were greeted with, "You couldn't have come at a better time! God must have sent you!" When the girls returned, they exclaimed to their Academy chaplain, "Oh! Mr. Carter, she was so happy that we came to pray with her. She started crying and then hugged us!"

God has promised that young people who are



From left: Susy Gomez, a senior at Wisconsin Academy and the student association religious vice president, prays with a community member, Marie Burgess. She is joined by Alex Ziesmer, senior. Both Susy and Alex are also small group leaders at the school.

filled with His Spirit will play a leading role just prior to Christ's return. Now is the time to encourage, support and assist our youth in accepting God's call to their generation. God is the One who calls them. Our task is to demonstrate the best methods for leading others to Christ and give them opportunity to practice this great work themselves.

Ellen White was convinced that "there is no line of work in which it is possible for the youth to receive greater benefit." In fact, her great insights reveal that the youth actually become co-workers with the angels of heaven who "speak through their voices, and work by their hands."⁴ Our greatest challenge is to provide a comprehensive and systematic plan that gives students opportunities to gain such experience. Experience is, after all, the best teacher. And the best teachers are teachers who live for such an experience.

You probably realize this kind of education comes at great personal commitment and sacrifice. This is not just your ho-hum, standardized academic routine, but a personal, dynamic and progressive educational process that involves the entire church and school community. It takes a combined and cooperative effort. And the whole purpose is to respond to Christ's Great Commission, to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19 NIV).

This cooperative method of mentoring students in ministry will produce an army that can quickly span the globe with the hope of the soon return of the crucified and risen Savior.⁵

For Churchill, the aim of the movement was summed up in one word—"...victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be."⁶

In case you have not noticed, "victory" is on the mind of our Father as well. He is in the process of waking up His Church, one member at a time. The Holy Spirit is beginning to create in the hearts of God's people an insatiable desire to know Him at an intimate level and to give their lives in absolute surrender to His grand cause.

KARLA-MAY'S TESTIMONY

Let me tell you about Karla-May Carillo. While a student at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), Karla was challenged when her parents relocated to Taiwan. When her parents gave her the opportunity to stay at GLAA, she was torn between staying with her friends and embracing the challenge of change and new experiences. She decided



Karla-May Carillo thanks teachers at Great Lakes Adventist Academy for helping prepare her to answer questions about her faith.

to go to Taiwan.

When Karla-May arrived in Taiwan, she discovered, "It was NOTHING like what I had thought it would be like. I can't begin to explain the differences in my expectations and reality, but the point is God really shocked me on this one. As time went on, I felt so blessed to be in such a beautiful place; but there were moments when I thought I couldn't make it. I felt as if God was really testing my patience, and I didn't understand why I felt so unhappy when I had every reason to be happy."

The next four months provided an opportunity for Karla-May to discover how amazing her God was: "It'd be impossible to sum any of it up for anyone to really grasp the 'amazing-ness' (Is that a word?) I've encountered," she wrote in a letter to her friends at GLAA, "and that 'amazing-ness' couldn't have happened if I didn't have God in my life. I give GLAA a lot of credit for how I've handled a lot of the situations that have been thrown in my face here in Taiwan.

"I've had the chance to talk to students here who have been raised Buddhist; [they are] questioning whether or

not it's life-fulfilling to be a Buddhist, and if it's worth the time and effort to question anything else. It's been amazing being able to have conversations with them and feeling that it truly wasn't me speaking the words that they needed to hear. I know that being at GLAA last year has had a lot to do with the way I've replied and answered the questions that have been asked to me.

"God hasn't only given me the opportunity to help others get closer to Him, but He's also pulled me SO much closer to Him. We just finished our Week of Prayer, and the whole thing was being translated to me through a good friend. His translation wasn't perfect, mind you, but I know that God allowed him to translate just the right things. Actually, I know for a fact that my friend didn't have the ability to translate some of the things precisely, but through God I was able to get the message that was intended to be given every single night."

Karla-May continued to reflect on her previous experience at GLAA. "There were so many times last year when I asked myself what in the world I was doing there. I felt so non-existent at times. I didn't really participate in a lot of things. I wasn't really that well-known or anything. I was probably one of the worst students there academically. I would CONSTANTLY struggle. And SO many times I felt I could have done so much more elsewhere. At the end of the year, I mean, I was glad that I went there for having made the friends I made, but it wasn't until I came here to Taiwan Adventist International School that I truly feel grateful for last year."

Karla-May went on to express her gratitude and thanked every staff member for their patience with her and for in-

Karla-May Carillo went on to express her gratitude and thanked every staff member for their patience with her and for inspiring her, even though she didn't acknowledge they were making a difference.

spiring her, even though she didn't acknowledge they were making a difference. Then she gave them a message of hope. "If ever any of you get discouraged ... maybe this year wasn't as spiritual as last year or maybe kids won't listen to you, students could be responding completely negatively to something you worked on so hard or maybe you just feel down, I don't know; I feel impressed to let you know to keep on going. Keep on doing exactly what it is you're doing, because even if a student, or anyone for that matter, doesn't get affected from it right away, that doesn't mean they won't open their eyes later on. ... We could never begin to comprehend God's timing..."

Karla-May closed her letter with a New Year's greeting, "One more year closer to Jesus' Second Coming! Yipee!!"

CAPITOL CITY REACHES OUT

Things are happening in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the Capitol City School. Recently, the students shared with residents of Highland Nursing Home. The students and staff arrived at 10:30 a.m. with great anticipation. Slowly, the residents assembled in the hall from their different rooms. Some walked in by themselves, others with help, a few came in wheelchairs; and there was even one who was rolled in on her bed. It did not matter how they came, all came with great expectation and curiosity. Norris Ncube, the school's principal, and others greeted the residents and introduced the student team.

The students sang songs, shared a story and recited poems. Residents smiled, clapped and expressed their enjoyment as they listened to a violin and cello duet of "Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary." One could observe how that joy was reciprocated as the students interacted with the residents. Meeting Hasafa Adguldoor, a Muslim resident suffering from a terminal illness, was an encouragement as she shared, "I trust in the Lord who can tell what is curable and what isn't." The students were challenged when they learned she prayed five times a day.

Their time with the residents went by too quickly, and all too soon it was time to return to school. Before leaving, the students gave each resident a gift bag loaded with personal items, a copy of the books *Steps to Christ* and *My Own Psalm 91 Book*. The students also gave out gift bags to some of the elderly who they came across on their way back to school. One man noticed, "You have very well-behaved kids, sir. I have been observing them!"

The students returned to the classroom with smiles on their faces, knowing they had shared Jesus' love with someone and made them happy. One student exclaimed, "This

was my first experience but I enjoyed it!" I'm sure it won't be their last.

Students were also given the opportunity to see the world beyond their community through a presentation by Guirlene Durosier, an American born in Haiti, who brought the reality of the crisis in Haiti to the students at Capitol City. In addition to learning about the culture, language and history of Haiti, the students were challenged to participate in raising money and praying for people affected by the earthquake. They have set a goal of raising \$250 for ADRA to use in helping the people of Haiti, to bring something much better than what they had before the devastation. "As much as the Lord has blessed our school, we want to be a blessing to others who are less fortunate," said Norris.

MAKING DISCIPLES

Adam Case, a pastor in the Wisconsin Conference, tells of his experience as the senior class pastor at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. The responsibility of being a spiritual leader on campus began to set in as the time for Student Week of Prayer approached. Adam was scheduled to preach a sermon. "The only problem was," Adam admits, "I didn't know what to say."

Adam had preached a few times at his home church in Adrian, Michigan, but his parents helped him write his sermons. Without his parents there to help him, he was faced with the realization that he did not know how to prepare a sermon at all. "I found myself sitting in the hallway of the administration building late one night," he recalls, "my back against the hard block wall, my hands on the cold tile floor, fear coursing through my body. My sermon was only days away, and I was afraid I would stand up in front of my classmates with nothing to say and they would all laugh at me; or worse, they might think they made a mistake in electing me as their class pastor. I remember wishing I had someone to help me. I remember thinking it would be nice to have someone to talk to. I remember praying for a sermon.

"It was at that time that I heard the answer to my prayer. It came as clicking footsteps of a man's dress shoes on the tile floor. I looked up from my prayer and saw my pastor, Peter Neri, walking down the hallway toward me. To this day, I don't know why he was in the administration building that night when no one else was, except God knew I needed him.

"He looked at me and asked a simple question, 'Is every-



Capitol City School shared Jesus' love with residents of Highland Nursing Home. They returned to the classroom with smiles on their faces.



Adam Case presents the gospel on a recent mission trip to Peru. He is thankful that while he was in academy his pastor, Peter Neri, took time to help him become a disciple for Jesus.

Nicole credits her experience with Adventist education for her change. Without it, she may have never had the opportunity to learn about her Creator who had a plan for her life.

thing okay?’ The whole story came tumbling out of my mouth: my sermon, my fear, my lack of something to say. For the next 20 minutes he sat down on the cold tile floor with me, helping me outline a sermon. I still remember it to this day. We titled it, ‘A Murderer Turned Minister,’ a sermon about the man, Saul, who became the Apostle Paul—an amazing conversion story.

