



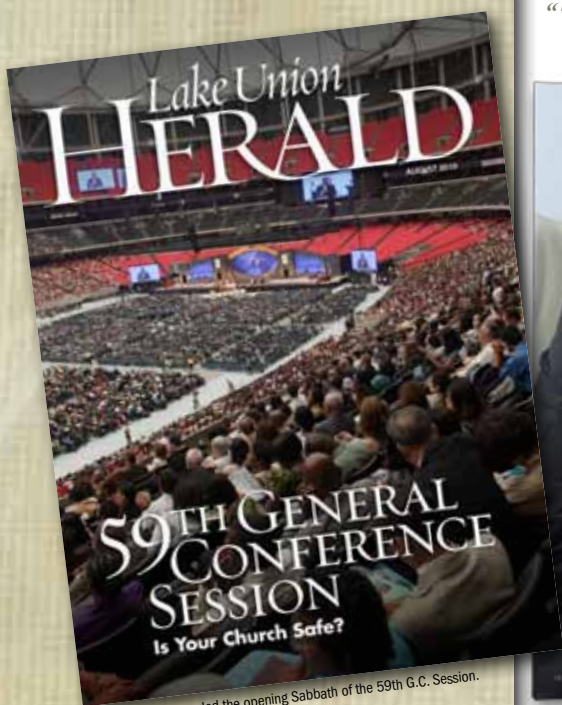
Lake Union HERALD

AUGUST 2010

59TH GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

Is Your Church Safe?

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



Nearly 40,000 attended the opening Sabbath of the 59th G.C. Session. Photo by Gary Burns.



In every issue...

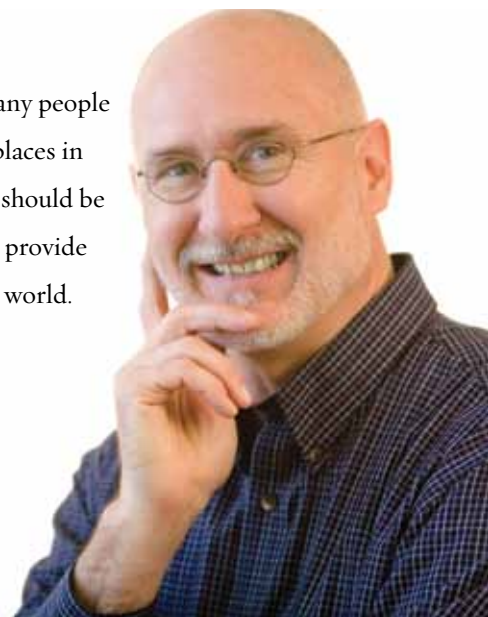
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In this issue...

What the world needs now is love. For many people that simply means "a safe place." Of all the places in the world, our churches, schools and homes should be the safest. This issue focuses on how we can provide safety and security to a violent and troubled world.



Gary Burns, Editor



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The *Lake Union Herald* (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, MI, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$9.00. Vol. 102, No. 8. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: *Lake Union Herald*, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.



Is Your Church a Sanctuary?

Pick a place and describe the climate: Arizona—hot and dry; Portland, Oregon—rainy; Florida—sunny and often humid; Alaska—cold; Hawaii—warm and balmy. How about the climate descriptors of your home, workplace or church? Warm, friendly, vibrant, spiritual, godly—pretty good place to be. Maybe your personal reality brings other less positive thoughts—cold, distant, cliquish, hostile or even unsafe.

We often refer to churches as the “sanctuary.” Some synonyms for sanctuary include: refuge, shelter, safe haven, a place of safety. The best churches are not only active in vibrant mission with wonderful relationships but also places where it is safe. The positive climate of a church may not be everything but it is foundational to everything.

