



Lake Union
HERALD

JUNE 2010

**CAN YOU
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Heaven's Call to Prayer

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



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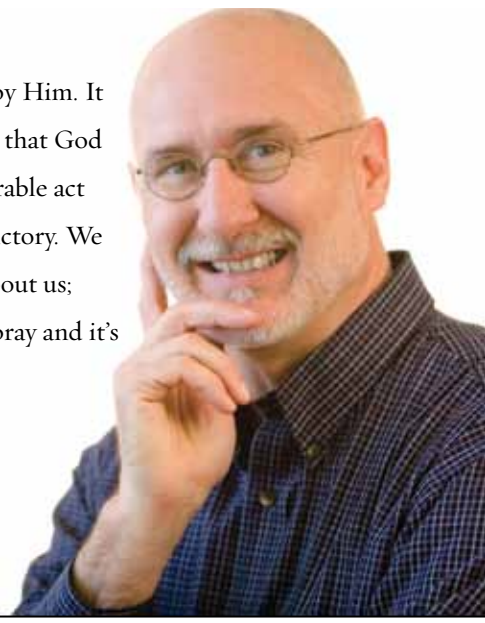
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In this issue...

Every conversation with God is initiated by Him. It is through the most intimate act of listening that God gives direction. It is through the most vulnerable act of confession that God brings healing and victory. We call it prayer, and we tend to think it is all about us; yet, God, in fact, is the One who calls us to pray and it's really all about Him.


Gary Burns, Editor



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Youth Adults

Several years ago my wife, Barbara, and I heard a sermon at a small camp meeting on how God hears our prayers for our children. It ended with an invitation for special prayer for anyone who had a son or daughter who was not walking with the Lord and/or had given up on the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The response was powerful and agonizing—about 90 percent of the 400 stood and moved to the front.

Fast forward to the Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC) where we listen to Dwight Nelson, senior pastor, describe the primary mission of PMC: *To transform young adults to serve Christ in the local church and in the world.* The goal is to prepare each to graduate, begin a career and become active in a local church as instruments of God for His purpose.

I am very excited to see young adults making major contributions at PMC—from the board of elders to leading in worship, providing music and visual arts, helping in the departments of the church and outreach. While many young adults are drifting from the fellowship of the church, this is one of those places around the country where engagement, mentoring and real leadership is being given to young adults. Barbara and I receive a rich personal blessing as we participate in worship both led and supported by young adults.

But then the question: When they graduate, when they show up in the cities and villages around the Lake Union territory (your church)—well-trained to bless a church with vast talents—will they find a church that wants them enough to embrace them and rejoice in the contributions they can bring?

Enter my friend Ron Whitehead, executive director of Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE). Ron, the CYE staff and a network of ministry professionals have identified nine key values that may be basic but are essential for churches to be great places for young adults. Those values are: *Sabbath*—Committed to providing a meaningful Sabbath experience; *Discipleship*—Committed to discipleship through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; *Acceptance*—Committed to accepting people just as Jesus did; *Community*—Committed to building community; *Support*—Committed to supporting young adults with their life challenges; *Service*—Committed to demonstrating God's love through acts of service; *Leadership*—Committed to young adult leadership; *Budget*—Committed to investing money in young adult ministry; and *Change*—Committed to change that leads to improved young adult ministry.

A number of churches working closely with CYE have made very focused efforts to embrace these values, are making young adults a priority and are identified as “Churches of Refuge.” How is your church doing with these values?

Your conference president is spending time on this priority—I know, we've talked. Several executive committees around the Lake Union are giving this focus. Your youth director is excited about the impact young adults can make to the vitality of the Church. Church board members, elders, grandparents and parents have a key role in making any church a place where young adults are welcomed, belong to our movement, become outstanding disciples of Christ and contribute to The Mission. Do the math; without the next generations, how will we do mission? But with our young adults engaged we might see “the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour ... carried to the whole world!”¹ (*Education*, p. 271) It's imperative!

For more on Churches of Refuge, visit www.adventistyouth.org/cor.

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



‘I’m in the Middle of Your Change and Loss’

I met Cynthia Bezek some years ago at our annual Denominational Prayer Leaders Network meeting and have come to appreciate her passion for a relationship with God through prayer. Cynthia has been the editor of Pray! magazine, a publication of NavPress that has provided excellent encouragement and resources on prayer. We’ve had the privilege of praying with and for Cynthia, her family and ministry, and I asked her to share her journey, trusting that Cynthia’s experience in prayer and testimony of God’s faithfulness will be a source of encouragement to our readers.—Editor

BY CYNTHIA BEZEK

The news that the Christian magazine I edited was ceasing publication and ten of my friends and colleagues were going to be laid off hit me harder than a punch to the gut. Although I thanked God that somehow, miraculously, my own employment with the company was not going to be terminated, that huge mercy did nothing to minimize the grief I felt. How could *Pray!* magazine, the ministry I’d poured my life into for the previous seven years, end so abruptly? How could I go through more change and loss? What was God doing with me, with this ministry?

By my way of thinking, I’d already experienced a good deal more than my share of change and loss. In the space of three years my husband had died, my only child had left the nest, I’d lost a close friend and I’d changed churches. Now this.

Still, I had learned a few things from this hard school of change and loss. One was that God would always be there for me in it if I’d intentionally seek Him. I didn’t have to do it alone. Another was that He always had purposes and perspectives about what was happening, and often He was willing to let me in on them. So, when I heard about the magazine, I did what He had taught me to do during previous times when unwelcome news had come: I scheduled a personal prayer retreat.

I showed up at beautiful Glen Eyrie*, my favorite retreat center, with an overnight bag, Bible, journal, notepad and pen. I quickly unpacked, then flopped on the bed and cried out to God.



“What are You doing, Father? *Pray!* was still going strong! We’ve not finished the work You gave us! You know how readers say that every issue encourages them and helps them in their conversations with You! You know how prayer leaders and pastors depend on *Pray!* for ideas to mobilize their people in prayer! Our subscriber base was growing! It’s not time to quit yet, is it?”

“And what about me? You’ve invested a lot in me over these past few years. Surely You aren’t done with me? Don’t You want me still to encourage and equip Your people in their prayer lives? This isn’t just my livelihood—it’s a passion! A calling! Are You finished with me already? So soon?”

I poured out my heart to God until I was thoroughly spent. Then I sat quiet before Him. After a long but peaceful while, I sensed Him speaking gently to my spirit. “What do you want, Cynthia?”

“What do I want, Lord?”



“Yes. What are your desires? Since you can’t edit the magazine anymore, what do you want to do?”

I’d never even remotely considered this question, so it took me awhile to get my head in gear. I found my legal pad and stared at it awhile. Then, like a spigot suddenly opening, ideas rushed out of me faster than I could write them down.

“I want to continue to equip people to know You through prayer. I want to help them hear Your voice. I want to provide resources for prayer leaders. A Web site, curriculum. I want to lead prayer retreats for churches and right here, at Glen Eyrrie. I want to mentor people in prayer. To help The Navigators with their listening and healing prayer ministry. I want to facilitate getting books written that will help people pray in life-giving, two-way relationships. I’d like to see a forum where people can talk about prayer and learn from one another. Maybe I could blog. I just want to keep helping people connect with You, Father!”

I scribbled two or three pages of ideas. I was getting excited. But did I dare get my hopes up? “Talk to me about this, Abba. Why did you ask me about my desires?”

I sensed Him encouraging me. “This is a death, child, but a resurrection is coming. Yes, the magazine is ending, but I’m doing a new thing. You will be amazed. *Pray!* reached 40,000 readers before—it will reach even more in the future.

“Yes, I’ve invested a lot in you and I will not waste it. You will continue to connect people with Me. You will continue to help them see how much I love them and want to talk with them. How much I love to hear their voices and how they can learn to hear Mine.

“So stick with Me, child. Don’t be discouraged. You will have to wait on Me and trust Me because it won’t all happen at once. But I am at work. I am in the middle of all this change and loss. You will see.”

I admit it was a bit hard at first to trust what I was hearing. The practice of listening to God was relatively new to me—something I’d begun during those three years of cataclysmic change. Did I dare put my hope in this specific message? But, I’d laid my situation before Him and I’d sensed Him answer. I could only trust that since I’d asked Him for wisdom He had actually given it. So, tentatively at first, I

started praying that if I’d heard Him accurately, God would bring to pass the things He’d said.

My situation got worse before it got better. It was painful to see my colleagues go. I was assigned to a copy-editing project I didn’t enjoy. I couldn’t see the bright future God seemed to be holding out for me.

Then, about when I started wondering if I ought to start looking for a new line of work, I “happened” to be pulled into a meeting at the last minute. I barely spoke in that two-day meeting, but the few words I did say led to a conference with the publisher that in turn resulted in a new job description and the beginning of those prayer-retreat dreams being fulfilled.

Since that time in August, frankly I cannot believe what God has allowed me to do. This week 16 churches finished piloting the first book in a prayer curriculum series I am writing to teach adults how to pray in the context of an intimate two-way relationship with God. We’ve launched a social network that’s all about prayer, and already have more than 1,600 members (including the editor of this magazine, Gary Burns. Go to www.praynetwork.org to check it out). I blog about prayer. I get to help The Navigators with their listening and healing prayer ministry. I mentor individuals in prayer. I get to acquire and edit books about prayer. I lead retreats about prayer. And, incredibly, without me even initiating, I was asked to lead prayer retreats at Glen Eyrrie, my favorite prayer retreat place.

In short, barely a year later, every major item on my dream list has already or is about to come to pass. Change and loss? You bet. But God was in the middle of it, reassuring me, encouraging me, inviting me to partner with Him to bring about the new thing He had in mind. He was there for me—just like He will be there for you.



Cynthia Bezek is the senior development editor for *Pray!* resources at NavPress (praymag.com) and author of *Come Away With Me: Pray! Magazine's Guide to Prayer Retreats*.

*Glen Eyrrie is a Christian conference center in the foothills of the Colorado Rockies operated by The Navigators, an interdenominational, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people navigate spiritually, “to know Christ and to make Him known” as they look to Him and His Word to chart their lives.

Project Sheep

BY STEVEN ATKINS

These past few Sabbath afternoons have been busy times for Andrews Academy (AA) students in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The school doors have been open, the lights have been on and students have populated the Commons. But it isn't scholastics or a social event that draws them; these students have gathered to actively participate in loving as Christ commanded.

On Sabbath, February 6, a number of students gathered at the academy to make Valentine's Day cards for the teenagers in the Berrien County Juvenile Center. "It was nice to know I was making a difference in someone's life," says Janessa Howell, a junior who came to make cards.

The very next Sabbath, February 13, a group of AA students and parent/sponsors went to Lakeland Specialty Hospital to deliver Valentine's Day balloons to the long-term acute care residents. Students gave balloons, talked with the residents and sang lots of songs. As students shared their balloons, they were met with smiles from the many residents who appreciated their visit. "It was great singing for the people and making them smile," says David Regal, a junior. "It really made our day making their day."

On March 27, students again met at the school—this time to head to Benton Harbor and the Harbor of Hope Church. The group was split up to help with the afternoon kids programs. Obed Galla, a sophomore who went, says, "It was great because we got to be with the kids and go crazy with them singing songs."

The most recent activity took place April 14 and was entitled "A Day Without Shoes." Students were permitted to walk around all day without shoes so they might feel what it could be like for those who have none, and to promote awareness. But in itself that doesn't help anyone,



Reginald Desrosiers delivers balloons and a smile to long-term acute care residents at Lakeland Specialty Hospital.

so students were also encouraged to bring in old shoes they didn't want anymore to give to someone who is in need.

Why this sudden burst of action? These activities are a result of a new program the student association pastor, Livvy Knott, developed for the AA students. Livvy introduced the new program, PROJECT SHEEP, to the students as she presented her worship thought based on

Matthew 25:31-40, which includes the challenge: "Whatever you do for the least of these my brothers, you have done it for me." As a lesson applicable to each and every day, she reminded students that not only are they to treat others as Jesus would treat them, but as if they were Jesus Himself; and if we neglect those in need—especially those within our reach—we are directly neglecting Him. Thus the creation of PROJECT SHEEP.