“When our school’s pastor walked away that evening, he left me with a lot more than a sermon. He left me with a picture of God.

“It may have been a little thing for Peter to help me with that sermon, but to me it was a huge thing. I am sure he has outlined hundreds of sermons, but this one changed my life. He was making a disciple for Jesus.

“When he saw me that night he could have easily smiled at me, said a quick prayer and walked on his way. But instead, he saw value in helping a young man in need. Now, almost 15 years later, I am a busy pastor myself. I pray that I take time with others as Peter took time with me.”

That’s the kind of learning we’re talking about. The learning, the right kind of training that comes through the experience of doing. It requires a personal touch that comes in response to a personal crisis of need—church and school working in harmony on the student’s behalf.

NICOLE’S STORY

Our schools are not just a training center for super-Christians. For many, they are a rescue mission—a place to find healing and wholeness. Nicole Carter grew up mostly in Texas with her older sister and her single, drug-dependent mother who was not always there for the girls. At times Nicole was cared for by her grandma. This instability made it difficult for Nicole to focus in school. She felt the need to take care of herself—to be an adult, even at a young age.

Church was not a significant part of her life. On Wednesday nights, the local church had “Church for Kids.” It was primarily a social time. They would play games and do activities, but Nicole had never really received any spiritual benefit from it.

One night Nicole and her sister decided to confront their mom about her drug problem while she was still under the influence. This idea didn’t go over

very well, and someone ended up getting hurt. Not knowing what to do, Nicole called her dad who lived in Michigan and told him what had happened. He immediately decided to drive down and take the girls away from their mom and bring them back to Michigan with him. Neither of the girls wanted to go. Their dad had started a new family, and they hadn't seen much of him. They had grown up with their mom and loved her in spite of her problems. She was really the only family they knew. Eventually, the girls agreed to move to Michigan when Nicole reached the seventh grade.

When they moved the girls discovered their father attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Holt, and they attended with him. He also decided to enroll both the girls in nearby Greater Lansing Adventist School (GLAS). Not really wanting to live with their dad and his family, they decided to do things that might get them sent back to their mom. They caused as much trouble as they could for their step-mom.

Nicole didn't bother to pay attention in class and only did what homework seemed easy or fun. Nicole did not have a very good attitude toward the people at GLAS, acting out with disrespect because she did not want to be there. Church was not something Nicole looked forward to either. She didn't have a relationship with God and would just rather sleep in.

By the time she started her eighth grade year, Nicole realized she wasn't going anywhere. She was stuck in Michigan, so she might as well make the best of it. The beginning of school the next year was difficult because Nicole had to work on building relationships with those that she had been rude to the year before. To cope, she became the jokester of the class and quickly made friends. The funnier Nicole was the more people seemed to like her. Even though she made friends, Nicole felt that there was still something missing in her life.

By the end of her freshman year, Nicole began to listen and apply herself more in school. Listening in Bible class caused her to begin to think about her spirituality. Chad Bernard, her Bible teacher and school principal, became her inspiration. She realized he didn't seem to have that emptiness she felt. *Maybe God could fill that empty spot in my heart*, she thought.

Nicole started to study her Bible more and had conversations with God—especially conversations about her moth-

er. As she prayed for her mom, things began to get better back in Texas. Her mom's drug problem was improving, and she requested Bible studies. Nicole talked to her mom on the phone and told her about what she was learning from the Bible and from her teachers at school. Nicole was encouraged by her mom's progress, but then another family tragedy brought her mother down to rock bottom and she ended up in jail. Nicole was so discouraged. *Why did God allow this to happen?* she wondered.

Nicole's pastor came to her aid and asked her if she would like to join a Bible study group with some others from church. The studies were a preparation for baptism. Nicole was apprehensive, but decided to pray about it. "If You really want me to do this," she honestly told God, "someone is going to need to nag me like crazy to go through with these studies." Sure enough, the pastor kept encouraging her to join the studies and never let up. She finally agreed. The lessons were so interesting to Nicole, she couldn't stop studying. Her discouragement vanished. She decided to put her trust completely in God and be baptized.

At the time, GLAS only offered up to the tenth grade. Nicole didn't know where to go after that, but she knew she wanted to attend an Adventist school. She knew it would be nearly impossible to attend the academy due to finances, but she took her desire to God in prayer. Great Lakes Adventist Academy's business manager, Greg Leavitt, played a part in God's answer to Nicole's prayer. They were able to work it out. Nicole was so happy that she could continue her Bible classes, attend Weeks of Prayer and enjoy the spiritual fellowship with other students who shared her love for God.

Nicole credits her experience with Adventist education for her change. Without it, she may have never had the opportunity to learn about her Creator who had a plan for her life. Home, church and school working together made a difference in Nicole's life.

There have been many ups and downs since then—times full of hope and times of great disappointment and discouragement. Nicole continues to pray for her mother who recently has been doing better. Nicole faces each new day with the hope that can only come from her personal relationship with Jesus, grateful to the people who made it possible for her to know Him as her personal Friend and Savior.





THE GREAT COMMISSION

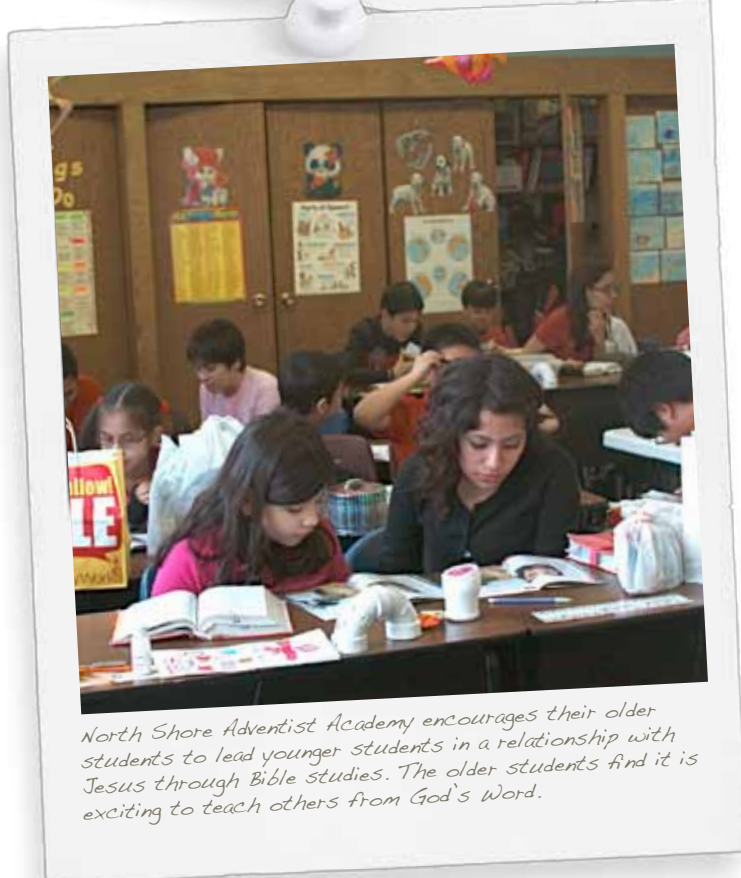
It's exciting to see our schools embrace the Great Commission of Matthew 28 and incorporate opportunities to give students practical experience and training in responding to Christ's call. In Fall 2009, seventh through tenth graders at North Shore Adventist Academy (NSAA) started Bible studies with the third through sixth graders. The Bible studies were designed to prepare students for baptism. But equally valuable is the fact that this process of older students leading younger students in their relationship with Jesus teaches principles of discipleship. It is an integral part of the school's curriculum and mission.

Don MacLafferty began formulating his Kids in Discipleship School (K.I.D.) while serving as pastor in Holland, Michigan. K.I.D. was officially established in March 2002, at the Collegedale Adventist Church in Collegedale, Tennessee, as a pilot project in child discipleship. In May 2009, the Lake Union Education Department invited several schools to participate in the program that is now represented in nine of our 13 world divisions and has trained more than 250 church teams. The program takes a systematic approach to creating relationships in the home, church and school to help implement discipleship principles that transforms a child's faith into a lifestyle.

NSAA principal, Helen Bacchus, and two pastors, Reuel Bacchus and José Bourget, took part in an intensive two-day training at the Lake Union Headquarters. There was a sweet spirit at the conference. Everyone attending had a passion to do everything possible to ensure the salvation of their students.

During the training, Don stressed the importance of having an ongoing conversation with students by fostering an exchange with students that includes listening. Another key to success is providing opportunities for students to practice what they learn to really help the lesson come alive. The "Bible Study Initiative" was one of the strategies that came to the NSAA team during a creative planning session at the end of the conference.

It's a simple but highly effective way to integrate discipleship principles. The pastors study the lesson with students in the upper grades, providing guidelines on ways to teach the lesson. The following week these students present that lesson to their Bible study student partner in the lower grades. The pastors are available to guide the students through challenging questions. Then the pastors follow up with a debriefing of the student to study and a review the next lesson.