SPIRITUAL SAFETY: It is ironic that the most righteous person to ever live on Earth made sinners feel safe. Jesus was sinless, yet the crowds who followed Him were often comprised of people referred to as sinners. Jesus called His followers to the highest level of spiritual function; He called for pure internal motives and thoughts, not just good behaviors. Yet, He did so in a way that was so spiritually safe that religious outcasts were drawn to Him. Every church must always be a spiritual sanctuary for those who understand their need of God.

EMOTIONAL SAFETY: When the disciples were arguing about who would be the greatest in the new kingdom, they were engaging in a power struggle. Conflict, whether in the home, office or church, is almost always about power. Whenever someone is attempting to gain or keep control of others, emotional safety is lost. Eugene Peterson puts it this way in his introduction to II Corinthians in *The Message Bible*: “Because leadership is necessarily an exercise of authority, it easily shifts into an exercise of power. But the minute it does that, it begins to inflict damage on both the leader and the led.”

Maybe you have observed some fairly predictable and common behaviors of controlling people: Manipulation—often using intimidation, martyrdom; not respectful of people’s feelings or boundaries; inconsistent standards for themselves versus others; overreaction to another’s action at an inappropriate level; misuse of inspired authority; deflection to avoid accepting responsibility—transfers guilt away from own actions; denial or minimization of events and facts—twist facts; focus on a technicality instead of principle.

Warning: If you use this list to control a controller, you’ve just engaged in controlling behavior. Instead, use this information to help people and groups create and maintain a safe emotional climate. We all spiritually grow in emotionally safe places.

PHYSICAL SAFETY: This goes beyond fixing sidewalks and slippery floors in the church building. We must look for the best procedures to minimize the threat of sexual violation of our children and maintain general safety in travel and recreational activities. Most abusive behaviors take place away from the church grounds, but we must seek to avoid all violations against people. There are times when it is appropriate to allow law enforcement to deal with abusive issues, and learn how to avoid re-victimizing those already injured.

At times it takes a lot of courage to insist that church and school boards, and church family and relationships are safe. I am glad God is in the business of giving courage to His people.



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Living the Christian Life

BY EDNA HOLLENBECK AS TOLD TO GARY BURNS

I was born in Napoleon, North Dakota, to German immigrants who came from Russia in 1911 on the *Kaiser Wilhelm* ship.

My father's uncle invited him to attend some Seventh-day Adventist meetings, and he and my mother became Seventh-day Adventists.

I was just one year old when my parents moved from Napoleon to a farm near Streeter, North Dakota. My brother was the oldest and the only boy in the family, so us girls pitched hay, cut hay, raked hay and did all kinds of farm work.

My father was a hard-working man, and always kind and gentle. After supper he sat quietly for awhile, or sometimes walked around. Pretty soon he would sit down and tell each one of us what we were to do for the next day's work. He had it all planned out. He would tell each one, "You do this and you do that."

From little on we were taught stories from the Bible and we prayed. I don't know when my faith became a personal relationship for me. It just seems like it always was. We had worship together every morning. In the evening, it was not as easy to have worship together because we farmed and there was milking to do. The youngest had to be to bed earlier, so Mom always prayed with the little ones and she talked with them as she got them ready for bed. She was always kind and loving and put us to bed with a kiss.

When I was 14 years old, Dad wanted me to go and cut hay by myself at a field five miles from our house. I had to take the sickle with me and put it in the mower, grease the mower and hitch the horses.



Mead-Pusell-Denver

I especially enjoyed riding. We raised cattle, and in the fall we had to herd the cows out in the fields. Even on Sabbath they had to be taken care of. I'd take my lunch with me and the rest went to church. We took turns doing that.

All four of my sisters are still living. My oldest sister Leona Miller lives in Streeter and will be 90 in August. Before her husband passed away, they built a house just for them on the family ranch. She now lives there alone near her son.

Next is Elvina Hidesman. She and her husband live in McClusky, North Dakota. Her husband injured his shoulder when his sleeve got caught in the tractor's power takeoff. They have three children.