PROJECT SHEEP derives its name from earlier in Matthew 25, where Jesus explains the separation of the sheep from the goats at the returning of the Son of Man. This program is to be an active and practical way for AA students to help in their community based on, at least at first, the six things Jesus mentions later in the chapter. Jesus requires that we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick and visit the imprisoned.

Steven Atkins teaches science and mathematics at Andrews Academy. Livvy Knott also contributed to this story.





An Example of Christ's Love

BY BETH STEVENSON

It wasn't the allure of warm weather in December nor the excitement of travel to an exotic location; neither was it the aspiration to build a church that would stand in memorial of hard work well done that made my husband, Joe Stevenson, question what God's will was for him regarding the "Brazil for Jesus" mission trip his church was planning. The question persisted, *Couldn't God do more with my money than He could with my service? ... The \$4,000 it would take to get myself and my wife there would go a long way toward buying needed construction materials.*

Joe and I spent the next week praying for God to make His will clear to us. One evening, Joe began reading in *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 8. To our surprise, the passage focused on the benefits of foreign mission service. We looked at each other in amazement, marveling at the clarity with which God had answered. We agreed, "There's our answer, we're going to Brazil!"

Fundraising projects, rounds of immunizations and preparations for the trip, however, caused the departure date to present itself more quickly than Joe could have imagined. Warm breezes and tropical vistas did much to sooth the exhaustion of two days of travel but little to answer that still nagging question, *Why am I here?*

The first morning we bumped along deeply rutted dirt roads in the old bus to the small village where we would build a church for the growing congregation. We were greeted by barking dogs and curious faces. Nothing like this had ever taken place in the village of Rhoda Velha before, and every villager was soon present to witness the excitement.

Joe was intrigued and somewhat awed by his instant celebrity status as he felt every eye on him and the other Americans who stepped off the bus. It suddenly became very clear to

Joe that God knew what He was doing in prompting him to give more than just his money for this project. It was evident that God brought him there not for his linguistic abilities or construction savvy, but to deliver a message by his very presence that his money or even his words could never have conveyed. God sent him to be a witness through his actions to the truth that God loves you more than you can imagine.

As Joe realized that simply being there was his mission, his doubts left him immediately. He quickly discovered he was able to develop meaningful relationships with the local people who faithfully watched the erection of the biggest building in town, peering in windows and doors to witness the process.

Warmhearted locals began handing us gifts of fruit and baked goods to express their thanks for doing for them what they could not have done for themselves. "God put me there to be an example to those people of Christ's love," Joe says. "The fact that I was willing to leave my comfortable home and go down there to help them was amazing to them."

Maybe words would have just gotten in the way of the communication that God intended to take place!

Beth Stevenson is a member of the Village Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.





Gifts from the Heart

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

This time of year many couples unite their lives in marriage. They often search for the very best gifts to give one another as a symbol of their love and commitment. Tangible gifts—when given from the heart and received in love—are appreciated deeply, bringing joy to the giver as well. There are other gifts that can also enhance your soul connection. What gifts will you give your beloved this year?

There is no single right way nor are there easy steps that work for all relationships; but in building a consistent and meaningful relationship, couple quiet time plays an important part. This is time when deliberate energy is spent to nurture and enhance marital closeness.

I invite you to consider three classic spiritual disciplines—gifts of time—which can be used in special ways to create a pattern that benefits both of you.

Shared Worship—Attending church together is important, but it is easy to attend week after week without making a conscious effort to see that you are doing this as a married couple. In worship, God’s transforming power makes its way into your hearts and can give you a renewed capacity to love one another.

Shared Service—Something wonderful happens when a couple works as a team to reach out to others. Reaching out together provides opportunities to share compassion with others, which can be reflected back in your marriage. The key is to be deliberate in your plan, seeing this as an opportunity to build your marriage and finding something that fits your own style as a couple.



Shared Prayer—Couples who frequently pray together are twice as likely as those who pray less often to describe their marriages as being highly romantic. Many spiritually devout couples who are active in church and committed to their faith never seem to get around to praying together as a couple. No level of being “re-

ligious” can make up for the time couples spend in shared prayer. It is important to pray in ways that are meaningful to both; the form of a couples’ prayer is not nearly as important as the act of having a prayer time together. While you each focus on your individual walks with the Lord on a daily basis, committing time each week to nurture prayer time together will reap even more blessings.

Worship, service and prayer—how exciting that these three spiritual disciplines, ones that we as Christians are so familiar with, can be gifts to your marriage. I invite you to intentionally and specifically honor your marriage partner with gifts that can last a lifetime.

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.

*Courage, hope and faith
promote health and
prolong life.*



More than Half Full

*Optimism
produces good
health.*

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

It has been said that the difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is how you use them. All of us face obstacles and frustrations in life. So, how shall we deal with these? Well, an optimist attempts to make the most of any situation and anticipate the best possible outcome. They always believe things will work out for the best in the long run.

A consistently cheerful attitude bolsters the body's disease-fighting forces, while pessimism is associated with poor health. A chronic feeling of helplessness depresses the immune system. Natural killer cell activity is decreased and T-cells don't multiply as rapidly to destroy foreign invaders like viruses and bacteria. Truly, pessimistic people have a more passive immune system and their health is impaired.



In a study by Craig Peterson, pessimists had twice as many visits to the doctor and twice as many infectious illnesses. Women with breast cancer who show a fighting optimist spirit are less likely to suffer a recurrence than those who respond to their diagnosis with stoic acceptance and helplessness. In another study of women with recurrent cancer, those who survived the longest were those who were optimistic in life.

Solomon told us that a cheerful outlook does us good like medicine. Optimists are more likely to follow advice about their health and make health behavior changes by modifying their lifestyle. In addition, they don't isolate themselves. They seek to engage in meaningful social support systems that are important for physical health. In contrast, pessimists are more passive when trouble strikes and tend to take fewer steps to sustain a social network. Loneliness puts a person at higher risk of disease.

A positive mental attitude is recognized as a very effective way to combat disease. The brain is connected via hormones to the immune system. A happy relaxed mind and feelings of hope react in a positive way on the body via the neurotransmitters. In this situation the immune system can operate at optimal capacity. On the other hand, during depression catecholamines get depleted and the immune system turns downward.

George Vaillant found that health at age 60 was strongly related to optimism manifested at age 25. Men in their early 20s who had a mature attitude toward bad events in life went on to live healthy lives and were in good health at 60. Those without a mature optimistic attitude at age 20 were found to be in poor health at 60.

Courage, hope and faith promote health and prolong life. George Vaillant found that health at age 60 was strongly related to optimism manifested at age 25. Men in their early 20s who had a mature attitude toward bad events in life went on to live healthy lives and were in good health at 60. Those without a mature optimistic attitude at age 20 were found to be in poor health at 60.

Laughter and a good sense of humor are good for your health as they help you cope with difficult life situations. Laughter relaxes a person, reduces stress hormones, increases immunoglobulin A levels, helps you sleep better and helps create a more positive attitude. Over time, patients who receive humor therapy have lower blood pressure levels, less pain, fewer heart attacks and more active disease-fighting immune cells.

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



EXTREME GRACE

Margarita's Church

BY DICK DUERKSEN

The choice was difficult, but essential. Her life was falling apart and one of the nuns told her that “prayer would help her get herself together.” So she prayed. Twice a day. Briefly. Nothing happened.

Her Spiritual Advisor suggested that maybe she should spend longer in prayer and devote more time to listening and less time to complaining. So she added to her morning ritual—reading her Bible, thinking quietly about God and listening to anything He might want to say.

Typically, He was quiet. But the time began to function like glue in the cracks of her life. She was growing kinder, better able to handle her daughter's transgressions and slower to react to the craziness that was transforming her community.

March 17 at 10:17 a.m., she was praying on a mat before the one whitewashed wall in her tiny stone room on the edge of Peru's Inca Trail. Calm was settling in when a ten-year-old girl knocked on her door.

“Mama Margarita, may I join you in your prayers today?”
“Certainly, child. Come in.”

They prayed quietly together, and then something drew Margarita's attention to her wall. There, clearly etched into the whitewashed mud, was the face of Jesus—a manly, strong, kind, eager, loving, commanding God.

Margarita gasped and asked her guest if she saw anything on the wall. The girl looked up and then quietly said, “*Yo veo la cara de mi Dios.*” I see the face of my God.

Then the face spoke.

“Margarita, I want to use some of your land to build a church for My children. Please save your land for Me. I will come for it at the right time. I love you.”

As the face faded Margarita grabbed a colored pencil,



Constructed by Maranatha volunteers from the Mid-America and Lake Unions, the church in Urabamba, Peru, stands at the intersection of Highway #1 and the Inca Trail. It is Margarita's church. It is God's church.

Larry Romrell

dashed to the wall and sketched as much of Jesus as she could onto her wall.

She waited, hoping everyday that “today” would be the day God would come to claim her land. But He did not come.

Three years later, March 17 at 10:17 a.m., Margarita was praying when there was a knock at her door.

Three men waited before the door—Kenneth, Darrell and Jeff.

“Señora Margarita, we have come to talk with you about building a church on the land you own right across the street, right over there.” Kenneth and Darrell pointed to the triangle of weedy dirt that stood at the intersection of the Inca Trail and Peru Highway #1. “God is leading us to build a church for the young congregation here in Urabamba, and He seems to be leading us to your land. May we speak to you about this?”

Mama Margarita led them inside to her prayer room, offered coca tea and freshly roasted maize and then asked them a question.

“Do you believe in Jesus Christ?”

“Yes!” Darrell answered. “Jesus is our Creator, Saviour, Best friend and Coming King.”

Then she told them about the face on the wall, pulled out the deed to the land and showed them where to sign.

“It will be my church,” Margarita said. “It will stand where the past and the future come together in my town of Urabamba.”

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



Dear God...

BY DON JACOBSEN

Dear God,
I've been thinking about how to make prayer a higher priority for us mortals, and I may have an idea for You.

What if we had an annual one-prayer-day-per-person day. It could work like this: Everyone would have their own special day—the one day during the year when their prayers would be welcome in Heaven. The other 364 days of the year—nothing.

If my day was in June, for instance, I wouldn't bother to pray in October because I would know that no one in Heaven would be listening anyway.

As I saw "my day" approaching, I'd make every effort to get ready. I'd get dressed up, get a haircut—maybe even practice a few lines I would use. I'd check my watch to make sure I didn't miss the appointment because this would be a really monumental occasion.

I would anticipate it because I would know that this was my day to make contact with the celestial throne room. It would be my annual chance to come into the presence of the Architect and Creator of the universe. This is the day I could pour out my praise, present my thanks, maybe even sing a song expressing my gratitude for His goodness. I could make confession for the sinful things I had done and know I had received forgiveness. This would be the day that I could bring my petitions, lift up the people I care about and talk about the other things on my heart. I'd want to be sure and listen, too, to see what personal word I would get back from the throne. That would be truly a red letter day.

The biggest downside I see to the plan is that it would make the other 364 days really flat. No communication between us for all those days ... that's not a good idea. I'm starting to not like the sound of the plan. How could I hold my thanks for such a long period? Where could I go for counsel week after week? Where could I present my concerns about my family, my church, my country? It's beginning to feel like that would be a long, lonely, frightening drought. There would be my own wondrous day in Your presence, but the rest of the year would be unbearable.

Actually, the more I think about it the better Your plan seems. Constant contact. That sounds really good to me. Every day I talk and You listen. Every day You talk and I listen. Every day I send up my praise. Every day You send down Your counsel and guidance. For a lot of years You've heard me sing about that, "And He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own...." I really like that thought.

So, I want to withdraw my suggestion and maybe just leave things the way they are. But thinking this through has helped me appreciate how really splendid Your plan is. Every day is my special day to have access to Your great heart. That's magnificent. Thank You, God.

Your friend.

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

Hope in a New Land

BY MARK HAYNAL

Fort Wayne is home to one of the largest groups of Burmese refugees in the United States. Since 1999, the Adventist church has worked with other denominations to help resettle families displaced by war and persecution in Myanmar (Burma), giving them hope and a fresh start here in Indiana.

The first Burmese Adventist refugees to relocate to Fort Wayne were Kyaw and Than Than Myint and their family. Fort Wayne First Seventh-day Adventist Church members met them at the airport on December 2, 1999. They provided this family with a three-bedroom apartment, food, clothing, furniture and the opportunity to begin a new life of freedom. Ten years later, Kyaw and Than Than both have jobs and their children attend the Aboite Christian School



Burmese students are able to attend the Aboite Christian School, an Adventist elementary school in Fort Wayne, Indiana, because of sponsorships. More help is needed to invite more Burmese students to the school.