North Shore Adventist Academy encourages their older students to lead younger students in a relationship with Jesus through Bible studies. The older students find it is exciting to teach others from God's Word.

E.J. Villasin, a tenth grader, shares, “It was pretty interesting how the kids still didn’t know about some of the things that are going to happen before Jesus comes. The things I like about them is when they say, ‘Ohhh cool,’ or ‘Wow!’”

“I realized how hard it is to be a teacher when students are constantly being distracting. ... I think I can change this behavior by making him become more active in participating,” reflected Andy Rosendo.

“My first Bible study was awesome!!!” exclaimed Paola Plasencia. “I can teach a kid about Jesus and I can learn more, too. I never had given a Bible study or had one. This is my first time, and it was so nice because I didn’t have it; I gave it!”

Some may ask, “Why Adventist education?” Simply put, because we care. We care that our students are prepared for eternity. NSAA, like so many other sister Adventist schools, has taken the Great Commission to heart. Students are inspired, equipped and empowered to be disciples for Jesus.

EVANGELISM IN ACTION

Jonathan Evans has attended the Adventist Cross Street Christian School in Anderson, Indiana, since kindergarten. As his eighth-grade year began to draw to a close, Terry Nennich, pastor of the Anderson Seventh-day Adventist Church, received a call from Mark Courtad, Jonathan’s teacher, with a message from Jonathan. Jonathan wanted to know when he could be baptized.

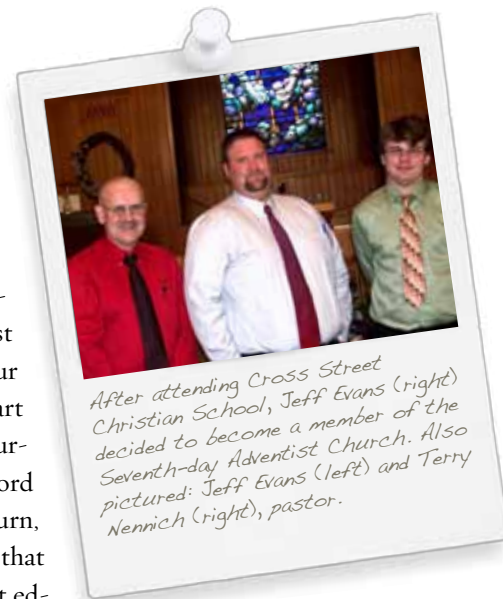
Jonathan’s father was not a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but had placed Jonathan in the Adventist school as their “best option” for Jonathan’s education. While attending, Jonathan completed a series of Bible studies Terry provided at the school. Jonathan responded to Terry’s invitation to be baptized. Knowing Jonathan’s background, Terry prayed before talking to Jeff Evans, Jonathan’s dad, wondering how he would respond to his son’s request to be baptized and to join the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Terry set up an appointment to meet with Jeff. A few minutes into their conversation, Terry brought up the subject of Jonathan’s request for baptism. He explained that baptism brought an added responsibility to the Body of Christ, to be connected and active in the local church. Terry was surprised by Jeff’s response: “Well, if my son wants to join, then I should, too.”

Immediately, Jeff and Jonathan started attending the Anderson Seventh-day Adventist Church on a regular basis. At the end of the school year both father and son were

baptized, and they are now active members of the church. Jonathan is continuing his education at Indiana Academy.

These stories are a testimony to what Adventist education is all about. Our schools have been set apart by God for a special purpose. Knowing that our Lord and Savior is about to return, one can’t help but believe that the best days of Adventist education are right before us.



After attending Cross Street Christian School, Jeff Evans (right) decided to become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Also pictured: Jeff Evans (left) and Terry Nennich (right), pastor.

Garry Suds is the director of education for the Lake Union Conference. Stories contributed by: Jimmy Carter, chaplain, Wisconsin Academy; Karla-May Carillo, senior, Great Lakes Adventist Academy; Norris Ncube, principal, Capitol City School; Adam Case, pastor, Northwest Milwaukee and Sheboygen Churches, Wisconsin; Jade DeJongh, senior, Great Lakes Adventist Academy; José Bourget, pastor, North Shore SDA Church, Chicago; and Stacy Stocks, administrative assistant, Indiana Conference education department, as shared by Terry Nennich, pastor, Anderson Church.

1. <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/92-blood-toil-tears-and-sweat> (January 25, 2010)

2. *ibid.*

3. <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/128-we-shall-fight-on-the-beaches> (January 25, 2010)

4. White, Ellen G. *Education*. California: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1903, 271.

5. *ibid.*

6. <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/128-we-shall-fight-on-the-beaches> (January 25, 2010)

Knowing that our Lord and Savior is about to return, one can’t help but believe that the best days of Adventist education are right before us.



Brian Westbury

From left: Adventist Hinsdale Hospital chaplain Aleksandra Tanurdzic prays with Anna O'Brien, regional manager of interventional radiology.

Chaplain praises religious tolerance at hospital

Religious freedom was hard to find for Aleksandra Tanurdzic, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital chaplain. She was born in 1972 in Banja Luka in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and faced religious intolerance and civil war growing up. She says God's protection and guidance brought her down a path of opportunity as she grew in her faith.

"Before I came to the United States, religious intolerance was my reality," said Tanurdzic. "I never saw people of different religious backgrounds sharing faith, spirituality and a desire to comfort others."

Throughout her childhood Tanurdzic was encouraged to help others in need and was raised to be a Seventh-day Adventist. As an adult she realized the importance of bringing happiness and comfort to people in need.

"I used to constantly wonder what my purpose was, but my parents and the church guided me," said Tanurdzic. "As a chaplain, I've learned I can best serve people who are going through difficult times by offering them guid-

ance and compassion while maintaining respect for their personal beliefs."

In 1992, a new college opened in Belgrade, Serbia, which taught theology. Although Tanurdzic wanted to attend, the Bosnian War made traveling to Serbia difficult. When a road opened allowing people into Serbia, Tanurdzic decided to make the 15-hour journey to the school. She continued her religious journey at Belgrade Theological Seminary, a new Seventh-day Adventist college. There, she met her husband, Milenko, and they were married in 1995.

After finishing school, the couple began preaching at a church in northern Serbia, where the population was mostly Orthodox. Because people did not tolerate any other faith but their own, they broke windows and threw eggs at the church. Some called the couple at home and threatened them.

"It was a scary but encouraging time for us," she said. "God protected us and kept us safe."

The couple returned to serve as deans of the theological college they previously attended. Later Tanurdzic became an assistant editor for Preporod, a Seventh-day Adventist publishing house, while also working as a director for a women's ministry.

In 2007, Milenko was asked to be a pastor at a Seventh-day Adventist Yugoslavian church in Chicago. "I believe God had a plan for us in the U.S.," Tanurdzic said. "Everything seemed to fall into place immediately, and it took no time at all for us to get settled here."

Tanurdzic began taking courses in nursing and started working in a nursing home. She says God sent her signs to direct her toward chaplaincy.

"I applied for my first unit of clinical pastoral education at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital," she said. "This was my first real experience ministering in a welcoming religious interfaith setting."

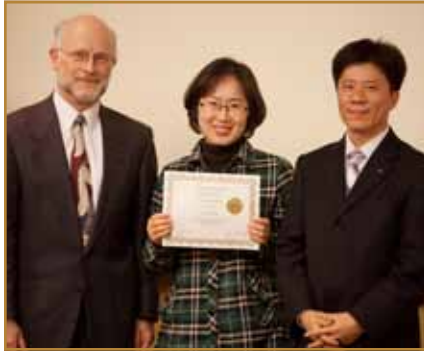
Tanurdzic said her classmates came from different walks of life and religious backgrounds, yet everyone was extremely supportive and made her feel very comfortable.

"My experiences have taught me an important lesson," she said. "Care and sensitivity will always positively impact lives. I've learned to go the extra mile, if it can make a difference to someone else."

"Aleks has made a huge impact on all of us in a short period of time," said Beth Cunningham, a nurse who works in the same day surgery unit. "She has been wonderful to me personally and also is compassionate to her patients. She consistently remembers all of us in her prayers."

John Rapp, regional vice president of ministries and mission at Adventist Midwest Health, praised Aleksandra. "Chaplain Aleks brings compassion to each patient she encounters," he said. "Because she lived in a different culture, she has a diverse and comprehensive understanding of faith. We are blessed to have Aleks on our AMH pastoral care staff."

Ashley Lawless, public relations intern,
Adventist Midwest Health



The Awards and Farewell Banquet concluded with awards and presentations given by Keith Mattingly (left), dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and a Korean government official, Young Gi Kim (right), a researcher for the Gyeonggi Foreign Language Research Institute. Chung Eunjung poses with her certificate alongside Mattingly and Kim.