I'm the middle one and the tallest—quite a bit taller than the rest. I don't know why.

Next is Eldina Heinrich, living in Jamestown, North Dakota. Her husband just passed away about a year or so ago.

My youngest sister just turned 80 in February. Her husband lost an arm while chopping corn. When her little girl was just two or three she was coming out of the barn, just as my sister was backing up the truck to load hay. The boys yelled, "Mom, Donna is caught!" She moved the truck forward quickly, and then Donna dropped down. Her head had been crushed. You could tell that it was elongated. They rushed her to the Jamestown hospital, and they sent her directly to Fargo, [North Dakota], for surgery. Donna is



now a nurse and a mother and is doing beautifully. Somehow, I think it brought them closer to the Lord. That's what tragedies usually do.

How do I see God? Well, God is my loving Father. I don't have an earthly father anymore, so God is my heavenly Father; and I have the privilege to communicate with Him anytime I want to, day or night.

My husband and I met in Colorado where I got my nurses training. God must have had His hand in the two of us coming together, because he was a wonderful man. We had a good marriage and raised four children—two sons and two daughters. I have eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

When my husband passed away in 1999, we had been married a little more than 50 years. I was quite lonely. I moved to Bessemer, Michigan, to live with my son, Monty, and his wife, Winona, for two or three months until I found out about this house. One evening, we came here to look it over. I said to Monty and Winona, "I don't know what to do, because my husband was usually good at making decisions. We just have to pray about it." So we stood in the kitchen and held hands and asked God to guide in my decision-making. Later, we met with the real estate person and I made a bid that was accepted. Later, she told me that the owner had received an offer quite a bit higher than what I had given him and he said, "I can't do this to that woman." So he honored my offer. I have appreciated that.

I read my Bible morning and evening and have my prayer. I don't function without it. I just started reading the Bible through. I've done it a number of times. I've read most of Ellen White's books and some I have re-read.

I'm writing to three prisoners. One says he's glad he's been incarcerated because that's where he found Christ. He writes the nicest letters. They all do. So I've gotten [Ellen]

White's books for them. After reading *The Great Controversy*, one guy said, "I love it, I love it, I love it!" He just couldn't get over that kind of book. He said that it shows him how his brothers and sisters suffered through the Reformation, through the persecutions and all. He calls them his "brothers and sisters!"

These prisoners are so lonesome and need people to communicate with them. I enjoy their letters. They uplift me. I try to write encouraging words and tell them about my garden, things that I do and the music I like. Then I ask them about different things. I had mentioned that Jesus is coming soon, and this one guy, Lizardo, said, "When we get to Heaven I want to give you a big hug!" So I've got a hug promised.

We have a friendly church. It started small, but some years ago Maranatha came and built on to it, and now we have a beautiful sanctuary. We didn't used to have any children either but now we do. They're the life of the party. I feel at home here now.

Every Monday morning, several of the women gather in my home for prayer. We talk about different things we need to pray for and situations that come up, and then we spend a good half-hour in prayer together for God's blessing. I look forward to it. We just all enjoy being together.

I feel that I don't have much to offer, but I guess it's more than I realize. That's what Winona says, "Mom, you do more than you think you do."

I feel that God is with me. Before my husband passed away, he was afraid he didn't have enough saved up for me for the rest of my life. I said, "Don't worry, honey. God will take care of me." And He has.

Edna Hollenbeck is a member of the Bessemer Church in Michigan; Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference.



Young Teachers

BY DIANE THURBER

Daniel Czaja, a professional photographer, recently interviewed South Bend Junior Academy (SBJA) elementary students about the effects of smoking. They are engaging, informative teachers.

Daniel's pastor, Throstur Thordarson, participated in a health summit where he discussed a fundamental anti-smoking campaign strategy with Indiana's State Health Commissioner and other state officials. That led to Throstur's invitation to join in planning "Kick Butts Day 2010" in Indiana, a national campaign for tobacco-free kids (see <http://kickbuttsday.org>). Throstur knew Daniel had a cinematography background, and so he asked him to become involved. Daniel says, he "let me run with the ideas I brought to the table."