(ACS), operated by the Fort Wayne Church. The church, under the leadership of Ramon Ulangca and Silas Jo Naing, pastors, now ministers to nearly 30 Adventists from Burma. In addition to helping them establish new homes in the United States, the church provides these members and their non-Adventist friends ongoing English classes, weekly Sabbath school classes and church services twice a month in the Karen language.

“Their expressions of gratitude for our assistance and their desire to be contributing members of our community inspire us to help them fulfill the potential God has placed within them for His glory,” says Ramon. “Yes, we have sacrificed much to help them, but they in turn have helped us even more to discover God’s purpose for our lives.”

The church also sponsors 14 Burmese students. Twelve of these students attend ACS. Two of the older students

attend Indiana Academy in Cicero, Indiana.

When asked what she enjoyed most about ACS, fifth-grader Beh Beh Win, who immigrated in 2007, says, “The teachers are good and they tell us Jesus stories!”

Her sister Thae Thae, grade six, says what she likes most about living in the United States is “going to church and that so many nice people love and help us.”

Sadly, the number of Burmese children attending church school is limited by available sponsorships. “If we had more sponsors, we could easily have as many as 30 students attending our school,” says Sheldon Schultz, upper-grades teacher at ACS. “Many of them would be non-Adventists for whom we would be holding an evangelistic series every school day!”

A short video about the Burmese students attending ACS can be viewed online at www.multiagelearninglabs.com/Video/ACS%20High.wmv.

If you are able to help our brothers and sisters in Fort Wayne, please send your donation, marked “Burmese Ministry,” to the Fort Wayne First Seventh-day Adventist Church, 228 Lexington Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

Mark Haynal, Ed.D., is the superintendent of schools for the Indiana Conference.



Por que de tal manera amó Dios...

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Sería bueno que cada día dedicásemos una hora de reflexión a la contemplación de la vida de Cristo. Debiéramos tomarla punto por punto, y dejar que la imaginación se poseione de cada escena, especialmente de las finales. Y mientras nos espaciemos así en su gran sacrificio por nosotros, nuestra confianza en él será más constante, se reavivará nuestro amor, y quedaremos más imbuidos de su Espíritu. Si queremos ser salvos al fin, debemos aprender la lección de penitencia y humillación al pie de la cruz” (El Deseado de Todas las Gentes, p. 63).

En la Universidad Andrews se presenta cada año una dramatización de la pasión de Cristo durante Semana Santa. El sábado 3 de abril tuve la oportunidad de presenciar este evento. Estaba nublado y llovía. A pesar de que el tiempo parecía no cooperar, la gente llegaba para hacer lo que yo pensaba hacer: observar. Durante la dramatización pude ver cómo Cristo perdonaba a la mujer adúltera, cómo le devolvía la vista al ciego, cómo lavaba los pies de sus discípulos, cómo oraba en el Getsemaní, cómo lo condenaron a la muerte y cómo lo crucificaron. Lo vi todo, tal como está descrito en la Palabra de Dios. Pero lo que no anticipaba era mi reacción a esas escenas

Cuando hice los planes de asistir a este evento, lo hice pensando que necesitaba el sábado para relajarme y descansar. Pero la realidad es que todo fue diferente. Resultó ser un día de contemplación e introspección espiritual. Al contemplar esas escenas quedé profundamente conmovido. Al principio no comprendía porqué me sentía así. Pero luego me di cuenta que era porque me sentía transportado a ese tiempo cuando realmente ocurrieron esos eventos.



Un joven representa la escena de Cristo en la cruz.

Me sentía como parte de esa multitud que veía a Jesús en aquellos momentos. Sin embargo, lo que más me extrañó fue la tristeza que me embargó. Me sentía triste porque fueron mis pecados que lo llevaron a sufrir la injusticia de la cruz.

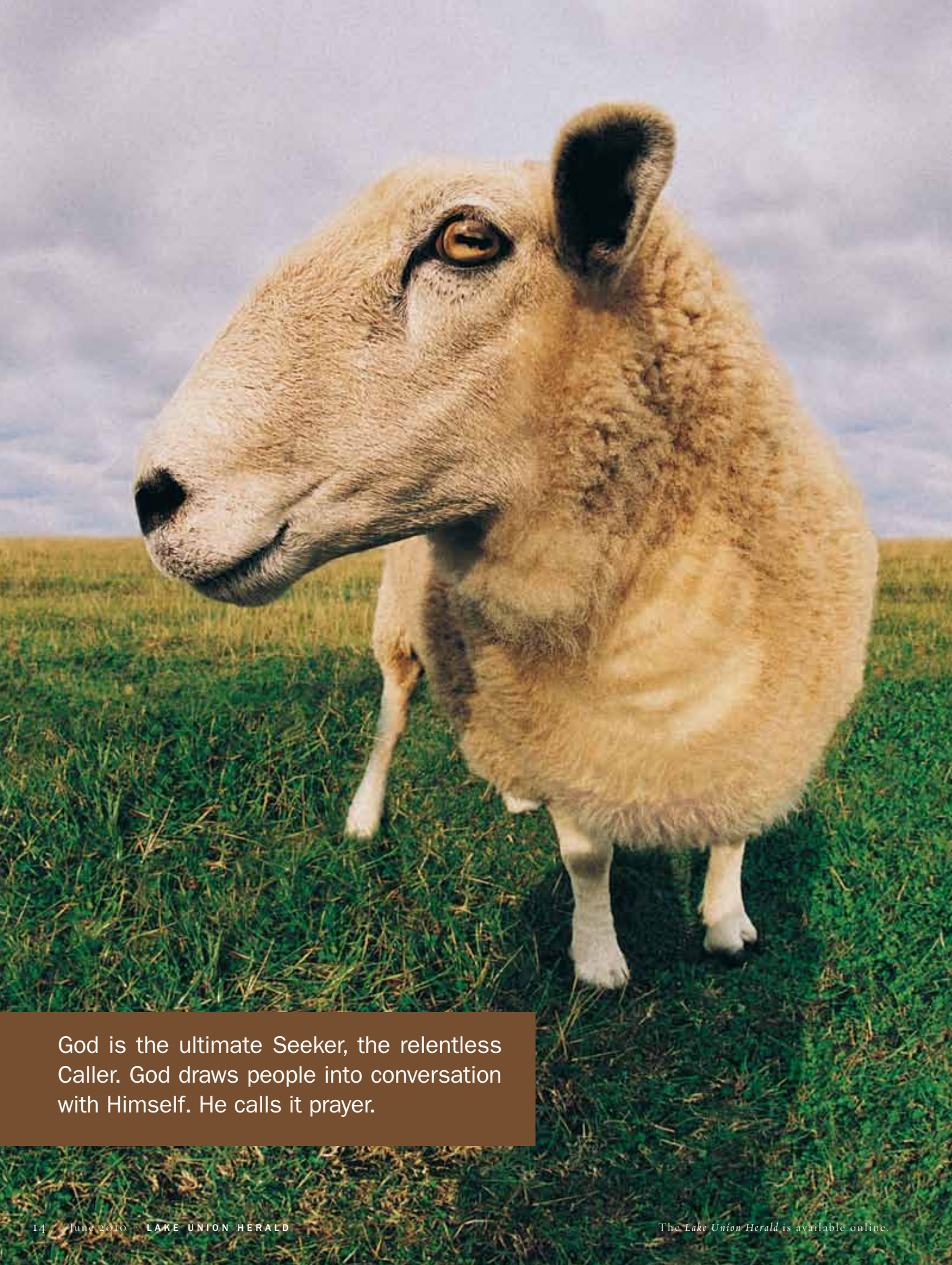
Gracias a Dios que la vida de Cristo no terminó en la cruz. En el momento en que vi a Cristo resucitado me llené de ánimo y esperanza. Me sentí animado porque sabía que contamos con un Cristo que tiene las llaves de la muerte

y la esperanza me embargó porque sé que Dios perdona mis pecados y me ofrece la vida eterna.

En verdad, como adventistas tenemos una esperanza tan maravillosa. Entendemos que Dios nos ama y que nos quiere rescatar del pecado y darnos la vida plena en Jesús. Pero no hemos de guardar esta esperanza sólo para nosotros. Dios nos manda a que compartamos estas buenas nuevas con los que no las conocen. Amigo lector, le

animo que tome una hora de su tiempo para contemplar las escenas finales de Cristo en este mundo y le dé gracias a Dios por su gran amor. Y luego, comparta su testimonio con alguna persona que no tenga nuestra esperanza. ¿Está dispuesto a hacer esto? No tengo duda alguna que si todos hiciéramos esto, la obra de evangelismo—de dar las buenas nuevas—avanzaría de una manera maravillosa.

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



God is the ultimate Seeker, the relentless Caller. God draws people into conversation with Himself. He calls it prayer.

KNOWING THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

BY DON LIVESAY

Sean was still in diapers. Any observer would wonder how long it would take for him to get with the program. It soon became evident that his resistance went beyond potty training.

The little guy was part of a large family reunion gathered one Sabbath afternoon at a beautiful mountain campground in Oregon. The air was clean, clear and crisp with the scent of needles that carpeted the forest floor. The rays of sunlight, visibly hot, streamed through the boughs of the giant Douglas fir. The older folks were sitting in the shade of the giant fir trees while children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews explored the wonders of flowers, frogs, ducklings and dragon flies. Several large, striped watermelons bobbed in a pool behind a makeshift dam in the brook that flowed by the family campsite.

Sean's mother asked one of her nephews to keep an eye on him until she returned from a short walk. His cousin appeared quite content to play with the pebbles at the edge of the brook, so Sean's cousin turned his attention to the family stories being told by the older folks—tales that meandered between laughter and deep reflection.

"Where's Sean?" His mother's voice jolted Sean's cousin back to the present. He jumped to his feet, spun around and looked in every direction.

"Oh, no!" His inner voice screamed while his heart began to pound.

"Sean, Sean!" Frantically he called, and others soon joined in the search—some toward the forest, others toward the lake.

"Sean, Sean! Where are you?" The cry intensifying with each step.

"Sean, Sean!" Suddenly, out of the corner of his eye, he saw a flash of white disappear behind a tree some 40 yards away. Running toward the tree he called again, "Sean, Sean."

The little guy, realizing his adventure may be nearing its end,

tried to make it to the next big tree as fast as his little diaper-hampered legs would take him. Now fully exposed, Sean's cousin yelled directly at him, "Sean! Sean! You come back here!"

Sean stopped dead in his tracks, put his hands over his ears, turned to his cousin and said, "I can't hear you," then continued his path of escape.

We laugh at a two-year-old's ridiculous notion that putting his hands over his ears makes him no longer accountable or responsible for what is being said. Yet, I wonder how many times we presume to do the same thing with God. How often has He tried to get through to us when we've blocked out His voice with any number of intentional distractions?—in essence placing our hands over our ears and replying to His call to prayer, "I can't hear You!"

GOD IS CALLING

God is the ultimate Seeker, the relentless Caller. God draws people into conversation with Himself. He calls it "prayer." Our conversations with Him are by invitation and always at His initiation. Look at the examples in Scripture.

God may call us into conversation with Him as He did Adam and Eve—to bring salvation and restore our relationship. When we disobey, drift or fall away, God is the One who seeks us long before we would bring ourselves to seek Him. "Adam, (Don), where are you? What is the condition of your life? How are things working out for you? Why are you hiding from Me? Why are you trying to cover up with garments of your own making? I've got you covered. I have a plan!"

God may call us to prayer in an attempt to save us from di-

Imagine That

The Teen Prayer Conferences that began in the mid-90s had an exciting dimension of small group Bible study that approached the stories of the Bible, especially the stories of Jesus' life, similar to the way a filmmaker goes about converting a screenplay to a film—by employing the imagination with all the senses. In an attitude of prayer with Scripture as your guide, “spend a thoughtful hour each day reviewing the life of Christ from the manger to Calvary. ... take it point by point and let the imagination vividly grasp each scene” (*Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 4, p. 374).