Korean teachers “immersed” at Andrews

For four weeks during January and February, the Andrews University Center for Intensive English opened its doors to 34 elementary, middle-school and secondary education language arts teachers from Korea. The group arrived on campus for a four-week intensive “immersion” experience, which ran from Jan. 4 to Feb. 3. Sponsored by the Gyeonggi English Village as part of the South Korean government, the visit was designed to instruct teachers how to teach English in English.

“I think of our program as a bridge that connects the University to students who are outside the community,” says Jeanette Bryson, director of intensive English programs at Andrews University. “We are a group of people who work together as a team to improve fluency and assist students in need.”

The Center for Intensive English was designed to help international students master the English language. Since its beginning in the late ‘70s, the program has grown to include activi-

ties and extension programs for those in the Intensive English Language Program. This is the first year Andrews was chosen as a host institution alongside Southwestern Adventist University and the University of California—Riverside.

“The Korean government chose Andrews out of all the potential institutions in the United States,” says Bryson. “By hosting the teachers, we provided opportunities for conversation and fluency. Actually, I was surprised that many already had a strong background in English.”

The experience completed the teachers’ six-month study program that included online classes and conference attendances. The final step was to spend four weeks at an American university campus, a stay that would consist of school visits, activities, traveling and classes.

“We planned a short tour and long tour for the teachers each week,” says Bryson. “We visited Chicago, spent three days in New York, and went to Washington, D.C., Niagara Falls, the University Park Mall, Michigan City and an Amish village.”

When they weren’t traveling or attending classes, the teachers spent time in campus housing and the last two weeks with a host family in the community. Of the 24 families who opened their homes to the Korean teachers, only five families were not affiliated with Andrews.

“My husband, Paul D. Smith Jr., and I had a terrific time with our guest, Jee Eun ‘June’ Kim,” said L. Monique Pittman, director of honors and associate professor of English. “The experience was a great opportunity for Paul and I to learn about another culture and to confirm (as you would expect) that regardless of national and ethnic differences, human beings have the same struggles, aspirations and pleasures the world over. ... We would most definitely recommend the experience

of serving as a host family. We made an amazing new friend, learned about Korean culture and analyzed American life through the eyes of a visitor to the country.”

At the end of the four weeks, a celebration was held for the teachers. The Awards and Farewell Banquet was held on Jan. 29 and consisted of a dinner and various entertainment acts, such as a choral presentation, piano solo, sign language act, drama and ocarina performance. The evening concluded with awards and presentations given by Keith Mattingly, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and a Korean government official, Young Gi Kim, a researcher for the Gyeonggi Foreign Language Research Institute. Each teacher received a certificate of completion for 120 hours of course work and cultural immersion experiences.

“After being on our campus, the students have changed their worldview of America, Christianity and Seventh-day Adventists in particular. It is amazing to me,” says Bryson. “This was not just a four-week intensive program where the teachers came and went. It was the beginning of relationships that will build and last.”

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



Paul Smith (left) and his wife, Monique Pittman (right), attended the ceremony in support of Jee Eun ‘June’ Kim, their Korean guest during the intensive program.

[EDUCATION NEWS]



The kindergarten class at Village School in Berrien Springs, Mich., raised \$603.75 for Haiti with the support of family and friends at a fundraiser. Also pictured: Pre-K class, Cara Perozo (left), assistant, and Cheryl Finkbiener (right), teacher.

Kindergarten class raises money for Haiti earthquake victims

Michigan—On Jan. 16, the kindergarten class at Village Adventist Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Mich., raised \$603.75 through a Saturday night family movie fundraiser. The fundraiser was originally intended to be the first

of many this class would hold to raise money for its eighth-grade trip in the year 2018. But when a powerful earthquake hit Haiti on Jan. 12, killing tens of thousands of people and leaving millions of others either wounded or in desperate need of water, shelter and other basic necessities, the kindergarten class realized its plans would have to change.

“The idea of raising money for anything else this week was just inconceivable. We’re all really happy that so many people came out and supported us, and we hope this money—while only a drop in the bucket compared to what Haiti needs—will make a difference in someone’s life,” remarked two of the lead room parents.

“I’m very proud of the leadership of our room parents,” says Keri Suarez, Home & School leader. “What a great example for our kids, showing them it’s not about the money; it’s about taking care of each other both here at home and around the world.”

The class accepted donations for the movie and sold popcorn, baked goods, candy and drinks. All the food items sold were given as donations by kindergarten parents, meaning that there was no overhead cost for the event. One hundred percent of the money raised goes to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) for its Haiti Earthquake Response Fund. A letter signed by each student, teacher and room mom was addressed to ADRA and sent along with the monies.

Established in 1984, ADRA is the worldwide humanitarian agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, initiated for the specific purposes of individual and community development and disaster relief. ADRA fulfills this primary directive of its charter without regard to race, gender, and political or religious affiliation.

Becky De Oliveira, instructor, School of Education, Andrews University

Young evangelists speak out

Michigan—“It’s not that hard to speak about the Lord, so you don’t have to be afraid.” That’s how ten-year-old Tyler Woods summed up his experience as a speaker for *Truth 4 Youth*, an evangelistic program where young people have the opportunity to present Bible truths to others their own age.

When plans were being made for Jay Gallimore, president of the Michigan Conference, to conduct a series of meetings last October in Flint, Mich., the Adventurer director, Sue Gilmore, suggested that the youth of the church present their own meetings for the young people who would be attending along with the adults. The idea caught on, and soon ten students between the ages of eight and 16 volunteered to take up the challenge.

Pathfinder director John Stevens came each day to the First Flint Elementary School to help the students

set up their PowerPoint presentations and coach them on ways to speak more effectively.

During the month-long series, the nightly *Truth 4 Youth* attendance ranged from ten to 40 young people. A ten-year-old boy from the community was so excited about the program that he asked if he could be a presenter. By that time the different topics had already been assigned, but the leaders included him in the program by having him help with ushering and scripture reading.

Being part of the *Truth 4 Youth* program was something 11-year-old Emily Garcia will remember for a long time. “It made me feel like a Sabbath school teacher,” she said. “I was able to tell God’s good news to others.”

The young people in Flint learned that God has a work for each of His followers to do. And they also know from experience that no one is too young to witness for Him.

Renee Coffee, associate superintendent of education, Michigan Conference



Emily Garcia (top), Andrea Stevens (middle) and Bethany Stevens (bottom) spoke to their peers during the month-long series, Truth 4 Youth, where attendance ranged from ten to 40 young people.



PWA elementary students display their boxes for the "Christmas in a Shoe Box" initiative.

Peterson-Warren students embrace evangelism opportunities

Lake Region—Each morning the halls of Peterson-Warren Academy (PWA) are filled with songs of praise and thanksgiving, heartfelt prayers, testimonies and words of encouragement. In this setting each child has the opportunity to experience more of the love of Jesus Christ. This school, like so many others, is the training ground for preparing our children for a life of service. This year that training has come in the form of a community health fair, a series of evangelistic meetings, a radio production and a host of missionary projects.

Prior to the Community Health Fair, students went into the community to give personal invitations. On the day of the event, sounds of drums echoed through the Inkster, Mich., community as students marched down the streets handing out literature and more invitations. The parade led people to the school gymnasium where the eight laws of health were presented at different stations. Students, teachers and church volunteers assisted in registration, blood pressure checks, heart rate monitoring and other health-related activities.

Following the Community Health Fair, PWA students presented the "HOPE for a Troubled World" evangelistic series. This evangelism series lasted three weeks with students participat-

ing in different aspects of the program, including Web-casting the event. Others participated as greeters, ushers and musicians. The "outreach" program actually resulted in an "inreach," as a number of students are not Seventh-day Adventists. The experience provided an opportunity for them and their families to connect the dots between school and the church, our respect for the Sabbath and our focus on our mission to serve others. At the conclusion of the meetings students began asking if they could do it again.

The school followed the meetings with an Internet radio ministry, converting a small interior room into a studio. "Mustang Radio" is currently piloting three programs: "Your Time with Jesus," a children's program featuring news, contests and stories; "You & Your Health," information about living a healthier, happier life; and "Youthful Spirits," a collection of inspirational words, music, news and more.

The programs are produced and hosted by students and teachers. The programs air on Friday starting at 7 p.m. and are re-broadcast on Saturday. The radio program can be accessed via the school's Web site at www.peterson-warren.net. The students have really enjoyed this missionary endeavor.

Service opportunities are key to this comprehensive curriculum. In the fall, students partnered with Habitat for Humanity, painting the interior of a home, laying sod, and planting bushes and trees. In November and December, the students participated in

a special giving initiative, "Christmas in a Shoe Box." Each student decorated a shoe box and brought school supplies, personal items and toys to place in the shoe box. Half the boxes were sent to the Feed the Children organization, and the other half were given to a homeless shelter in Wayne, Mich.

Students also raised more than \$1,000 for the Mission Maluti project. These funds will be utilized to develop the Maluti Adventist Christian School in Lesotho, Africa. Additional funds were collected to benefit the victims in the recent disaster in Haiti.

Peterson-Warren Academy truly appreciates all the support received from its constituent churches, the Lake Region Conference Ministerial Department and the Lake Union Conference Office of Education. We are constantly working with God to help mold the characters of our young people. The training may be strenuous, but it is essential and ultimately rewarding.