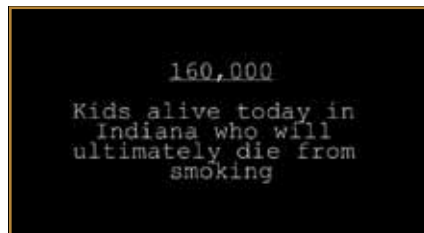
The students learned the harmful effects of smoking in class the week prior to Daniel's visits with them, so they were ready to share what they learned. After approximately 20 hours researching, interviewing, setting up, filming and editing the students' comments, Daniel posted the video on YouTube, which he says "gives many instant access."

The clip begins with facts: Indiana has the nation's second highest rate of smoking; 21.9% of high school students in Indiana smoke; approximately 35,500 kids try smoking each year in Indiana; 16.1 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by kids in Indiana each year; 420,000 kids in Indiana are exposed to second-hand smoke at home; and there are 160,000 kids alive today in Indiana who will ultimately die from smoking.*

Next, the children tell what they know about smoking. The first girl says, "I know smoking can hurt your lungs, and one lung could stop working."

The second boy adds, "Well, your heart could stop beating."

A third testifies, "It does bad things to your throat; it makes your lungs black."



160,000
Kids alive today in
Indiana who will
ultimately die from
smoking

The second boy returns to add, "And then you fall down and it's like you're dead. Smoking can kill you."

Other students comment candidly about how smoking affects athletes and those who exercise.

Steve Leucke, South Bend's mayor, viewed the video at SBJA on Kicks Butts Day 2010. Students also planned various activities for the special day.

Daniel hears that "most enjoy the video and support the message, along with finding the format of a very important message entertaining and amusing." He says, "I've had many thank me for my work, and some have asked how I came up with the idea; others want to get involved with more projects with the church."

Through this, Daniel has learned that "children are amazing! They'll tell you the truth without second-guessing. Children have a God-given ability to get an adult's attention, even to a message that has been heard many times before or that is hard to hear, and they take it to heart."

Daniel says, "I just hope those who see the video can take to heart the message about the harmful effects of smoking ... on them, but also others around them—especially children who can't escape the presence of a smoking parent. I hope those who are smoking will quit not only for their own health, but the rest of us as well. Children are the victims of smoking parents."

To view the video clip, visit <http://tinyurl.com/36g33wt>.

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

*The filmmaker obtained these statistics from multiple Web sites with publications of research done by Indiana University, Purdue and the State of Indiana.



Signs of Hope

BY MICHELLE OETMAN

The moment I got the call, I knew what I would do. Just months before I'd moved back from overseas, ending an 11-year career with the Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA). But as I watched scenes from the Haiti earthquake on TV, I found it frustrating to not be part of a response. So when ADRA called and asked, "Can you go?" I was on the plane two days later.

Once airborne, the captain said he wanted to say something to the aid workers and search and rescue teams that filled his flight. He made it clear this was not from American Airlines or its subsidiaries but just from an "old Scottish pilot," then thoughtfully recited the perfect Irish blessing for what was ahead of me...

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

*May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields,*

until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

ADRA's been in Haiti for nearly 30 years, and thankfully its office and warehouse withstood the quake. During the three-and-a-half months I spent in Haiti, ADRA's response included water, food, health care, post-trauma activities, sanitation, shelter and other items like cooking kits, solar lights, tents and tarps. Now ADRA is focusing on building homes and creating livelihood activities for survivors.

Most activities were targeted to the 4,500 families who frantically scrambled onto the grounds of Haiti Adventist University, located next to the ADRA office, forming an impromptu Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camp out of makeshift shelters.