This is not some mystical transcendental meditation Mumbo Jumbo. This is actively employing the sanctified imagination to re-create the scene using the details and word pictures in the text. Henry Wright has taught many a mediocre preacher how to make God's Word come alive by using this technique. He would have them take a story from the life of Jesus and write down everything they could imagine about the scene: the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and textures of the story. It is helpful to use Bible study resources such as dictionaries, commentaries and concordances.

Through these resources and the imagination, you can create a “film” true to reality in the details of set, wardrobe, makeup, character and sound affects. Through the experience you will actually create a memory with Jesus—a Living Word experience.

saster and pain as He did with Cain and Peter. “Cain, why are you bent out of shape? Why are you so depressed? If you would choose to do what is right, things would go much better for you. Sin is sneaking up on you, but we can win this thing” (see Genesis 4).

“Peter, Satan wants to take you out, but I'm praying that you will be strong. Follow My example and spend time with your

Father in prayer. Your heart is willing, but it's not easy to follow through” (see Luke 22:31, 32 and Mark 14:37, 38). How different their stories would have been had they heeded His call.

God may call us to prayer as He calls us to participate in His divine purpose. “Noah, life as you know it is going to change drastically. I've chosen you to be a part of My great plan to save the human race. Here are the blueprints” (see Genesis 6).

“Deborah, my people need a judge, a leader, to stand in My place to bring equity and justice. You will be the representative of Heaven and speak on My behalf” (see Judges 4).

“Moses, I've chosen you to lead My people to the promised land. You will be a type of messiah to illustrate My love and saving grace” (see Exodus 3).

“Hadassah, don't be afraid. The enemy plans to destroy you and all My people; I have chosen you to stand in their behalf. You will lead My people to fast and call upon Me in prayer, and I will protect you and deliver them” (see Esther).

I HEAR VOICES

There are several ways by which we can listen to the voice of God; and as you can imagine, any number of ways by which we can be fooled. History records shocking and incomprehensible acts of violence for which the defense is offered, “God told me to do it.” There are many hurting and troubled people plagued by these voices of evil and destruction. Many of us who have worked in the trenches of youth ministry have encountered young people for whom these voices are very real. One such teen wore a T-shirt that read, “You're just jealous 'cuz the voices aren't talking to you.” There is a hurtful sadness in that kind of humor.

Subtle voices have led some into a distorted view of the truth. They claim to be on the right path—the only path—right up to the end. What happened at Waco is an extreme example. Many have been misled by the voice of a powerful and charismatic leader, confusing the voice of the individual with the voice of God.

Jesus addresses these real concerns in John 10 using the metaphor of the shepherd, the thief and the sheep. First, He identifies the true Shepherd as the One who enters the sheepfold through the door. He identifies the one who enters by another way as the thief.

The sheep know the Shepherd's voice. He calls them by name and they follow Him. They run away from the stranger's voice—the thief who “comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” In contrast, Jesus identifying Himself as the true Shepherd says, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (verse 10).

Jesus gives assurance that it's safe to let Him shepherd us. “I

am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. ... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand” (verses 14, 27 and 28).

Knowing the dangers of being misled and deceived, God has still chosen to speak to us—to use His voice to direct our steps: “Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left” (Isaiah 30:21 NKJV).

In a response motivated by fear, paranoia or a desire to be in control, many have turned off the voices altogether and sought a false sense of security by over-emphasizing cognitive methods, systems, behaviors and structures. Some have prescribed God’s voice right out of their religious experience as surely as did the Pharisees. For them, prayer has no place beyond the prescribed formalities and has become nothing more than a ritual. In some cases, it’s even considered a personal option.

A LOVE RELATIONSHIP

As I reflect on the time when my wife, Barbara, and I were first getting to know each other, I realize that listening indeed was the key factor that helped to develop our relationship. I was keenly interested and highly motivated to listen to her every word. I was eager to learn everything I could about her—what she thought, how she felt, her joys, her sorrows, her questions and dreams.

As with loving human relationships, a relationship with God is developed through communication. When applying this principle to our relationship with God, prayer is more about listening than giving speeches or directions.

So what is the secret to having a secure relationship with God, where we know and follow His voice and are quick to run away from the voice of the stranger and thief? I believe the primary way is by knowing God’s recorded “voice”—His Word. “All Scripture is given God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16). To know God’s voice in Scripture, you cannot pick and choose. It is by having an ever-growing inclusive, comprehensive and complete view of God through His Word that we come to know Him. There are some who focus on one aspect or one dimension of God in Scripture at the exclusion of some other “inconvenient” truth about Him.

We use the phrase in evangelistic meetings, seminars and Bible studies, “Let the Bible interpret itself.” Another way of saying that is, “Let God speak for Himself.” By learning to recognize God’s voice through Scripture, you will be able to recognize His voice in nature, His voice in your circumstances and His voice that comes through the counsel of those He has placed around you—His church.

The Joy of Helping

For a child, there is no greater “play” than to engage in meaningful work alongside a parent or grandparent. Did you ever make cookies with Grandma? Or slide under the car with Dad to help change the oil? Maybe you remember the first time you got to help milk a cow or mow the lawn. What fun that was!

There’s no greater thrill for a Christian than to be involved and participate with Christ in His work of service to those around us. Through an intimate relationship with Christ, through prayer and the ingestion of His Word, we are equipped to participate in His work of touching people’s lives—initiated by, empowered by and directed by His Spirit. In fact, we are surrounded by angels who actually help us pull it off.

“All who engage in ministry are God’s helping hand. They are co-workers with the angels: rather, they are the human agencies through whom the angels accomplish their mission. Angels speak through their voices, and work by their hands. And the human workers, co-operating with heavenly agencies, have the benefit of their education and experience” (*Education*, p. 271).

So my challenge for each reader (author included): Only with focused and constant prayer that seeks to know and hear God will anything change in our lives and churches. Read Proverbs 2. This is God’s calling for each of us, are we listening?

In just a few days representatives from the Seventh-day Adventist World Church will converge in Atlanta, Georgia, for the 59th General Conference Session. Elections will happen, business will take place and vision will be cast for the Movement each of us belongs to. Please pray fervently for the Holy Spirit to be in each heart and in each room where the business of the Church takes place. Join others around the world who are praying for the GC Session at www.50DaysOfPrayerForGC.info.

Don Livesay is the president of the Lake Union Conference.



I Don't Pray Good

BY GREGG BUDD

P pausing in the driveway just before taking Zyon to school, I invited him to ask God to keep us safe and bless our day. Bowing our heads, he began to pour out his heart to God. As he earnestly pleaded for help to be a good boy at school, protection for his family as they traveled and for all the people who were without food, a warm feeling filled my heart. I couldn't help picturing the activities of Heaven silenced as the Father inclined His ear in the direction of a special second-grade boy calling out to Him in simple faith.

After adding a few other crucial concerns Zyon wished to leave in God's care he concluded by praying, "Lord, because You are the King, please make this the best day ever. Amen."

In the warmth of God's presence, I pondered the genuineness of the prayer I had just been privileged to experience as we started out for school. Without warning, the tranquility ended abruptly as Zyon blurted out, "Grandpa, I don't pray good." Startled, I glanced down into a face weighed down with frustration due to his perceived inadequacy.

"Why do you think you don't pray good?" I asked.

"Because I don't say all the words right," Zyon replied, still looking down and dejected.

Zyon isn't the only one who feels like he doesn't pray "good." I shared this brief account with a woman in prison who gives Bible studies to a group of women who have come to know Jesus while in prison. She often writes to us about the pain-filled world they live in due to the brokenness of their past. They struggle every moment with the raw memories of who they are and where they've come from. When it comes to praying, nearly every one of them have struggled to believe that God would ever want to hear anything they had to say.

At the end of one of her group studies, she read to them a few short paragraphs about a young boy who "doesn't pray

If we “Don’t Let Go to the King” and keep praying, even if we don’t “pray good,” the King will safely guide us to heavenly Zion where we will praise Him in person with the angelic hosts for all the ages of eternity.

good.” When she finished reading, she looked up to a circle of ladies with tears running down their cheeks. Finally one whispered, “I know I don’t pray good either, but Zion has given me the courage to do the best I can. I’m going to trust God with my prayers from now on.”

Perhaps Jesus exposed “good praying” in the gospel of Luke because He understood how we would one day feel. The story found in Luke 18 describes two men who came to the temple to pray—one a lowly Publican, the other a Pharisee. The Pharisee waxed eloquently, praying “good” for the benefit of all within his hearing. With precision he detailed the numerous reasons God should pay special attention to him. The problem with “good praying” is God isn’t impressed. The Publican knew he was a sinner. Without even feeling worthy to look up he simply prayed, “Be merciful to me a sinner.”

This is the kind of prayer the Bible calls “good.” When we realize the true condition of our heart, we identify with the Publican in the temple as we pray. The Father loves to incline His ear in our direction when the longing of our heart resonates with deep spiritual need.

I encouraged Zion to never stop telling God just how he felt. It doesn’t really matter if someone smiles at our simplicity. It’s more important to cause God to smile in response to our honesty.

Zyon’s prayers aren’t his only special gift. Recently, for worship, he sang one of his latest compositions, “Don’t Let Go to the King.”

I hope God can teach all of us to pray more like Zyon. The next time you’re tempted to decline praying in public because you don’t “pray good,” I hope your memory of Zion will encourage you to reconsider.

If we “Don’t Let Go to the King” and keep praying, even if we don’t “pray good,” the King will safely guide us to heavenly Zion where we will praise Him in person with the angelic hosts for all the ages of eternity.

Gregg Budd is the author of *One Miracle After Another: The Pavel Goia Story*, *God Knows Your Name* and *I Will Save You to Make You a Blessing*. He writes from his home in Pardee, Wisconsin.

The Best Prayer

The publican went up to the temple with other worshippers; but he soon separated himself from them, as unworthy to mingle with them in their devotions. Standing afar off, he “would not lift up so much as his eyes to heaven, but smote upon his breast” in bitter anguish and self-abhorrence. He thus expressed his sense of his distance from God, and of his unworthiness to come into his presence. He felt that he had offended God, that he was sinful and polluted before him. He could not expect help from those around him; for they looked upon him with undisguised contempt. Feeling that he had no claim on the mercy of God, he looked forward with terrible dread to the Judgment, when every case will be decided. In his great need, he finds voice to cry out earnestly, “God, be merciful to me a sinner.”

The course taken by the publican is the only one that will secure pardon and peace with God. He did not compare his sins with those of others who were worse than himself. He came before God with his own burden of guilt and shame, as a transgressor of God’s law, a sinner in thought, in word, and in act. He acknowledged that should he receive punishment for his sins, it would be just and right. Mercy, mercy, was his only plea. Oh, for the assurance of pardon, giving peace and rest to the sin-sick soul!

The self-abasement manifested by the publican is wholly acceptable to God. To know ourselves is to be humble. Self-knowledge will take away all disposition to entertain the Most High with a recital of our own excellent qualities. Realizing our sins and imperfections, we shall come to the feet of Jesus with earnest supplication, and our petitions will not be passed by unheard.

Source: “The Pharisee and the Publican,” Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, February 18, 1885, par. 6–8.



Our Prayer

Our Father who inhabits eternity and dwells in the high and holy place, and with those also who are contrite and humble in spirit, may You find us who bow before You to be such a people in whom You are pleased to dwell, and through whom Your name will be always honored.

Through the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His shed blood on our behalf, we worship You who made of one blood all nations of the Earth. It is for Your Church whom You sent to take the gospel to those very nations that we intercede today.

Our many prayers converge into this one prayer at the moment, specifically on behalf of the coming General Conference in Atlanta. May grace from Heaven go forth to meet the grace that has moved our hearts to boldly enter the throne room of our Father to seek mercy and find grace to help in this hour of Your Church's and the world's great need.

As we listen to the progress reports from around the world, deliver us from feeling that we are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing. Rather, grant us a spirit of thanksgiving and praise for what You have been able to accomplish through this relatively little flock among the teeming multitudes of the world who are Your harvest field. Grant us a spirit of humble gratitude and for the small part You are allowing us to play in the advancement and makeup of Your eternal kingdom. Grant Your Church a spirit of repentance that we have not always accepted the messages You have sent us, and have so often failed to live them out. Forgive us, Holy Father. Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for what could have been accomplished had the investment of our time and financial resources been raised to the level of true sacrifice.