Albert Rodgers, assistant principal,
Peterson-Warren Academy



Symone Cole (back) and Chelsea Bartley (front), PWA juniors, paint the interior of a Habitat for Humanity home.



LaToya Bunting (left), PWA senior, reviews a health age analysis with Nettie Gray (right), PWA seventh-grade teacher, at the Community Health Fair.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



Fines Magesa

Roy Castelbuono, Michiana Fil-Am pastor; Isaias Santos Sr., former pastor; Kevin Wiley, local elder; Ron du Preez, former pastor; Fred Earles, former Michigan Conference executive secretary; Sheldon Seltzer, former pastor; and Howard Rogers, local elder, prepare to break ground for the new wing, which will be used for new and existing church ministries.

Michiana Fil-Am burns mortgage, breaks ground

Michigan—Sabbath, Nov. 7, 2009, was a joyous day for the members of the Michiana Fil-Am Church. During the church service that day, Roy Castelbuono, the current pastor, assisted by former pastor, Sheldon Seltzer, and elders of the church, proceeded to burn the church's mortgage note. Great celebration

followed once the note was consumed to ashes. Thanks to the sacrificial and systematic giving of the members and friends, the church was able to pay off the mortgage in a little more than seven years.

The very next day, Nov. 8, 2009, the church held an afternoon ground-breaking ceremony for the new wing to be added to the rear of the church. Castelbuono presided over the program and former pastors—Isaias Santos Sr., Sheldon Seltzer and Ron du Preez—were all present and gave short speeches that included memories of their time

with the church. Fred Earles, former Michigan Conference executive secretary, was also present to challenge the church body in this step forward. Ryan Counsell and Bayani Pastrana, both former pastors, were unable to attend. Following the ceremonial shovels of dirt and a group photo, there was a delicious potluck supper and fellowship for all in attendance.

“It's very exciting to see our church reach for a new vision when it would be quite easy to rest on what we've accomplished,” said Castelbuono. “The additional space will enable us to better support existing ministries and develop new ones.”

The new 4,000 square foot wing will house a youth chapel, an extension to the current fellowship hall, two children's classrooms, a new church office and some much-needed storage space.

Cherish Pearce, one of the young members who will benefit from the new wing said, “I'm really excited about this addition. God has really blessed us! It will be really awesome to have our own room dedicated to Pathfinders. I can't wait until it is done!”

Construction of the wing began on Nov. 30, 2009, and is expected to be completed in May.

Heidi Magesa, communications secretary, Michiana Fil-Am Church

Huntingburg members try something new

Indiana—This past summer the members of the Huntingburg Church decided to try a new community outreach opportunity—they provided spiritual “food” from a table at the Dubois County Fair. The project did not require difficult prep work and had very positive results. Books such as *The Great Controversy*, *Steps to Christ* and *The Desire of Ages* were given away. In fact, the books were in such demand that their supply almost ran out before the fair came to a close.

In addition, Huntingburg Church members held a drawing for two 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network) satellite dishes. One was given to a family in Jasper and another to a family in St. Anthony. The church members were excited, and felt the time they spent hosting the table was very worthwhile as people from the community asked many questions about the Bible and what Seventh-day Adventists believe. As a result, the church members plan to participate in the fair again this year and will give even more books away to satisfy the public's spiritual hunger.

Justin Childers, pastor, Huntingburg Church



Justin Childers

From left (seated): Mary Lee Atkins and Pam Wollenmann, Huntingburg Church members, greet fair-goers at the Dubois County Fair.

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[UNION NEWS]



Phyllis and Don Corkum

Wisconsin Conference ministry team retires

A tribute to Don and Phyllis Corkum

Wisconsin—Don Corkum has served as president of the Wisconsin Conference since January 1996, after serving as pastor, departmental leader and president of the Alberta Conference. Don and his wife, Phyllis, will begin their retirement on April 1, returning to Alberta, Canada, after 14 years of faithful ministry in Wisconsin.

Don has been a strong supporter of public evangelism, often clearing his schedule in order to conduct a public evangelistic series. He has been a strong supporter of Christian education, spending countless hours fundraising for essential improvements.

A great listener, Don was able to build bridges and commonality with the people he worked with. He has been eager to learn new insights, methods and perspectives from others that could be used in advancing the kingdom of God. Don has taken the time and energy to process decisions collaboratively. Whether it was the theme for camp meeting or planning for a new year of ministry, Don brought his team along with him—developing a shared point of view.

There are more than a thousand

more believers in the Wisconsin Conference today than when the Corkums arrived, with more than 20 new churches in just the past five years. In 2009, we were able to exceed Don's dream of averaging a baptism per day in one year. By the final day of 2009, we had baptized 372, exceeding Don's dream by seven.

Next month, Don will receive his Doctor of Ministry degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary on the campus of Andrews University. It is apparent Don has a great desire to learn. For Don, learning is a process that goes on into eternity.

Phyllis has served as the conference clerk and auditor, auditing the financial and membership records of churches and schools in the Wisconsin Conference. She provided assistance and training to local church treasurers in their work and especially in the use of the LUCIS church and school accounting software. Phyllis' passion for music led her to blend the voices of many camp meeting choirs, and she worked tirelessly to sew baptismal robes for camp meeting.

Richard Habenicht, stewardship and trust services director for the Wisconsin Conference, stated, "Don Corkum is a gem, a caring leader, a genuine spiritual person, a steady person at the helm, a visionary person who [is] always learning. He [has] always challeng[ed] us to read new books and to review our goals in the light of our Scripture mission. 'Caring, spiritual, steady and visionary'—those words describe a wonderful couple and a great legacy."

As the Wisconsin Conference searches for new leadership, we rejoice for how God has blessed us in the past and look forward to how He will bless us in the future. We will miss Don and Phyllis and wish them health, strength and spiritual blessings.

James Fox, ministerial, evangelism and communication director, Wisconsin Conference



Proclaiming God's Grace

G.C. Session delegates selected

The following individuals have been elected as voting delegates to represent the Lake Union Conference at the General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, June 24 to July 3. The Lake Union delegates represent 18 of the 181 delegates from the North American Division.

These choices follow guidelines from the General Conference, which carefully match delegate criteria with regional membership characteristics.

While other individuals may attend the Session from the Lake Union, the elected delegates below are the only ones with voting privileges.

Illinois Conference

Kenneth Denslow, *president*

Odea Sigh, *pastor*

Indiana Conference

Van Hurst, *president*

Clinton Meharry, *pastor*

Lake Region Conference

Jerome Davis, *president*

Karen Allen, *lay person*

Nettie Gray, *teacher*

Edgar Lopez, *lay person*

Michigan Conference

Jay Gallimore, *president*

Liesbeth Fernandez, *lay person*

Richard Lane, *lay person*

Robert Stewart, *pastor*

Wisconsin Conference

Donald Corkum, *president*

Debra Folkman, *lay person*

Lake Union Conference

Rodney A. Grove, *executive secretary*

Glynn C.W. Scott, *treasurer*

G.C. Committee

Don Livesay, *LUC president*

Ralph Shelton, *LRC pastor*

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.

Birthdays



George Lausten celebrated his 100th birthday on Dec. 28, 2009, by a birthday dinner at the Monterey (Ind.) Community Church. He has been a member of the Monterey Community Church for 84 years.

George was married to the late Esther A. (Carleton).

George is of Norwegian decent, and is an ardent lover of truth as it is in Christ. He worked many jobs over the years before retiring to raise fruit and vegetables, which he sold to nearby businesses until he was 90 years of age.

George has two children: Georgia Mae (pictured) and Jason Schellas of Lompoc, Calif.; and the late Richard Lausten; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

BENEDICT, Cleobelle R. (Little), age 68; born Nov. 3, 1941, in Decker, Mich.; died Dec. 10, 2009, in Muskegon, Mich. She was a member of the Wright Church, Coopersville, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Roy E.; son, Brent; daughter, Kimberly Kuist; sister, Verona Halvorsen; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Dick Bullock and Don Williams, and interment will be at a later date.

BOTIMER, Oleta (Botimer) Hoard, age 94; born Feb. 26, 1915, in Watrousville, Mich.; died Nov. 14, 2009, in Lapeer, Mich. She was a member of the Vassar (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Eugene R.

Hoard; daughter, Jeanette R. (Hoard) Keith; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Jeff Akenberger and Marc Hoard, and interment was in Millington (Mich.) Twp. Cemetery.

EDWARDS, Karyn A. (Paprocki), age 56; born July 24, 1953, in Columbus, Ohio; died Jan. 1, 2010, in Marina del Rey, Calif. She was a member of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Central Church.

Survivors include her husband, Frank Edwards; son, Daniel Rannebarger; stepson, Frank Edwards Jr.; daughter, Sara Rannebarger; stepdaughter, Vergadel Rolf; father, Stan J. Paprocki; mother, Carole (Crumley) Paprocki; brother, Paul Paprocki; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Bob Stewart, with private inurnment.