Aid workers returning from Haiti often find it difficult to talk about their experience. I'll always remember the first body I saw lying abandoned beside our traffic lane, the shoes attached to feet sticking out of crushed buildings, the nearly decimated city center and the people sleeping on sectioned-



Michelle Oetman

One out of eight children in Haiti die before age five. ADRA helps alleviate poverty through education, livelihood opportunities, health care, and securing food and water.

off lanes of the road from ADRA's office; listening to one of our staff retell horrifying moments as he and I stood on the rubble of the home where the friend who was sitting next to him when the earthquake struck died; the compassionate newlyweds caring for 18 earthquake orphans from their neighborhood; and two precocious girls I interviewed who reminded me that many kids here live without even one toy.

Haiti is still in trauma. Haiti is the least-developed country in the Western Hemisphere and one of the poorest in the world. One out of eight children die before they reach the age of five. Unemployment is nearly 80 percent; 54 percent live on less

than \$1 a day, and 46 percent do not have access to potable water. That's made me more passionate about the primary work of ADRA—alleviating poverty through education, livelihood opportunities, health care, and securing food and water.

As I was leaving I found signs of hope: children were back in school and our warehouse, formerly full of emergency supplies, now is stocked with lumber and tools for rebuilding homes, employing people who can now meet their own needs. So, to the Haiti I've left behind I repeat the words that welcomed me: "... until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

For information about ADRA's work to alleviate poverty or to make a donation visit www.adra.org.

Michelle Oetman returned a year ago from working for ADRA Australia in Sydney. She now attends the Holland Church in Michigan.





FAMILY TIES

Finding Safety in a Divided World

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

“E ven in the best divorces, kids live divided lives in which they struggle to understand their parents’ behaviors, negotiate tangled family systems, and develop values and beliefs,” says Elizabeth Marquardt, a scholar and researcher with the Institute for American Values. These children also are more apt to struggle with loss, isolation, loneliness and suffering.

More than 15 million children in the U.S. who have experienced firsthand the dissolution of their family by the process of divorce. While most adults feel guilty and attempt to make life easier for their children, most children do not fare well. Elizabeth found that children of divorced parents are more apt than those living in intact families to feel divided between two homes with different values. They are asked to keep secrets about the different households and are left without clear guidance as to what is right and what is wrong.

These children go from living in one world that seemed safe to them, to going back and forth between two homes that often feel like polar opposites. Many kids must do what their parents would have done for them, develop a clear view of what to think, what to believe and how to behave—especially in the moral and spiritual realms. Elizabeth suggests it becomes the child’s job to synthesize these two worlds. Unfortunately, many suffer emotional scars that last a lifetime and have trouble with their own intimate relationships as adults.

Elizabeth’s findings parallel the concerns of long-time researcher Judith Wallerstein. They both found too many children have a sense of living in two different worlds. They grow up with a difficulty feeling whole. It’s not to say that all children don’t experience stress and loss. In intact families, parents are ill, they die, they are alcoholic, they have emotional problems, they are irresponsible, they move, they lose jobs, they are poor. But that doesn’t diminish the pain children feel when their parents get divorced.



So how can adults diminish the pain? One suggestion is to not silence the hurt. Be a listening ear to a child. As they tell their story, listen and accept. Children will reveal themselves differently at different stages. Just because an eight-year-old shared his pain at eight doesn’t mean he doesn’t need to talk about it when he is ten years old. Once is not enough! Let a child know you will always be in their life.

Remind them of hope. Be responsible to them on a consistent basis.

If you are a divorced or divorcing parent, recognize that your own pain and guilt can cloud your thoughts and that your child may be suffering more than you realize. If your child is living in a divided world, have some guidelines that both parents follow. This is easier said than done, but have a plan for your children. For example, don’t ask or imply that your child be a messenger between the two households, and don’t ask your child to be a reporter. Find other peers to share your pain with—don’t put that responsibility on your child. Remember that when you say critical things about your child’s other parent, it is like an arrow through your child’s heart!