Take control of the agenda of this conference. May the organizational details run as smoothly, efficiently, effectively as does the organization of Heaven, that Your will may be done on Earth, even

as it is in Heaven. To this end grant utmost spiritual discernment to the delegates of this conference, and may the Holy Spirit be engaged in all of their deliberations.

Guide the election process to the very leaders You have chosen to lead this people into the challenging times ahead. May those leaders be women and men who are endowed with wisdom, given to much prayer, tested by trial, gifted with godly leadership, known for their servant hearts, graced with both strength and humility, and inspired to lead by precept and example.

Do not stop Your Spirit's sanctifying work in our hearts until we as individual members and as one body are willing to sell all that we have to gain the Pearl of great price and to advance His kingdom on Earth. Make us a people through whom You can extend Your unceasing call to every nation and kindred and tribe and people, "Come out of her, my people," "Come to Me and be saved, all you peoples of the earth." And make our Church, and our churches, a safe place for Your called-out ones to gather in Your name.

We ask these things with confidence that our Father in Heaven who is perfect is more willing to give good gifts to His children and His Church than we who are evil are to give good gifts to our children. We ask these things with assurance because You so loved the world that You gave Your only begotten Son and have assured us that along with Him You have given us everything we need for life and godliness. We ask these things with confidence because we ask them all in the name of Jesus who gave His all for us. Amen.



Leader provides hope, healing to hospital patients

For sick patients and their loved ones, hospitals can be sad and scary places. John Rapp believes his job—and the job of every physician, nurse, chaplain, hospital employee and volunteer—is to provide hope. The concept is rooted in Jesus' ministry.

"When Jesus interacted with people, He gave them hope. And when patients have hope, it changes the way they view their health and indeed the way they see their whole life," Rapp said. "Scores of clinical studies have shown its effect on the healing process."

As regional vice president of ministry and mission for Adventist Midwest Health (AMH), Rapp works to unify healthcare with spiritual aid. For his commitment to the mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ, Rapp was recently awarded the prestigious Christian Service Award from Adventist Health System at the Adventist Health System Conference on Mission held in Orlando, Fla. An overwhelmed and honored Rapp celebrated the award with his wife, Melanie, and two daughters, Samantha and Lauren.

"This award doesn't belong to me alone but to the thousands of employees, physicians, community members and fellow Adventist Midwest Health leaders who truly care about the spiritual mission of healthcare," Rapp said.

AMH president and CEO Dave Crane describes Rapp as "an innovative, approachable leader who truly cares for people. I can't think of anyone who embodies the value of Christian service more than Pastor Rapp."

Since joining AMH in 2005, Rapp has worked hard to innovate and improve spiritual care provided for patients and family members at the five hospitals he oversees. His duties overseeing faith-based standards include managing chaplains; ministry



John Rapp, third from left, Adventist Midwest Health regional vice president, ministries and mission, recently received the prestigious Christian Service Award from Adventist Health System. He is congratulated by (from left): David L. Crane, Adventist Midwest Health president/CEO; Don Jernigan, Adventist Health System president and CEO; and Max Trevino, Adventist Health System board chairman.

events for patients, community, medical staff and employees; medical ethics; and the organization's annual international mission trip. In January, Rapp led 45 healthcare professionals on a mission to Costa Rica, where they provided medical care to 1,800 patients and ministered to the local children.

His ministry and mission team has ambitious goals: 70 percent of patients admitted to the hospital are visited by a chaplain within 24 hours, and 70 percent of surgery patients are visited prior to their surgery. The team has consistently exceeded that goal, touching tens of thousands of patients every year.

Along with efficient spiritual care, specialized chaplains are strategically placed in the trauma, hospice and neonatal intensive care units, emergency room and outpatient facilities. An overwhelming 92 percent of patients have since reported feeling respected for their unique spiritual beliefs, and comfortable to ask for the assistance of a chaplain.

"My objective is to utilize biblical theology to provide exceptional healthcare along with spiritual healing, offering every patient hope and healing of the soul," Rapp said.

In 2009, Rapp created the new position of regional night chaplain to minister to employees working on the third shift. Employees have responded

positively to the night chaplain's ministry, as demonstrated in the most recent employee engagement survey. Because of its success, the ministry is expected to be duplicated at other hospitals in the Adventist Health System.

Rapp's determination to provide spiritual assistance and share the healing ministry with patients and their families, physicians and employees has not gone unnoticed. Esther Jarrette, Rapp's executive assistant at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, said he brings out the best in his staff.

"Pastor Rapp is always interested in others' well-being," Jarrette said. "He's deeply complimentary and caring."

Tricia Trefl, manager of pastoral care at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, said Rapp's "enthusiasm for ministry is contagious. He loves what he does and we are all thrilled he was recognized for his spirit."

Raised in the Washington, D.C., area, Rapp followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, George S. Rapp, senior pastor of the Takoma Park Church. Rapp completed both his bachelor's and master's degrees and served two congregations before arriving in Chicago in 1988, where he was ordained by the Illinois Conference. He attended McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and completed his doctorate of ministry degree in 1992. In 2004, he was awarded a Lilly Foundation Grant for post-doctoral work in homiletics.

Rapp served as senior pastor of the North Shore and Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist congregations in Illinois before joining AMH. The transition from pastoral ministry to healthcare has been a life-changing experience.

"Every day presents new joys and new challenges," he said. "I feel blessed to be in this position, where I'm able to share the Gospel message through healing."

Krista Burdinie, extern,
Adventist Midwest Health



Andrea Luxton

Luxton named Andrews provost

Andrea Luxton has been named the new provost at Andrews University. She is currently serving as president at Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alberta. She fills the role currently held by interim provost Bill Richardson. Luxton will arrive to campus in late July.

Andrews University president Niels-Erik Andreasen says, "Andrea Luxton has many years of experience in higher education. I believe she will bring extraordinary gifts to the provost position at Andrews and will help move this University forward in the direction it is destined to go."

Luxton holds a BA in theology and English from Newbold College, a MA in English from Andrews University, a Ph.D. in English from Catholic University of America, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Institutional Management and Change in Higher Education from the University of Twente, Netherlands.

Luxton began her career in education in 1982 as head of English for Stanborough School in England. Over the years, she has been chair of the English Department at Newbold College; held multiple responsibilities as education director, Sabbath school director and women's ministries coordinator of the British Union of Seventh-day Adventists; principal at Stanborough School;

president of Newbold College; vice president for academic administration at Canadian University College; associate director of education for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; and president of Canadian University College. She has also served first as secretary and currently as president of the Adventist Association of Colleges and Universities.

"I look forward to engaging with the many professionals at Andrews University and being a part of the University's positive future," says Luxton. "I will particularly enjoy the diversity and internationalism of the campus and the synergy of working with so many others who share the same values I do in delivering Adventist Christian education."

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



Christon Arthur

Arthur named dean of School of Graduate Studies & Research

Christon Arthur, an Andrews alum, is returning to his educational roots as dean of the Andrews University School of Graduate Studies & Research. He assumes the role currently held by the interim dean, Emilio Garcia-Marenko. Arthur will arrive to campus on July 1. He will be joined by his wife, Carmelita,

and their son, ten-year-old Christon Arthur Jr.

"A faculty-student mentorship relationship is the most important attribute of high-quality graduate programs. That was my experience at Andrews," says Arthur. "My mentors touched my life by 'paying forward,' and those experiences have made me who I am today. I intend to reciprocate by touching the lives of current students: 'paying forward' to the next generation."

Arthur earned a BA in theology from Caribbean Union College in Trinidad in 1989, and three graduate degrees from Andrews University: a master's degree in education in 1995; an Ed.S. in curriculum & instruction in 1998; and a Ph.D. in educational administration in 2000.

As associate dean of the College of Education at Tennessee State University (TSU), Arthur has provided leadership as the college's chief academic officer and worked to create and maintain academic rigor. A member of TSU's faculty since 2001, Arthur has mentored undergraduate and graduate students in the research process. He was named "Researcher of the Year" for the Department of Educational Administration in 2002-03 and the university's "Teacher of the Year" in 2004-05, both at TSU. Prior to working in higher education, Arthur spent 12 years teaching geography and social studies students at Grenada Seventh-day Adventist Comprehensive School.

Arthur has led several notable funded research projects, including an annual \$35,000 budget to work collaboratively with TSU Extension and Bridges Academy to integrate technology into the curriculum. He has contributed scholarly research articles to numerous publications, delivered dozens of scholarly presentations across the country and been actively involved in several professional organizations and councils.

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

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Andrews Academy National Honor Society members are ready to serve

Michigan—On Sunday, Feb. 21, 16 new members were inducted into the Andrews Academy chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). This brings the total membership to 22.

The Andrews Academy chapter of the NHS has taken on an aim of making a difference in our world, locally and globally. Through various fundraisers and awareness assemblies, such as “NHS Cause Week,” NHS officers, members and guest speakers raise awareness among the students of needs and emergencies in our world.

This year’s NHS Cause Week issues highlighted six of the eight Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations: “Ending Poverty and Hunger,” “Child Health,” “Maternal Health,” “Combating HIV/AIDS,” “Environmental Sustainability” and “Global Partnership.” The specific theme for the week, “Zoom It Out,” was carefully centered on local awareness and global significance, outlining the concept of the individual ultimately making a difference around the globe. As we live in our small worlds, whatever we do can have an impact on everyone else around the world.

The school bulletin board focused on the theme as well, using the words “You Are Here.” In the middle of the board, a large magnifying glass enlarged the word “Zoom,” and led to a collage of flags over which was the same “You Are Here,” implying how the actions of daily life ultimately affect the entire human race.

On Monday of Cause Week, NHS member and senior class president, Clifford Allen, presented the goal “Environmental Sustainability.” A short cartoon clip called “Ozzy Ozone” outlined the basic phenomena of the ecosystem: the ozone layer; car-



Sixteen new members were inducted into the Andrews Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society. Pictured from left are (back): Christiana Atkins, Fritz Miot, Michael Hernandez, Trevor Zimmerman, Elihu Michel, Dillon Zimmerman, Clifford Allen, Kyle Whiteside, Jonathon Wolfer, Cody Wales, Joses Ngugi, Jee Yeon Lee; (front): Brianna Cave, Min Jeong Choi, Kaitlyn Dent, Paola Caceres, Joyce Yoon, Annika Seibold, Soo Jin Kang, Kristin Edwards, Simone Weithers, Ashley Reichert

bon emissions and the sun’s harmful ultraviolet rays; and human interaction with the environment, including ways to help preserve it.

On Tuesday, NHS members and friends put on a short skit outlining the goal “Ending Poverty and Hunger.” The setting was the Andrews Academy cafeteria. Some bought an unnecessary amount of food and some bought a reasonable amount of food, but declared that they were satisfied long before the meal was done. Everyone then got up to throw away an inordinate amount of food. As they moved to do so, they froze; and three other spotlighted students informed the audience of shocking statistics pertaining first to world hunger, then America, then Michigan and finally Berrien Springs using the question “Not close enough?” to end every statement. This skit and a short video clip afterward about the amount of garbage the world throws away brought the “Zoom It Out” theme into perspective, locally and globally.

Another skit led Wednesday’s presentation of “Child Health,” “Maternal Health” and “Combating HIV/AIDS.” In a sparsely furnished shack with no trace of food, Elaine Kamvazaana played the part of a Ugandan mother

and Jordan Price, her daughter, Tulu. Tulu repeatedly asked her mother for food, to which the mother could only reply “No.” After incessant asking, the mother pleaded with the child to stop and proceeded to give the audience a brief insight into the life of the average Ugandan woman: Her family would be starving, along with a large percent of her country; she would most likely have AIDS, and because of this disease she would be a widow as well. Passionately worried for her mother, Tulu left home seeking a solution to their problems. Suddenly she was abducted, leaving the audience in suspense until the next day.

Thursday saw a resolution of the audience’s suspense. “Invisible Children,” which refers to the abducted and severely mistreated children trained to be soldiers of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). Under the command of a man named Joseph Kony, the children are forced to kill other Ugandan citizens in the name of “freedom.” By raising money, they can build more schools for the children who have survived abduction. The families of the displaced can receive assistance through purchasing products they have made, and child soldiers can be rescued. Cody Wales showed two

videos on fundraising plans for schools across the nation, and challenged Andrews Academy students to help raise money for the cause.