GARRISON, Edna I. (Kitelinger) Edwards, age 89; born Dec. 20, 1919, in Millington, Mich.; died Sept. 6, 2009, in Caro, Mich. She was a member of the Vassar (Mich.) Church. Edna was a Community Services Michigan State Federation Vice-president for many years.

Survivors include her husband, Frank Garrison; daughters, Muriel (Edwards) Crow and Judy (Edwards) Wilson; sister, Esther Brummett; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Jeff Akenberger, and inurnment was in Brookside Cemetery, Fairgrove, Mich.

GILK, Otto, age 97; born Jan. 9, 1912, in Dawson, N.D.; died Aug. 26, 2009, in Merrill, Wis. He was a member of the Merrill Church.

Survivors include his sons, William, Paul and Joel; stepdaughter, Diana Cronk; brother, William; sisters, Melva Morrow, Alice Hodges, Jannett Bronaugh and Patricia Heinricher; six grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and six step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Alan Tattoni, and interment was in St. Paul's Cemetery, Merrill.

GILLETTE, Adeline M. (Shocknesse), age 70; born Jan. 27, 1939, in Sanford, Mich.; died Nov. 30, 2009, in Sanford. She was a member of the Clare (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Richard D.; sons, Kenneth W. and Roderick A.; daughters, Phyllis M. Daniels, Vickie L. Marcoux and Cindy A. Spencer; brothers, Raymond and John Shocknesse; sister, Mary Lou Van Buskirk; 13 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Russell C. Thomas, and interment was in Geneva Twp. Cemetery, Midland, Mich.

KELLY, Jack R., age 57; born Oct. 30, 1952, in Muskegon, Mich.; died Nov. 16, 2009, in Muskegon. He was a member of the Muskegon Church.

Jack is the beloved son of Elaine B. (Johnson) Kelly, who survives.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Doug English and Ryan Counsell, and interment was in Restlawn Cemetery, Muskegon.

MORGAN, Florence M. (Stevens), age 71; born Oct. 29, 1937, in Anderson, Ind.; died Apr. 13, 2009, in Noblesville, Ind. She was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Austin L.; sons, Doyle L., Jeffrey R. and Michael D.; half brother, Michael Stevens; half sisters, Linda Reeves, Neva Vermillion, Shirley Mengel, Barbara Whisler and Dodie Whisler; two grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ron Kelly, and interment was in Cicero Cemetery.

PADGETT, Carolyn S., age 68; born July 7, 1941, in Lawrence Cty., Ind.; died Dec. 21, 2009, in Bedford, Ind. She was a member of the Bedford Church.

Survivors include her mother, Mary Ellen (Voorhies) Padgett; and brother, Robert Padgett.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dan Voorhies, and interment was in Mount Pleasant Baptist Cemetery, Silverville, Ind.

PENN, Mary S. (Nozicka), age 96; born Dec. 23, 1912, in Chicago, Ill.; died Mar. 21, 2009, in Traverse City, Mich. She was a member of the Thompsonville (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Elaine M. Zohfeld and Karen D. Gluck; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor John Lomacang, and interment was in I.O.O.F. Cemetery, McLeansboro, Ill.

PROKUPEK, Alvin, age 80; born Mar. 4, 1929, in Brookfield, Ill.; died Nov. 6, 2009, in Downers Grove, Ill. He was a member of the Hinsdale (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Delores R. (Friedstad); son, Craig; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ron Schultz, and interment was in Ottawa (Ill.) Cemetery.

STOUT, Lillian (Mendenhall), age 87; born Sept. 27, 1922, in Madison, Wis.; died Dec. 22, 2009, in Chesterfield, Ind. She was a member of the Anderson (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, John W.; daughters, Lynn Cox, Sandra William and Sally Maddox; 12 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Terry Nennich, and interment was in Miller Cemetery, Middletown, Ind.

WHITE, Elnora (Turner), age 82; born Nov. 26, 1927, in St. Louis, Mo.; died Dec. 3, 2009, in Dalton, Ga. She was a member of the Milwaukee Sharon Church, Milwaukee, Wis.

Survivors include her sons, James E. and Jefferoy H.; daughter, Jennifer Shearson; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Greg Harper and Elder Charles E. Bradford, with private inurnment.

Correction

ARAGONES, Aroldo, age 54; born Nov. 9, 1954, in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic; died Aug. 7, 2009, in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was a member of the Detroit Metropolitan Church, Livonia, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Ibis (Sanchez); son, Omar; daughters, Camille and Diana Aragones; brothers, Agustin, Carlos, Dario, Trino, Goa and Tono; and sister, Zenaida Aragones.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Ron Costa and Bob Stewart, and interment was in United Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Plymouth Twp., Mich.

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.

Employment

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY/ALLIED HEALTH DEPARTMENT

seeks biology Ph.D. with strengths in **ecology and field biology**. Desire scientist holding short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and research. The successful candidate must be a member in good and regular standing of the Adventist Church. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy and 3 references to: Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee Chair, Southern Adventist University, Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; phone: 423-236-2929; fax: 423-236-1926; or e-mail kasnyder@southern.edu.

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seeks biology Ph.D. with strengths in **cellular and molecular areas**. Desire scientist holding short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and research. The successful candidate must be a member in good and regular standing of the Adventist Church. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy and 3 references to: Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee Chair, Southern Adventist University, Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; phone: 423-236-2929; fax: 423-236-1926; or e-mail kasnyder@southern.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a Psychology professor. Preferred applicants must have an earned Ph.D. from an APA accredited school with strong training in research methods and teaching experience. For more information and to apply, please visit http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for the position of Director of Institutional Assessment (DIA). The DIA reports to the Provost and is responsible for accreditation compliance, data collection and analysis, and providing pertinent information to University decision makers. The ideal candidate will possess the demonstrated ability to work well with people and rally support. Candidates must have an earned master's degree (Ph.D. preferred). For more information and to apply, visit http://www.andrews.edu/HR/em_jobs_salaried.cgi.

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a qualified candidate to join the Social Work Department as a faculty member. Responsibilities will include teaching, advising, and service to University and community. Interested individuals please apply at http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL is accepting résumés for a f/t attorney. Required: good standing member of the U.S. state bar, licensed to practice in the U.S., and a member of the Adventist Church in

regular standing. Maryland bar membership is preferred. Preference for an attorney with experience in Intellectual Property, Media law and other transactional law. Location: Silver Spring, Md. A wide range of benefits is included. Submit résumé to Karnik Doukmetzian, General Counsel, at karnikd@gc.adventist.org.

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HOME FOR SALE NEAR GREAT LAKES ADVENTIST ACADEMY: This well-maintained home on one acre in country setting is one mile from the academy and includes: 3-4 bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, den and two full baths. Also has large shed and two-car Quonset. For more information, call 989-427-5297.

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Travel Opportunities

VACATION ON KAUAI, HAWAII, 'THE GARDEN 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.kahilipark.org. For more information, e-mail reservations@kahilipark.org, or call 808-742-9921.

COMPLETELY FURNISHED TURN-KEY APARTMENTS in quiet New England home on peaceful farm at edge of woods near ocean. Peaceful solitude for time to commune with God, nature and your own soul. Available for a few days to a few months. For brochure, rates and more information, call Elizabeth Boyd at 207-729-3115.

ALASKA CRUISE, Sept. 5-12, 2010. Round trip from Seattle on beautiful Norwegian Pearl. Ports: Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, Victoria, British Columbia and Cruise Glacier Bay. Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, family reunion, etc. For more information, contact Foll Travel, 1739 Orangewood Pl., Avon Park, FL 33825; call 863-453-7196; or e-mail bobkatfoll@embarqmail.com.

Miscellaneous

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.acichild.com.

HERITAGE SINGERS will celebrate their 40th Anniversary on July 2 at 4:00 p.m. during the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, Ga. Tickets for this monumental concert are available online at www.heritag.esingers.com; by phone at 530-622-9369; or at the Heritage G.C. booth #1229 if tickets are still available.



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If you are a creative teen or young adult who has something to say, it's time to get it off your chest. The Lake Union Herald is looking for stories of faith and challenge written by readers between the ages of 14 and 30.

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Announcements

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

Indiana

Music Festival is **Apr. 8-10** for all Adventist young people in grades 5-12. The top song from the fourth annual Scripture Song contest will be performed by the festival choir on Sabbath. For additional information, contact Katrina Koch, music teacher at Indiana Academy, at 317-984-3575 or katrina.koch@gmail.com.

Sabbath Celebration: This annual spiritual feast is Sabbath, **Apr. 10**, at the Indiana Academy gymnasium in Cicero. Morning services begin at 9:20 a.m. The 11:00 o'clock speaker is Van G. Hurst, Indiana Conference president. Bring your lunch and picnic in the auditorium, and then hear Indiana's young people sing their latest compositions at the afternoon Music Fest concert, beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Cicero Church.