Keep in mind that your child is trustworthy, intelligent and more able to feel safe or succeed in this divided world if you find healing for yourself and put your trust in a God who can sustain each of you.

Susan E. 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.

Dates are an ancient fruit with many uses.



Dates are low in sodium but rich in potassium.

Let's Have a Date

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

The tall, graceful date palm has been cultivated extensively since ancient times. Dates have been a staple food of the Middle East for thousands of years. Date palms were introduced into California by the Spaniards by 1765. Both the English name, as well as the Latin species name *dactylifera*, come from the Greek word *dáktulos* meaning “finger,” because of the fruit’s elongated cylindrical shape.

Dates are mentioned in the Bible and in many places in the Quran. The righteous were compared to a tall flourishing palm tree. In Jewish tradition the date palm is a symbol of fertility. Today, date palms grow abundantly in the Jordan Valley, the Aravah and along the Dead Sea.

There are hundreds of varieties of dates, which can be eaten fresh or dried. The fruit is dark-brown, reddish or yellowish-brown when ripe, depending on the variety. Mature date palms can produce more than 200 pounds of dates per year, although they do not all ripen at the same time. Medjool, originally from Morocco, is a very popular variety of date from California.

The date palm is a very useful plant, and virtually every part of the palm tree is utilized. The trunk is used for timber, and the mature leaves for roofing, mats, rope and baskets. The fruit is utilized for sweets and the seeds for animal feed. Date pits are also used as fuel. The oil from the date seeds is suitable for use in soap and cosmetics. Date palm sap is used to make palm syrup.

Dates are a high-energy source, being rich in simple carbohydrates (glucose, fructose and sucrose). Just five dates contain about 120 calories. In addition, they contain a use-



ful three grams of fiber. They contain very little fat and no cholesterol. Dates contain no sodium but have high levels of potassium, a desirable situation for those wanting to manage high blood pressure levels. Dates also provide small amounts of vitamins and trace elements such as iron, copper, manganese and zinc.

In the Middle East, dates are used to prepare date palm syrup, a sweet spread similar to honey, produced by boiling dates in water. Dates may be stuffed with fillings such as almonds, walnuts, cardamom, candied orange, tahini, marzipan or cheese. Dates are used in a variety of sweet dishes, cookies, cereals, cakes and puddings. Ground, dehydrated dates can be processed into date sugar. Young date leaves and the terminal bud are cooked and eaten as a vegetable. The flowers and buds of the date palm can be used in a salad.

Unripe dates have a high tannin content, and their astringency is used in traditional medicine to treat intestinal problems. Ancients also used dates as a laxative. As an infusion, syrup or paste, dates have been administered for sore throats, colds, bronchial problems and other complaints.

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



EXTREME GRACE

God's Free Gift

BY DICK DUERKSEN

"But Mom, where will we get money for food?"

Timmy's question left his mother silent for a moment. Then she hugged him tightly, and smiled. "God will take care of the food," she said, "but first He's asked me to get you well. And to do that we've got to go see Doctor Benson."

Doc Benson's office was three no-sidewalk blocks, a smelly ten-minute bus ride and two concrete sidewalk blocks away. Thirty minutes later, Mom carried Timmy into the waiting room walking gingerly on the soft carpet and hoping the lady behind the glass wouldn't laugh at them for being too poor to get well.

The lady was kind, and a few minutes later she called Timmy's name. "I know you didn't have an appointment," the lady said quietly, like sharing a secret, "but Timmy looks like he could use a doctor today."

The examining room was white and frightening, and the paper on the table was cold and slippery. As they waited, the room filled with silent fear and a sliver of hope.

Everything changed when Doc Benson came in. "Timmy! I'm glad to see you, but I'm so sorry you're sick!"