The driving force of all the activities is also the Andrews Academy NHS Chapter's theme and motto:

"In His Service. By living a humble lifestyle, ready to serve and take on challenges to help the needy, we seek to serve Christ whose life on earth is worthy of emulation." Not only did the presentations reflect the theme, but also are a response to local or global

tragedies and encourage the school to give financial assistance. Students have rallied behind the NHS officers and raised more than \$300 to help Haiti's recovery efforts.

Givan Hinds, NHS vice president, and Sari Butler, NHS sponsor, Andrews Academy

Andrews University students receive award for community service

Michigan—Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) is pleased to announce two students from Andrews University were awarded for their dedication and commitment to community service during the 14th annual Outstanding Student Service Awards, April 10, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing, Mich.

Each year, MCC awards students from member colleges and universities across the state for their outstanding commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Three types of awards are given: the Outstanding Community Impact Award, the Commitment to Service Award, and the Heart and Soul Award. Awardees were



Filip Milosaveljevic received the Commitment to Service Award.

selected from a nomination pool of nearly 900 students. This year, 192 students from 34 member campuses received awards. Filip Milosaveljevic, a senior from Texas, received

the Commitment to Service Award. This award was given to one student per member campus in the state of Michigan for their commitment to community service. Only 34 students received this award.

Mary Cregan, a sophomore from Rhode Island, received the Heart and Soul Award. This award was given to students to recognize their time, effort



Mary Cregan received the Heart and Soul Award.

and personal commitment through service.

MCC is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education.

We promote the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement. For more information, please visit www.micampuscompact.org.

Lisa Sommer, public relations manager, Michigan Nonprofit Association

Student attends Space Camp

Lake Region—Cornell Glass, an eighth-grade student at the Calvin Center School in Cassopolis, Mich., recently had a blast of a trip! He traveled to Huntsville, Ala., to attend Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

During the camp session, Cornell built his own rocket and launched it from the Rocket Launch facility. He also participated in exciting astronaut training using simulators such as the 5 Degrees of Freedom Chair, 1/6 Gravity Chair, MMU Simulator and the Multi-Axis Trainer. Cornell's favorite was the 1/6 Gravity Chair, which gives the expe-



Cornell Glass of the Calvin Center School recently attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala. Experiences like these have helped shape the career paths of other students.

rience of what it feels like to walk on the moon. In the evening, Cornell watched space-related movies in the state-of-the-art IMAX Theater.

"Space Camp, Space Academy and Aviation Challenge are three of the programs that have been an influence in shaping the career paths of some of the students at the Calvin Center School," states principal Norman Usher. "Our first group attended in 1994, and Cor-

nell is the most recent student to enjoy the six-day experience."

Out of the group of former students who have had the opportunity to attend Space Camp, several are either currently enrolled in engineering programs or are working as engineers at well-known corporations. One former student is employed as an aerospace engineer for The Aerospace Corporation in Los Angeles, Calif.

Cornell thoroughly enjoyed the rich experience of Space Camp and is anxiously looking forward to next year rocketing to a higher level known as "Aviation Challenge."

Jill Wimberley, school board member, Calvin Center School

[YOUTH NEWS]

Prayer congress directs youth to 'Salvation and Service'

Though she was hundreds of miles away, nine-year-old Veronica Slack, who attends Capital Memorial Church in Washington, D.C., decided to be baptized after watching, over the Internet, the Just Claim It 2 (JCI2) youth prayer congress in Columbus, Ohio. While it is impossible to say how many others were similarly impacted by the four-day event, thousands from around the North American Division (NAD) stood ready at JCI2 for "Salvation and Service." With prayer at its core and youth leading in many aspects, the NAD Youth Ministries event was designed to train young people for effective ministries of their own. JCI2 combined the Youth Ministries Leadership Summit, the Just Claim It 2 prayer congress, Ignition—GODencounters for Young Adults and the Children's Worship Festival sponsored by the Ohio Conference. While 2,898 young people registered for the event, the number present on Sabbath swelled to approximately 5,800.

Calling the different activities at the congress "filling stations for spiritual growth, training, motivation and encouragement," pastors James Black Sr., NAD youth ministries director, and Manny Cruz, NAD associate youth ministries director, noted that delegates filled "their spiritual cups through prayer initiatives, community mission projects, evangelism outreach, teen preaching/testimonies, mass choir/orchestra, workshops/seminars, recreation and a Sabbath youth rally and parade."

Lindsey Gibbons (13), came all the way from the South Hampton Church in Bermuda looking to fill her spiritual cup with knowledge. "I really enjoyed the workshop on diversity," she said. "In a lot of our churches in Bermuda

we tend to put people in boxes, and I want to take what I learned here to make my church a better place."

Matt Teller and his wife, Mayda, from the New Haven Church in Kansas City, Kansas, took several of their Midland Adventist Academy students to the event. "Some of the kids were really enthusiastic about outreach," he observed.

One of his students, Jordan Wiles (16), also a member of the New Haven Church said although getting out of school was an added benefit. He wanted to "witness to others and thought this would be a nice way to learn how."

Dayna King (17), Tevin Carter (17) and Kellie Dehm (18), all members of Miracle Temple in Baltimore, found a service session reaching out to juvenile offenders life-changing. King noted that he could have been one of those offenders had he not accepted Christ.

Understanding that a strong prayer life leads to strong service, Ann Roda, family ministries pastor at Chesapeake Conference's New Hope Church in Fulton, Md., coordinated various prayer experiences while in Columbus. One of those experiences included placing four massive boards in the convention center for young people to write their prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. "Most people need to feel, touch and hear Him before God becomes real," she said.

Rogers Johnson, pastor of three churches in Texas (New Beginning in Athens, Cariker Street Church in Nacogdoches and North Lufkin Church in Lufkin), can already predict what youth will do with the training they received. He taught the hands-on street ministries seminar. "I've been doing this seminar for 10 years," he said. "I've seen participants become more active in their churches and become youth leaders and youth directors. One guy even started a church."

Guest speaker Eddie Hypolite summed up the week's meetings in his Sabbath sermon when he warned leaders not to make the church's doctrines



A Lake Region drum corps performs at the JCI2 closing youth rally and parade in the Goodale Park.

Billy Wright



Some participants of the JCI2 prayer conference find an open door and an invitation to share Jesus.

Bryant Baylor



Young people read messages on a prayer wall at the JCI2 prayer conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Gerry Chudleigh



Attendees add their prayers to the ascending prayer lines at JCI2.

Garry Blums

a yoke and burden. "We are teaching the traditions of men ... as commands of God. But the centrality of who we are is Jesus. Jesus is not a doctrine."

Taashi Rowe, assistant editor, *Visitor*



Camp Au Sable announces new Web site

Michigan—The year was 1947. The place was a hotel in Saginaw, Michigan.

It took only the stroke of a pen and a check for \$30,000, and 840 acres of woods with a 100-acre private lake belonged to the Michigan Conference. It was there that the story of Camp Au Sable began.

Have you ever been to Camp Au Sable? Have you ever wished you could go there or go back for a visit if you have been there before? Well, here's your opportunity. We're inviting you to visit us, in person if you can; but if you can't, then come see us at www.campausable.org. Our new Web site is finished, and we want you to see it as soon as you can log on.

Here are some of the things you will be able to do. You will be able to

tour the camp and see what a beautiful place God has created. You'll see pictures of almost everything, including pictures from the past. You'll meet the staff and have the opportunity to join them in prayer each morning. You can connect with friends from the past if you were a camper or worked there. You'll be able to subscribe to our newsletter and keep up with what's happening at camp. You can see what projects are planned and have the opportunity to help with them in person or support them financially. Yes, you will be able to register online and also purchase Camp Au Sable items from our online store.

Ken Micheff, youth director,
Michigan Conference

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



Gloria Gibson, director of Starfish Shelter, expresses her appreciation for the gift boxes the VBS kids created for the young people at the shelter.



One of the most fun craft projects at the Cherry Hills VBS was creating and decorating gift boxes for young people at the Starfish Shelter in Inkster, Mich.

VBS teaches giving

Michigan—Last July the Cherry Hill Church, in Garden City, Mich., held a Vacation Bible School (VBS) using the program, "ADRA Adventures for KIDS."

Steve Veres and Arthur Weaver served as special guest presenters. Veres gave a presentation on Adventist Community Services and Weaver came dressed in clothing from Thailand to share his missionary experiences, ending his presentation with a group sing-a-long.

In addition to the great lessons, snacks, games and singing, several

craft projects were offered, including preparing and decorating gift boxes for children at the Starfish Shelter in Inkster, Mich. This shelter aids boys and girls who are homeless, runaways or come from dysfunctional families. A 24-hour help facility, they accept kids ten to 17 years of age on a temporary basis.

Because these young people arrive at Starfish Shelter with very few possessions, the gift boxes provide necessary toiletry items (soap and washcloth, toothpaste and toothbrush, combs, tissues, shampoo, writing pads and pens) and some healthy snacks. The VBS kids also wrote little personal

notes and placed them inside. There were 20 boxes completed, ten for boys and ten for girls. All of them also included copies of the *Guide* and *Insight* magazines with the hope that they will provide some interesting and encouraging reading for the young people at the shelter.

Gloria Gibson, director of the Starfish Shelter, was very pleased to receive the gift boxes and expressed her appreciation for the boys and girls who made and decorated them.

Juanita Malaski, Vacation Bible School
director and member, Cherry Hill Church

Second Annual Heartland Health & Wellness Conference draws large crowd

Indiana—With 240 in attendance, more than 220 from the community registered for the Second Annual Heartland Health & Wellness Conference held last fall at the Madison Park Church of God in Anderson.

The conference began Thursday evening, Sept. 17, 2009, with a scrumptious pasta bar by Chef Mark Anthony who appears frequently on 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network). He was a valuable asset, delivering delicious meals on Friday, conducting a cooking school on Sunday that attracted 125 people (100 from the community), as well as creating fabulous food displays in artistic fashion.

Awards were presented to eagerly awaiting community children who entered a poster contest entitled “Eat Your Veggies.” This was followed by a presentation from Hans Diehl, developer of *CHIP* (Coronary Health Improvement Project). He encouraged the audience to “Eat more foods as grown; eat foods that don’t require a label. For instance, eat a tomato versus ketchup. Eat a potato versus potato chips. When food comes from the hand of the Master Designer, it doesn’t need a label!”

The Wellness Conference proved to be a life-changing experience for Joe and Jacquie Womack, a couple from the community who picked up a brochure and received a little encouragement from Jesse Landess (Anderson Church member) to register for the conference. The couple stated they had very limited ideas about what they would experience at the conference, “But we found ourselves most impressed with the quality and quantity of the information received at all the sessions.” At the close of the conference Friday afternoon, they decided, “We can do this!” They began their new lifestyle immediately and signed up for the next available local *CHIP* program. Several months later



Chef Mark Anthony, who appears frequently on Three Angels Broadcasting Network, addresses the Thursday evening crowd at the Wellness Conference.

they reported, “We are very pleased with our health improvements and are feeling great!”

Friday morning presenters included George Guthrie, lifestyle medicine specialist; Rip Esselstyn, author of *Engine 2 Diet* (a *New York Times* best seller); as well as a further presentation by Diehl. Topics such as diabetes, cholesterol, heart disease and children’s health were covered. The afternoon session included these same speakers as well as Krista Haynes from the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. This national nonprofit organization promotes preventive medicine. For informative breaking medical news, you may visit their Web site: www.pcrm.org.

“The purpose of the [Wellness Conference] is to bring in world class speakers to inspire, educate and motivate the attendees to initiate change or to be encouraged to maintain the changes they have already begun to make,” shared Susan Landess, director of Indiana Healthy Choices. “Each year we have witnessed lives that have been truly blessed by attending this event.”

The conference was made possible by local hospitals and organizations that support Indiana Healthy Choices, an



After following what they learned at the conference, several months later Joe and Jacquie Womack report they are very pleased with the improvements to their health.

initiative of the Indiana Conference created through grant funding four years ago by Adventist Health System. The Third Annual Heartland Health & Wellness Conference will be held Sept. 16 and 17. For more information, visit www.lifestyle4health.org.