Lay Training: The Indiana Conference ministerial/evangelism department, under the direction of Steve Poenitz and Hispanic coordinator Antonio Rosario, sponsors this annual event. This year it will take place at the Cicero Church from 2:00-5:00 p.m. on Sabbath, **Apr. 17**. Ricardo Norton, associate professor of evangelism/discipleship at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, will be the guest presenter. His subject will be *Discipleship and Retention of New Members*. Attendees will receive instruction on how to become a spiritual mentor to the new members in their church. Instruction will

also be provided on how to minister to family members who are "on vacation from God." To register, contact Sheri Dewitt at 317-844-6201.

Indiana State-Wide Pathfinder Fair is **Apr. 30-May 2** at Timber Ridge Camp. For details, contact the Indiana Conference youth department at 317-844-6201.

Golf Fundraiser: The sixth annual Indianapolis Junior Academy and Cicero Elementary School Golf Fundraiser is Thursday, **May 20**, at the Bear Slide Golf Club in Cicero. Mark your calendar for a fun day of golf, give-aways, excellent food and great items to bid on at the auction. All proceeds will benefit the two schools. There is a charge per player. Register before May 13 by e-mailing Mark Fogg at mark.fogg@unitedadgy.com. Sponsors are needed. If you have any questions, please call Mark at 317-809-5105.

B.I.K.E. (Bike Indiana Kilometer Excursion) is **June 2-6**. You don't have to be a Lance Armstrong to enjoy the thrill of this annual bicycle tour! There is a SAG wagon for support that carries lunch, snacks and drinks; it also has a bike rack if you need a break.

For additional information, e-mail Charlie Thompson, youth director for the Indiana Conference, at cpbhk@yahoo.com.

Lake Region

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the regular Triennial Session of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday, **May 16, 2010**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. EST, at the Pioneer Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, 8655 University Blvd., Berrien Springs, MI 49103. The purpose of the session is to elect officers and departmental directors for the ensuing term and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates to this session are duly appointed representatives of the various churches of the conference. Each church is entitled to one delegate for each 35 members or major fraction thereof. Per Lake Region Conference constitutional requirements, the Organizing Committee, made up of duly appointed members from churches, will meet in advance of the main Triennial Session on Sunday, Mar. 28, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. EST, at the All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4259 E. Snow Rd., Berrien Springs, MI 49103-9223.
Jerome L. Davis, president
Donald L. Bedney, executive secretary

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the regular Triennial Session of the members of the Lake Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., a corporation, will be held on Sunday, **May 16, 2010**, in connection with the 26th session of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the Pioneer Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, 8655 University Blvd., Berrien Springs, MI 49103. The first meeting of the association will be called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. EST. The purpose of the meeting is to restate and amend the articles of incorporation and bylaws, to elect trustees for the ensuing term, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates from the churches in attendance at the 26th Triennial Session of the Lake Region Conference comprise the constituency of the Association.

Jerome L. Davis, president
Donald L. Bedney, executive secretary

Lake Union

Lake Union ASI Spring Conference: Come join ASI members and non-members as they attend the annual 2010 Spring Conference, "Share the Joy!," on the campus of Andrews University, **Apr. 16-18**. Plan to put the stresses of life aside and bask in the joy of the Lord. Speakers include

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Apr 2	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30	May 7
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:11	8:19	8:26	8:34	8:41	8:50
Chicago, Ill.	7:17	7:25	7:32	7:40	7:47	7:56
Detroit, Mich.	7:59	8:07	8:14	8:22	8:30	8:38
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:10	8:16	8:23	8:31	8:38	8:45
La Crosse, Wis.	7:32	7:41	7:49	7:58	8:06	8:15
Lansing, Mich.	8:05	8:13	8:21	8:29	8:37	8:46
Madison, Wis.	7:25	7:33	7:41	7:49	7:57	8:05
Springfield, Ill.	7:23	7:31	7:37	7:44	7:52	7:59

Ron Whitehead, Dwight Nelson and Dan Augsburg. Also, come enjoy uplifting music by Jee Wong (piano) and Christina Piccardi (vocal). To register, visit www.asi-lakeunion.org. Visit standout.andrews.edu to learn of a special retreat for your children, grades 9-12, that will be held simultaneously. For questions, please contact Carmelo Mercado at 269-473-8200.

2010 Hispanic Youth Congress: The Lake Union invites young people to attend our 2010 Hispanic Youth Congress that will be held at Andrews University, **June 4-6**. Featured speaker will be José Vicente Rojas. Other speakers include renowned youth pastors Carlos Acosta, Harold Altamirano, Milton Coronado and

Elden Ramirez. A variety of seminars will be available, such as "Street Art Ministry" and "Puppet Ministry." The entire event will be presented in both English and Spanish. Registration fee includes meals, materials and seminars. Housing can be arranged through Andrews Guest Services at 269-471-3664. For more information, go to www.conectate2010.org.

Offerings

- Apr 3** Local Church Budget
- Apr 10** World Budget (Christian Record Services)
- Apr 17** Local Church Budget
- Apr 24** Local Conference Advance

Special Days

- Apr 3** Missionary Magazines
(Signs, Message, El Centinela, La Sentinelle)

- Apr 10** Stewardship Sabbath
- Apr 17** Literature Evangelism Sabbath
- Apr 24** Education Sabbath

Michigan

GREAT LAKES ADVENTIST ACADEMY is looking for all students in grades 8-11 to come for an awesome experience at Academy Days, **Apr. 18-19**. Visit classes, make new friends, enjoy current students and experience boarding academy life. Registration is 4:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday. To register, call Hilda Reichert at 989-427-5181, or e-mail glaa@misda.org. Contact GLAA today!

'Ye Olde' Cedar Lake Academy Reunion will take place **June 3-6** for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates

of 1960 and earlier, at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly CLA). Honor classes: 1930, '40, '50 and '60. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact the GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181, or visit www.GLAA.net for further information. Please do pass the good word.

North American Division

'Just Claim It!'-2nd NAD World Youth Prayer Conference: The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America will host its second World Youth Prayer Conference on **Apr. 7-11** in Columbus, Ohio. Themed "Just Claim It: Experience the Power of Prayer—Claiming Communities for Christ," youth from all around the world will participate in this power-packed

School Notes

BY SUSY GOMEZ

Reconnecting with God

On January 21, the Wisconsin Academy school bus and van were loaded with smiling teenagers, very excited to get away for a weekend.

When we arrived at Camp Wakonda for the annual spiritual retreat, we were greeted with a delicious supper. Shortly after that our speaker, Nestor Soriano, talked about having our own personal experience with Christ. This was a perfect start for a great weekend.

Each meeting stirred our hearts and challenged us to move beyond the level of mediocrity and into a God-filled life. We did not just sit and listen to our speaker; we were kept involved with a number of activities. For example, each person was part of a clean-up group after every meal. On Friday afternoon we went tubing, and

each night we stayed around for table games and time with friends. Before each meeting, we played Bible trivia, participated in mixers and even experienced a spontaneous melodrama.

Perhaps the most memorable night was on Friday. Vespers started by dividing into groups for a "Journey to the Cross." We prayed together and remembered Christ's sacrifice for us. Afterward, we had a communion service followed by an agape feast. There was a spirit of unity and humbleness, as well as thankfulness.

On Sunday we packed not only our things, but also everything we experienced and learned at Wakonda. We had a grand time. It was not only a chance to get away from school, but an opportunity to reconnect with God and with each other.

Susy Gomez is the S.A. pastor at Wisconsin Academy.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

Contact: *Bill Reinke, 630-856-2850*

Web site: www.illinoisadventist.org

Alpine Christian School
 Crest Hill Christian Junior Academy
 Downers Grove Elementary School
 Gurnee Christian School
 Hinsdale Adventist Academy
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 North Shore Junior Academy
 Sheridan Elementary School
 Springfield Elementary School
 Thompsonville Christian School

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Contact: *Mark Haynal, 317-844-6201*

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 Academy
 Northwest Adventist Christian School
 Pleasantview Christian School
 South Bend Junior Academy
 Spencer Adventist Christian School
 Terre Haute SDA School

LAKE REGION CONFERENCE

Contact: *Ruth Horton, 773-846-2661*

Web site: www.lakeregionsda.org

Calvin Center Elementary School
 Capitol City Elementary School
 Chicago SDA Elementary
 Fairhaven Elementary School
 Mizpah Elementary School

Peterson-Warren Academy
 Peterson-Warren Elementary
 Sharon Junior Academy
 South Suburban School

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Contact: *Linda Fuchs, 517-316-1500*

Web site: www.misda.org

Adelphian Junior Academy
 Alpena Elementary School
 Andrews Academy
 Ann Arbor Elementary School
 Battle Creek Academy
 Battle Creek Elementary School
 Berrien Springs Village Elementary
 Bluff View Christian School
 Cedar Lake Elementary School
 Charlotte Elementary School
 Eau Claire Elementary School
 Edenville Elementary School
 Escanaba Elementary School
 First Flint Elementary School
 Gobles SDA Junior Academy
 Grand Rapids Adventist Academy
 Grayling SDA Elementary
 Great Lakes Adventist Academy
 Greater Lansing Adventist School
 Hastings SDA Elementary
 Holland SDA Elementary
 Ionia SDA Elementary
 Ithaca SDA Elementary
 Jackson SDA Elementary
 Kalamazoo SDA Junior Academy
 Lenawee SDA Elementary School
 Metropolitan Junior Academy
 Mount Pleasant SDA Elementary
 Munising SDA Elementary
 Muskegon SDA Elementary
 Niles SDA Elementary
 Northview SDA Academy
 Oak Hollow Christian School
 Oakwood Junior Academy
 Onaway SDA Elementary