Doc Benson's twinkling eyes and voice chased their fears out under the door. He poked, prodded, hammered, listened and thumped—and in a few minutes Timmy was almost smiling.

Just then someone knocked on the door and asked Mom to come out and make the financial arrangements. When the door closed, Timmy looked at Doc Benson and asked the "big question."

"Mom said God would take care of our food but that first you had to get me well. How much does it cost to get well?"

Doc Benson leaned forward till his eyes were at Timmy-level. "Getting well is really expensive, Timmy. How much money do you have?"

"I have nine cents," Timmy answered proudly.

"That's amazing!" Doc Benson answered. "Getting you well today costs exactly nine cents!"

When Mom returned to the room she could almost see hope overflowing into the hall.

"Here you are, Timmy's Mom," Doc Benson began. "I've written a prescription for some medicine that will fix up just fine. I know the boss at the pharmacy next door, and he's agreed to give you the prescription free today ... so that's cared for. Now Timmy, here's the biggest part, an assignment for you and your Mom to do for the next three days..."

Doc Benson gave Timmy the instructions his Mom would need to follow, as if Timmy were really in charge, and then ushered Mom and son back to the front desk.

When they got to the finance lady, Timmy looked at his mother and proudly announced, "Mom, you don't need to pay anything. I already paid Doc Benson the full price."

Doc Benson winked at Mom, gave Timmy a pat on the shoulder and sent them toward the pharmacy.

The next day Mom came back to the office and asked to see Doc Benson alone. "I know it costs more than nine cents for Timmy to get well," she began. "You can't just change everything and make it free!"

Doc Benson smiled and said, "Yes, I can! I am the doctor. I own the business. I make the decisions! And the first decision I made was to do whatever Jesus would do."

Doc Benson watched for a long moment after Timmy's Mom walked lightly through the carpet toward home.

"You shouldn't have taken the boy's nine cents," his nurse said softly.

"Oh yes, I should have!" Doc Benson responded, still looking through the lobby. "Nothing's free. Not even salvation. You can only get it when you give everything you have."



Dick Duerksen is the official "storyteller" for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact the author at dduerksen@maranatha.org. Doc Benson practiced in Glendale, California, but now lives in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Dear God...

BY DON JACOBSEN

Dear God,
Atlanta, July 3, 2010 ... it will stand as one of the most thrilling days of my life—I'm still basking in the glow. Standing shoulder to shoulder with 70,000 of my brothers and sisters representing nearly every nation on earth ... languages I don't understand, national costumes I don't recognize, harmonies I've never heard before—all singing praises to You, our Creator and Redeemer! Breath-taking. Awe-inspiring. Life-changing ... I don't have the words to describe it. As I even now voice this prayer there are tears running down my cheeks. I've had a taste of tomorrow—just a taste—but it was sublime. I want to be there. I plan to be there. By Your grace I will be there.

The business sessions were interminable, though necessary. But the reports from around the world were part of the electricity of the Session.¹ I remind myself that those are not just numbers on a page, each represents a brother I didn't know I had or a sister I've never met. We belong to each other because we have a common Father. Those numbers represent people who, a short time ago, had no hope; now they have hope. They had no reason to smile; now they can smile. They had no purpose; now they do. Every number is a story—a story of Your grace. Thank You, God, for the reports.

When I became a member of this Movement in 1945, the total world membership was 576,000 ... in the world! Today the number is more than 16 million (though only You know for sure). Are they all radiantly victorious Christians? I suspect not. Even among the first 12 they were not all radiantly victorious Christians. But so many are; I thank You for every one of them. Only seven percent of them live in my country, but You told us to go everywhere with this grand story and we are working pretty hard on that.

Which reminds me, I enjoyed the time in the exhibits because it gave me opportunity to see some of the tools Your Church is using. Everything from Adventist World Radio to ADRA (Adventist Development & Relief Agency) to schools worldwide and hospitals and printing presses, to the “little projects” planted by You in the hearts of Your children all over the world. They're working.