Judith Yeoman, correspondent,
Indiana Conference



From left: To raise funds for their upcoming mission trip to Costa Rica, Anna Muhs, Michelle Wilson, Bryante Downey and Heather Brockett coordinated a Mystery Dinner and Silent Auction.

Creative fundraiser delights crowd

Illinois—Suspense, intrigue, laughter and fun filled the evening as a group of youth from the Noble District (Noble, Fairfield, Stewardson and Mattoon) hosted a Mystery Dinner and Silent Auction to raise funds for their upcoming mission trip to Costa Rica (with other youth from the Illinois Conference). Heather Brockett, Christina Michelle Wilson, Anna Muhs and Bry-

ante Downey put together the special evening, which included a three-course meal amid tropical decor.

The real fun was had while trying to eat, as no one knew exactly what they were going to get when they placed their order—and utensils were anything but ordinary! Forks could be won—if you were fortunate enough to guess some of the Spanish words on the menu, or knew which one of the youth has two different-size feet or was attacked by a rooster—but they were not freely given. Everyone willingly participated in trying to eat soup with a straw, salad with a toothpick, or linguine with a knife.

Bobby Gage, one of the attendees, said, “I’m glad to see them raising money to go to Costa Rica. I hope they have a good time and teach a lot of kids about Jesus.”

His wife Katrina Gage said, “We had a wonderful time. The kids did a really good job. Bobby put some extra money in the tip jar for them!”

It was definitely a unique experience as Helen and Clyde Liston relay, “It was different, but fun!”

Diners and major auction bidders Peggy and Frank Totten declared, “We



Mallory Clark willingly participated in the fun of eating her soup with a straw. Utensils could be won, but were not freely given.

had a good time. The kids did a great job. It was wonderful!”

The fun paid off; the total revenue for the evening was \$603.30, which amounted to about \$120 for each after expenses were deducted. Each young person is really excited and looks forward to their mission experience in Costa Rica this August!

Samantha Nelson, correspondent,
Noble District

[WORLD CHURCH NEWS]



GC Session Offering lights a ‘Path of Hope’

Every five years, when our church holds its General Conference Session, an offering is collected to support special mission projects around the world. Past General Conference Session offerings—such as Adventist World Radio (Guam), the 10/40 Window, and Hope for Big Cities—have given countless people an

opportunity to learn about Jesus. The 2010 offering will help light a path of hope along an ancient road. Gifts given will help reach hearts in this challenging mission field through education, media and literature, Global Mission pioneers and tentmakers*, health and family ministries, and humanitarian care.

For centuries a vast network of trade routes linked Europe and Asia, the East and West. Called the “Silk Road,” it was named for the lucrative Chinese silk trade that began during the Han Empire. Today, this ancient route marks a path where Christianity is hardly known—vast cities with few or no Adventist believers, whole regions with no Christian congregations. This path travels through places such as China, Central Asia, the Middle East, Turkey, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, where millions have never heard the name of Jesus.

On May 29, many Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America provided an opportunity to support the General Conference Session Offering. If you missed the special offering or won’t be attending the General Conference Session, you may mark “GC Session Offering” on your offering envelope the next time you are in church, or you may give online at www.gcsession.adventistmission.org.

To learn more about the General Conference Session taking place June 23–July 3 in Atlanta, Ga., visit www.gcsession.org.

Source: www.gcsession.adventistmission.org, adapted

*Tentmakers are Christians who function as ministers with little or no pay while supporting themselves with additional unrelated work.

[UNION NEWS]



Hunter Penn (right) presents a check to Bruce Wickwire, CFO, Adventist Frontier Missions.

Young boys impressed by mission stories, collect donations

Who can predict the power of small things? Who can measure the impact of a divinely appointed meeting on a young heart and the amazing blessings that follow?

Hunter and Nathan Penn are the eight-year-old sons of Robert and Esther Penn of Hendersonville, N.C. The Penns are monthly supporters of Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) missionaries in India. Each month when *Adventist Frontiers* magazine arrived in the mail, Hunter and Nathan search through it for their missionary family. The seeds of mission support were planted in their hearts and began to grow.

In May 2009, Esther and the boys

attended the Carolina Camp Meeting. Greg and Molly Timmins, AFM missionaries to Southeast Asia, also happened to be there. Nathan and Hunter were delighted to meet the Timmins children, Hannah and Caleb, at the children's programs. Greg and Molly told mission stories to the children by day and described mission challenges to the adults by night. The Timminses' stories greatly impressed the boys, and Hunter decided to collect money for their mission project. Nathan was his first contributor—four dollars. During the next week or so, Hunter gathered \$45 for the Timminses' work.

Esther and the boys drove north to attend the Michigan Camp Meeting, planning to drop the donation off at AFM's headquarters in Berrien Springs, Mich. Imagine their joy when they bumped into the Timmins family again at the Michigan Camp Meeting! Hunter was able to present his offering to Molly in person.

When Hunter and Nathan opened the October issue of *Adventist Frontiers*, they turned to Greg Timmins' article and read, "We were blessed to meet a young boy with a similar passion for missions who decided to visit several members of his church to raise funds for our project. The Lord blessed his efforts, enabling him to raise \$45. We wish you could have seen his beaming face as he handed over his sacred trust to Molly."

"Mom!" Hunter called, "I want to raise \$1,000 for the Timmins family!"

Hunter has some speech and muscular challenges and sees a therapist regularly. On his next visit, he told his therapist of his dream to raise \$1,000. She was impressed with his commitment and decided to help make it happen. Hunter's therapy consists of eight daily stretching exercises. They are painful, and it's hard for him to do them faithfully. His therapist made an exercise chart on which he would get a star for each exercise he did. She suggested he send out letters inviting

family, neighbors, friends and church members to sponsor him for every star he earned in three months through January 2010. Responses flooded in, and Hunter soldiered through his exercises.

On Mar. 3, the Penn family arrived at the AFM office in Berrien Springs. During AFM's morning office worship time, John Kent, the Timminses' field director, placed an Internet call to them, and Hunter beamed as he told them how much he had raised for their mission—\$2,751.89! Greg and Molly were utterly amazed.

And that wasn't all. That morning Hunter got another \$100 donation. Also, an anonymous donor who had heard Hunter's story pledged to top off Hunter's total to an even \$3,000.

Just as important as the fundraising was the answer Hunter gave on a school worksheet: "When I grow up, I want to be an AFM missionary."

It has been said, "Giant oaks from little acorns grow," and Hunter's story proves it to be true.

Please follow Hunter's example. Consider what you can do today to bless the ministry of missionaries to the unreached.

Marilyn Bauer, member,
Pioneer Memorial Church

To learn more about AFM call 1-800-937-4236 or visit www.afmonline.org.



Hunter Penn (left) and Nathan Penn (right), along with their parents Robert and Esther Penn, are monthly supporters of AFM missionaries in India.

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.

Obituaries

ARTIS, Sally L. (Seeney), age 71; born Aug. 17, 1938, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Apr. 6, 2010, in Battle Creek. She was a member of the Berean Church, Battle Creek.

Survivors include her husband, Kenneth; sons, Jeffrey and Terral; brother, Robert Hurd; sisters, Beverley Phipps, Bonnie Allison and Barbara Sheppard; and six grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Farai Nhiwatiwa, and inurnment was in Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich.

BARRETT, M. Irene (Curtis), age 100; born May 21, 1909, in Edmore, Mich.; died Dec. 28, 2009, in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was a member of the Grand Rapids Central Church.

Survivors include her sons, Eldean and Merrill; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Kevin Barrett, and interment was in Edmore Cemetery.

BELL, Alene M. (McKinney) Crump, Mad-dox, age 99; born Jan. 15, 1910, in Sardis, Miss.; died Nov. 20, 2009, in Gary, Ind. She was a member of the Mizpah Church, Gary.

Survivors include her daughter, Diane Powe.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Leander Gilliam, and interment was in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Hobart, Ind.

BROWN, Irene (Leflore), age 75; born June 17, 1934, in Minter, Miss.; died Mar. 17, 2010, in Milwaukee, Wis. She was a member of the Milwaukee Sharon Church.

Survivors include her husband, Robert; sons, Robert M. and Tobias T.; daughter, Susie L. Harris; sisters, Willie Ruth Reese and Mildred Leflore; and 11 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Anthony Kelly, and interment was in Graceland Cemetery, Milwaukee.

BRUMFIELD, William R., age 88; born May 4, 1921, in Pierce, Colo.; died Feb. 13, 2010, in Denver, Colo. He was a member of the Madison, Wis. (1967-1987), and Rockford, Ill. (1993-2004), Churches.

Survivors include his daughter, RaeNell Mittleider; and two grandchildren.

Interment was in Ft. Morgan (Colo.) Cemetery.

DOELLNER, Margaret (McAuliffe), age 81; born June 22, 1928, in Flint, Mich.; died Mar. 14, 2010, in Flint. She was a member of the South Flint Church, Burton, Mich.

Survivors include her sons, Christopher, Gregory and Thomas; daughters, Delynne Cullen and Kathleen Robart; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Christopher Ames, and interment was in Sunset Hills Cemetery, Flint.

EALY, Evart P., age 71; born Jan. 6, 1939, in Marion, Mich.; died Mar. 14, 2010, in Temple, Mich. He was a member of the Clare (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his daughters, Marilyn Purple, Shari Ann McCreary, Carolyn Lake and Rachel Oxentincio; father, Perry A. Ealy; mother, Mary G. (Keller) Ealy; brother, Donald J.; sister, Agnes Ealy; and 10 grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Russell C. Thomas, with private inurnment.

FOWLER, Alma L. (Gallaher), age 83; born Aug. 9, 1926, in Huntington, W.Va.; died Apr. 7, 2010, in Grand Blanc, Mich. She was a member of the South Flint Church, Burton, Mich.

Survivors include her three step-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Bob Seath, with private inurnment.

GLIDDEN, OnaLee (Cimmerer), age 81; born Sept. 12, 1928, in Flint, Mich.; died Mar. 20, 2010, in Millington, Mich. She was a member of the First Flint Church.

Survivors include her husband, Arnold; sons, Paul and Phillip; daughter, Connie Ross; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Private services took place.

HINTON, Linda Joy, age 47; born Oct. 30, 1962, in Minton, Neb.; died Mar. 11, 2010, in Hinsdale, Ill. She was a member of the Hinsdale Church.

Survivors include her father, Chester Hinton; and brother, Steven Hinton.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Larry Schneider, with private inurnment, Yakima, Wash.

KURZ, Edna W. (Bangert), age 100; born Aug. 17, 1909, in Bethalto, Ill.; died Mar. 25, 2010, in Dearborn Heights, Mich. She was a member of the Detroit Metropolitan Church, Plymouth, Mich.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bob Stewart, and interment was in St. James Cemetery, Ft. Russell, Ill.

OLSON, Alice M. "Midge" (Thompson), age 88; born Jan. 14, 1922, in Colman, S.D.; died Feb. 25, 2010, in Clarkston, Wash. She was a member of the Battle Creek (Mich.) Tabernacle and taught at Battle Creek Academy.

Survivors include her son, David Olson; daughters, Ronnalee Netteburg and Rebecca Gardner; sisters, Lela Cronk and Marteena Bakke; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial Services were conducted by Bill Smith, and inurnment will be in Standifer Gap Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tenn., later this summer.

PURDUE, Barbara L., age 76; born Feb. 28, 1933, in Evansville, Ind.; died Feb. 19, 2010, in Noblesville, Ind. She was a mem-

ber of the Glendale Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

Survivors include her brothers, E. Eugene and H. Herschel Purdue; and sister, Mary M. Purdue.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Paul Yeoman, and inurnment was in Parklawn Cemetery, Evansville.

RUSSELL, James E., age 73; born June 3, 1936, in Glasgow, Ky.; died Feb. 21, 2010, in West Lafayette, Ind. He was a member of the Lafayette Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Clinton Meharry, and interment was in Springvale Cemetery, Lafayette.

SCHERENCEL, Ronald L., age 84; born Jan. 18, 1926, in Coopersville, Mich.; died Feb. 13, 2010, in Spring Lake, Mich. He was a member of the Wright Church, Coopersville.

Survivors include his sons, Randy, Donald and David; daughter, Rhonda Caldwell; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ron Mills, and interment was in Maple Hill Cemetery, Marne, Mich.