Owosso SDA Elementary
 Petoskey SDA Elementary
 Pine Mountain Christian School
 Prattville SDA Elementary
 Ruth Murdoch SDA Elementary School
 Traverse City Elementary
 Tri-City SDA Elementary
 Troy Adventist Academy
 Warren SDA Junior Academy
 Waterford Adventist School
 Wilson SDA Junior Academy
 Woodland SDA School

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

Contact: *Ken Kirkham, 920-484-6555*

Web site: <http://wi.adventist.org>

Bethel Junior Academy
 Frederic SDA Elementary
 Green Bay Junior Academy
 Hillside Christian School
 Maranatha SDA Elementary
 Meadow Creek Adventist School
 Milwaukee Junior Academy
 Otter Creek Christian Academy
 Petersen SDA Elementary
 Rhinelander Christian School
 Three Angels Christian School
 Wisconsin Academy

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Contact: *800-253-2874*

Web site: www.andrews.edu

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools; and makes no discrimination on the basis of race in administration of educational policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

experience to claim the power of God in their lives. 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.

Washington Adventist University Alumni Weekend (Columbia Union College, Washington Missionary College) will be held **Apr. 9-11**, and will include Music Center Groundbreaking, President's Banquet, worship services, class reunions, evening concert, Alumni Brunch and WAU Family Fun Festival. Honor Classes: 1930, '40, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90 and 2000. For more information, visit wau.edu/alumni; e-mail alumni@wau.edu; or call 301-891-4133.

Jefferson (Texas) Academy Alumni Weekend will be **Apr. 16-18**. Speaker will be Kenny Micheff and musical guest, *Forever His*. For additional information, you can contact the Academy at 903-665-3973, or e-mail Alumni president, Brenda Hiser Wilson, at brendawilson61@sbcglobal.net.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend is **Apr. 23-24**. Golf Tournament Apr. 23, Vespers, Alumni Sabbath Homecoming Apr. 24 at LSA gym, potluck, reunions, Alumni/Varsity basketball game, all welcome. For more information, contact Alumni office at 951-351-1445, ext. 244, or check our Web site at www.lsak12.com.

Godly Free Men presents Columbia Union's very first men's ministry conference. "The Great Awakening" will be taking place **May 1** at the Metropoli-

tan Praise Center, 6307 Riggs Rd., Hyattville, MD 20783. Final registration is Apr. 25 and can be done online at www.Godlyfreemen.com. For more information, contact Larry Wilson at 267-237-3244 or Brian Leonard at 301-577-7139; e-mail sdamen@comcast.net; or visit Web site www.Godlyfreemen.com.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Academy Homecoming: Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming, **Apr. 23-25**. Honor classes are: 1940, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90 and 2000. For more information, contact the Development Office at 920-623-3300, ext. 18; write to N2355 DuBorg Rd., Columbus, WI 53925; or e-mail development@wisacad.org.

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD A Three-legged Stool

BY GARY BURNS



Some of my favorite memories as a child were times with my cousins. Some had milk cows, and others had goats. We got to help with the chores, which included the milking. In the milking barn or shed was a three-legged stool to give you something stable to perch on while milking. Some even had a handle to make it easier to move between cows and/or goats.

Milking is a challenge since the cow or goat has to cooperate. Imagine the challenge if one of the legs was missing from the stool. Now, I've seen one-legged milking stools, but I'm ag'in 'em. Your focus is more on trying to balance and less on milking. Three legs form a tripod, one of the simplest and most stable designs.

You won't see milking stools at most dairies these days. Everything is automat-

ed and stainless. You will find one on my friend Harvey's Amish farm. They still do it the old-fashioned and personal way. Their milk cow is like one of the family.

I can't help but draw a comparison with education. The simplest and most stable educational design is supported by three legs: the home, the church and the school. If any one of them is missing, it's hard to keep your balance. Some schools try to operate by the rule of economy and efficiency using the latest educational designs. But when you take a closer look, something is missing—that personal, "hands on," "inconvenient" approach that takes time and effort—a community working in partnership bringing simplicity and stability, like a three-legged stool.

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

Home at Last!

BY BRITTANY BELLCHAMBERS

Winter can often drag into depression. After the joyful anticipation of the first snow and the celebration of the Christmas season, the long trek toward spring begins. In southwest Michigan a promise of unpredicted weather haunts us as we find ourselves surviving a four-month cycle of snow, slush and rain. It is in the middle of this unending arctic that I often find myself wondering what summer was like. *Was there really a time when we could stand outside with only shorts and tank tops on? Where we could feel the warmth of the sun while lying on dry, green grass?* In our minds it becomes hard to imagine such a paradise, something so incomprehensible from the contrast that we are experiencing. Winter becomes truth and summer vanishes as a dream.

Emotionally, we often wonder the same—*Can something good really come out of a terrible situation? Is God's hand truly in this? Can things in our life ever emerge from the dreariness and become green again?*


It was late at night my sophomore year in college when this sad reality of life struck me. I was lonely, tired of putting on a happy face and, worse, weary of watching everyone else enjoy the life I had always dreamed I would have. It was in those melancholy moments when I was reminded of Heaven.

As a child, Heaven seems unneeded. Sure, who wouldn't want to see streets of gold or pet a tiger? But in the innocence of childhood there is still so much to dream and so much life still ahead that it is hard to imagine the need for something better. Barbie always marries Ken at the old age of 16, and they live happily ever after—driving their hot pink convertible and taking baths in a tub with real bubbles!

But at age 20, having waved at 16 as I flew by, and still being far from married ... reality

hit hard. Suddenly, Heaven and the need for Jesus seemed vital and somewhat relieving. I remembered those sweet words of Jesus, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Praise the Lord! He does not call upon the person who is completely happy with the way their life is; His

message is for those who hunger and thirst for something better—something greener. He promises us a hope and a future, peace in troubled times and friendship when we are lonely. This is what I desire: finding my Lord and Savior and allowing Him to become my joy here on earth, so that I can look forward to the hope that can be found only in Him. Oh for that day, when with tears of joy in our eyes we shall all see Heaven and rejoice with the same jubilant cry, "This is where I belong, home at last. Praise God, I am home at last!"



Brittany Bellchambers is a senior elementary education major at Andrews University.

Jasmine Duong is a senior at North Shore Adventist Academy (using the Forest Lake Distance Learning Academy or FLDA). She is also a member of the North Shore Church. Jasmine is very involved in both of her roles: student and church member. As a student, she especially enjoys math. Jasmine appreciates the strong music program at the academy. She has found that the Adventist teachers brought her into a deeper study of the Bible than she had experienced in other Christian schools.



Jasmine Duong

Jasmine is often called upon to share her musical ability in church, where she plays the piano for services. She likes to use a low-key approach to witnessing. On one occasion, Jasmine was listening to music with a non-Christian friend; she quietly made a change to Christian music. This led to a conversation about Jesus.

Jasmine plans to study in the physical therapy program at Andrews University next school year. She will be rooming with a classmate she met in the FLDA program. Teachers and family members expect her to do well, since she has always been a high achiever (receiving straight A's so far). They have found Jasmine to be highly motivated and a joy to be around. She looks forward to being one of the first two seniors to graduate from North Shore Adventist Academy.



Joshua Taylor

Joshua Taylor is also a senior at North Shore Adventist Academy (using the FLDA program). He is a member of the Shiloh Church in the Lake Region Conference. Joshua really enjoys math and art classes.

Joshua found that distance learning required a great deal of discipline. It was a struggle at first, but he learned to organize himself so he could do well. Joshua found that it taught him responsibility. He had previously studied in public school and in the elementary school by his church. He found that Adventist education was more challenging than public school.

He observes that many people do not want to talk about God. One way Joshua has witnessed was by inviting people to his church. He chooses to believe that God will keep His promises (even though some acquaintances doubt this). Joshua says, "You have to know for yourself that Jesus is real."

Joshua has endeared himself to teachers. He is described as honest and straightforward while being respectful. His pastor calls him "one of our premier people" saying, "I am proud to be his pastor."

Joshua plans to attend college next school year. His advice to people who are going through the challenge of distance learning is, "If it seems hard, don't give up." He notes that God provides help for the challenge.

Address Correction

Only paid subscribers should contact the *Lake Union Herald* office with their address changes. Members should contact their local conference membership clerks directly for all *Lake Union Herald* address changes. Contact phone numbers are listed below for your convenience, and addresses are listed to the right. Online submissions can be made at www.lakeunionherald.org under "Subscription Change."

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