SIEPMAN, Arlene E. (Ainslie), age 73; born July 29, 1936, in Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia; died Feb. 13, 2010, in Cedar Lake, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her daughter, Millene "Sietie" Heslop; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Arne Swanson, with private inurnment.

SMITH, Henry W., age 80; born July 20, 1929, in Detroit, Mich.; died Mar. 21, 2010, in Angola, Ind. He was a member of the Angola Church.

Survivors include his wife, Paula (Kruse); sons Gary and Bruce; daughter, Jeananne Hensley; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Pastor Arlin Cochran, and interment was in Circle Hill Cemetery, Angola.

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

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God and Indiana Academy Changed My Life

School Notes

Several years ago I would not have imagined I would be standing in a baptistry in the Adventist church in Duitama, Colombia. My journey started when I was 17 with a desire to learn English in the United States. Though not a Seventh-day Adventist, my mother decided to speak to our cousin, Rosita Espinosa, who lives in Chicago, about attending an Adventist school in the States. She suggested that Indiana Academy (IA) would be a great school for me.

Going to IA was one of the best experiences of my life. Not only was I warmly accepted, I made great friends, learned English and found a deep connection with my Savior and God. Previously I believed in God, but I did not know the full Bible truth and His great love for me. I believe God directed me to IA, and it seemed like only a short time passed before it was graduation

and time to return home.

It was wonderful to see my family and friends again, but things were different. God had changed my heart, and my beliefs and goals were different now. The Adventist church in my hometown welcomed me with open arms. As time passed, I desired to give my heart fully to Jesus and asked to be baptized.

I was surprised and so thankful that the Espinosa family from Chicago and Larry McConnell from the Cicero Church arrived for my baptism! My family joined me in church for my baptism and now some have decided they should come to church.

I thank God for all His blessings and for all the wonderful people at IA and the Cicero Church who supported me.

Laura Parra, Duitama, Colombia, as told to Allan Smith, development director, Indiana Academy



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

Women's Ministries Fall Retreat is **Sept. 10-12** at the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park with guest speaker Carolyn Henry-Hurst. To register, contact Tammy Begley at 317-919-5318 or tammy.begley@gmail.com.

Heartland Health & Wellness Conference is **Sept. 16-17** with guest speakers Hans Diehl, Gwen Foster, George Guthrie and Chef Mark Anthony. Registration fee includes dinner Thursday evening, and breakfast and lunch on Friday with Chef Mark Anthony. For information or to register, contact Susan Landess at 765-621-7557, or visit the Indiana Healthy Choices Web site at lifestyle4health.org.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Jun 5** Local Church Budget
- Jun 12** Multilingual Ministries/
Chaplaincy Ministries
- Jun 19** Local Church Budget
- Jun 26** Local Conference Advance

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

- Jun 26** Euro-Africa Division

Special Days

- Jun 12** Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

Michigan

Grand Ledge Academy Reunion will be held **June 20** at William Burchfield Park in Holt, Mich., from 1:00-7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Cheryl (Dolph) Vaughn at 517-256-4626 or e-mail cvaughn55@yahoo.com. Other details can be found on Facebook, Grand Ledge Academy Group.

Holly Chapter of Adelpian Academy Alumni Association will meet **July 10**. THIS IS A NEW DATE due to General Conference Session and Michigan Camp Meeting. The 50-year class of 1960, under the direction of Duane Lemon, is leading out in the activities for the weekend. The event will take place at Holly Academy. Honored classes are 1950, '45 and '40. For further information, contact Duane Lemon at dlemon98@aol.com, Norm Wilson at NDW242@aol.com or Peggy Hoffmeyer at peggyhoffmeyer@yahoo.com. Come and renew old friendships.

North American Division

The Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians 2010 Conference, "Libraries 2020: Visioning and Planning for the Next Decade," will be held **June 16-21** at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala. Librarians of all specialties are invited to visit <http://www.asdal.org> for conference information. You may also contact Joel Lutes by e-mail at jlutes@puc.edu, or phone 707-965-6674.

The Madison College Alumni Homecoming, June 18-20, will honor the classes of 1940, '45, '50, '55 and '60, and those attending. Weekend includes Friday evening, Sabbath and Sunday breakfast, and will be held at the Madison Academy campus. For more

information, contact Jim Culpepper, secretary/treasurer, at 615-654-3311.

59th General Conference Session: "A General Conference Session is a unique occasion. There is no moment in the life of the Church which demonstrates so vividly—so tangibly—the extraordinary way God's Spirit is moving among us. ... Through these gatherings we powerfully affirm that we are one people, united in faith and bound by our shared desire to be instruments of God's purpose in the world" (Jan Paulsen, G.C. president). You are invited to attend this 59th General Conference Session from **Wednesday, June 23, through Sabbath, July 3**, at the Atlanta, Ga., World Congress Center and Georgia Dome. For more information on hotels, food service, exhibits, schedules, etc., visit www.gcsession.org.

Join the 'Adventist Race for Health 5/10K' Sunday, **June 27**, 7:00 a.m., during G.C. Session at Centennial Park in Atlanta, Ga. For information and to sign up, visit www.AdventistRaceForHealth.org. Walkers enjoy the In-Step trail Friday, **June 25**, and Monday through Thursday, **June 27-July 1**, 7:00 a.m., at the fountains also in Centennial Olympic Park.

Amateur Radio Operators: The quinquennial business and fellowship meeting of the Adventist Amateur Radio Association International will be held **June 27**, at 2:00 p.m., in room

B-317 (Building B), in connection with the General Conference Session in Atlanta. All radio amateurs are welcome to attend. Visit us during the session in the exhibit area, booth 1738, Adventist World Aviation. For more information, contact Jim Hoffer, KW8T, secretary-treasurer, at kw8t@myactv.net, or visit www.aarai.org.

Wisconsin

6th Annual Cruisin' for Christ Wisconsin Academy Motorcycle Rally: Celebrate God's creation from two wheels, **Friday, July 23 to Sunday, July 25**. Join other Christian bike enthusiasts riding through the country roads of Richland Center, Wis. For more information about the rally and the fees, visit www.Cruisin4Christ.org. Fellowship with new friends and old neighbors.



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Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jun 4	Jun 11	Jun 18	Jun 25	Jul 2	Jul 9
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:15	9:19	9:22	9:23	9:23	9:21
Chicago, Ill.	8:21	8:25	8:28	8:30	8:29	8:28
Detroit, Mich.	9:04	9:08	9:11	9:13	9:13	9:11
Indianapolis, Ind.	9:08	9:13	9:16	9:17	9:17	9:15
La Crosse, Wis.	8:42	8:47	8:50	8:51	8:51	8:49
Lansing, Mich.	9:11	9:16	9:19	9:20	9:20	9:18
Madison, Wis.	8:32	8:37	8:40	8:41	8:41	8:38
Springfield, Ill.	8:22	8:26	8:29	8:31	8:31	8:29

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

An Intimate Relationship

BY GARY BURNS



The speaker at a ministers retreat asked a question that evoked a nervous and silent response: "What is the primary organ of intimacy?" The speaker finally answered his own question matter-of-factly: "It's the ear."

Our speaker was Winton Beaven, a master communicator who had become my mentor and friend. His insights taught me a lot about my relationship with my wife, and my relationship with God.

To give one's self to listen, without reservation or distraction, is a selfless and intimate gesture. We share the private and precious essence of our very being through audible intercourse.

I'm reading through the Bible again, and this morning I came to the Song of Solomon. Many have debated whether this book is an example of godly erotica or simply a metaphor for God's relation-

ship with us, His bride. I believe it is both. It affirms what God designed and created in the Garden as an essential blessing for Adam and Eve's relationship, while at the same time revealing an even greater truth: God intends to have an intimate and passionate relationship with us. But, how?

My fifth-grade teacher's sweet grandmother put it this way, "If we come to (God) in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 668).

Now that goes beyond a partnership—that's an intimate relationship.

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

My Favorite Spelling Bee

BY MICHELLE WILSON

My Bible study with six little neighborhood girls had finished, and two of them, Dahlia and Meghan*, asked if I would help them with their homework that evening over at “my church.” I immediately agreed to the proposition.

I am a Bible worker for four churches in central/southern Illinois. As a 19-year-old college student, I had plans of majoring in English and minoring in History; the plans came to an abrupt standstill in the summer of 2009 when God called me into Bible work. Suddenly, I found myself knocking on doors to speak with many elderly folks who seemed to minor in English and major in History.

Since then, as I have gradually acclimated to a vocation that I never planned to undertake, I have learned to appreciate the older people’s stories; and I have learned to use whatever technique presents itself when winning the confidence of young people and their parents for Bible studies—even if that means helping the kids do their homework.

As I led the girls on a tour of the church, it was one of those days when I almost wished to trade for another noxious college English assignment. While I didn’t doubt God had given me this assignment, sometimes I missed the predictable routine of simply attending class, doing the work and getting my grade. Now I was doing the work, but I was never quite sure of my grade.

While Dahlia was down the hall on a bathroom break, Meghan strictly forbade me from coming into the Sabbath school room where she was experimenting with the chalkboard. Complying, I stood out in the hall and waited on both girls.



“How do you spell your name?” came a query from somewhere near the chalkboard.

“M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E,” I explained.

Silence.

“How do you spell God?” the voice questioned me again.

I inched toward the door.

Meghan caught me. “No, you can’t look!”

Stifling my curiosity, I dictated slowly for the first grader, “G-O-D.”

Silence.

“Okay, you can look now!” called the grinning voice near the chalkboard.

Stepping nearer to the doorway, I read the message carefully printed in bright chalk: “I love Michelle and God.” Just five words, only one sentence, but they etched themselves in my brain more permanently than on the chalkboard.

When it seems like my work is hollow, my efforts shriveling with my heart in the biting Illinois wind, I recall a sentence, drawn on a chalkboard in childish innocence and fancy a small voice asking, “How do you spell God?”

Those are the times I feel like God has given me back an assignment graded “A,” but I smile because I know it was a group project, and He did most of the work.

Michelle Wilson is a Bible worker in the Illinois Conference, serving the Mattoon, Stewardson, Noble and Fairfield Churches. She is a member of the Springfield (Missouri) Church.

*Not their real names.

Andrew Roderick is a recent graduate of Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA). He is the son of Steve and Kathy Roderick of Edmore, Michigan. Andrew is also an active member of the Cedar Lake Church.

Rising above a life-changing health challenge through God's strength, Andrew learned a valuable lesson: "Trust God with everything in my life and it will turn out right." Andrew was able to even fulfill his life-long dream of being on the *Aerokhanas* gymnastics team his senior year.

"Andrew Roderick was truly one of our premier students," says Arlene Leavitt, assistant development director. "His positive, spiritual influence was widespread, and many students and staff were blessed by his presence on our campus."

Andrew often led out in music, playing his guitar or singing, and was chosen as a speaker for Student Week of Prayer. Andrew was public relations officer for Adventist Youth For Better Living and class pastor his junior and senior years.

Andrew stood among the top ten in his class, was a member of the National Honor Society and achieved a four-year perfect attendance record. Technical Drawing and Calculus were Andrew's favorite classes. He plans to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering at Andrews University, and then earn a Master's in aerospace or alternative energy.



Andrew Roderick



Kari Williams

Kari Williams was a four-year senior at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA). She is the daughter of Steve and Cheryl Williams of Edmore, Michigan, and is a member of the Cedar Lake Church.

Kari seeks out those who need encouragement, a friend, a prayer or just a cheerful smile. "While at GLAA, I learned how to be an active listener and that you must change yourself—you cannot change others. I also learned to have a positive attitude, and that complaining accomplishes nothing," says Kari. God's love shines through her as she ministers everywhere she goes.

Shirley Gammon, vice principal, says, "Kari prays at the drop of a hat. Any challenge that comes is a call to prayer. She truly is a prayer warrior."

On her first mission trip to the Dominican Republic, Keri moved out of her comfort zone to preach sermons and give health talks. Kari was president of Adventist Youth For Better Living at GLAA this past year, making an impact for health on campus.

Kari's favorite class was Leadership. She says, "We learned how to practice the concepts of servant leadership from our ultimate example, Jesus." Kari played flute in the orchestra four years, participated in outreach programs, was a member of the National Honor Society and achieved a four-year perfect attendance record.

Kari plans to attend Andrews University to pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

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

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