Those who brought music to the assembly brought extraordinary gifts. Often I didn't understand the words, but I didn't need to ... the obvious message they proclaimed and the radiance of their faces transcended words anyway, and I was blessed.

But the corporate worship in the Dome—that is the memory that will linger when all else has blurred. You know, I had to commit the new theme song to memory because I don't read well with tears in my eyes:

*Saving grace—sweet favor from the Lord above;
Winning grace—that draws us to His heart of love;
Wondrous grace—that He should care for you and me;
Boundless grace—so deep, so full, so rich and free;
Redeeming grace—His pardon frees us from our sin;
Transforming grace—His Spirit makes us new within;
Triumphant grace—He comes! and we shall see His face
And ever more proclaim God's matchless grace!²*

Different kinds of grace ... Your gift to us. Our hearts responding in passionate worship ... our gift to You. Thank You, Lord.

Amen.

Your Friend.

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

1. Seventh-day Adventists from around the world convened in Atlanta, Georgia, for the 59th General Conference Session, June 24 to July 3. See news.adventist.org for more information.

2. Words and Music by J. Bruce Ashton, © 2009. Used with permission.

His Hands, His Feet

BY SARAH CANADA

Our pastor Justin Kim concluded his sermon one Sabbath with the command to go out and serve our community. He challenged us to think about our impact on those around us. “Would the community of Taylor, Michigan, be the same if Oakwood Seventh-day Adventist Church were no longer there? Are we making a difference?”

This sermon was the beginning of a special Sabbath dedicated to community outreach. After this challenge was given, church members selected different ministries to participate in for the afternoon. Fathers and daughters packed food baskets and toiletry boxes together. Pathfinders prepared sack lunches to distribute. Beautiful cards were hand decorated. Fleece blankets were made to cover the children in a local youth shelter, and battery outreach bags were distributed to Oakwood’s neighbors. Sabbath, October 3, was a day different from many others.

Cori Hamstra, a member of Oakwood’s Worship Committee, organized this ministry day as a method for getting more members involved in church outreach. After a shortened church service, members didn’t go home for their Sabbath naps. They decided to observe the Sabbath in one of the ways God intended it, for service.

This unique Sabbath left its influence on the Oakwood Church, and they’re not satisfied with just that one day of service. Their personal ministry groups are reaching out in new ways to show the love of Christ. Grace Odinna, the Women’s Ministry leader, has brought creative outreach ideas this year. Her first exciting project included pillowcases, bias tape, ribbons and sewing machines. Excellent seamstresses (and those who’ve never touched a bobbin) came together to make more than 50 pillowcase dresses to send to the eastern part of Nigeria.

In April, Grace provided another witnessing opportunity a little closer to home. Two visitors from Bethlehem



Traci Lewis and Nadia Costa sort food at Taylor's Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry.

House, a women’s shelter in downtown Detroit, attended Oakwood’s monthly women’s ministry meeting. After sharing their stories, they left with arms full of goodie bags for the women of Bethlehem House. These care packages included personal care items, cute purses, fleece blankets and information about Seventh-day Adventists. Oakwood’s women have stepped up to provide females near and far with gifts that make a difference.

Oakwood’s youth have been busy as well. AY (Adventist Youth) meetings took kids downtown to feed the homeless of Detroit. Oakwood Academy’s Bible Labs program provided outreach opportunities such as packing care packages for Adventist soldiers, making Valentine goodie bags for the Children’s Hospital, canvassing neighborhoods and even getting involved with a local food bank. The sixth-through eighth-grade students had their hands full of cupcakes, fruit roll-ups, granola bars, canned food and more as they partnered with Taylor’s Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry on March 12 to distribute food to those in need.

With Christ’s help, Oakwood prays that their pastor’s challenge will continue to bring about a change in their city, church and spiritual lives. Oakwood members can’t wait to see what God has in store for them as they lift up their hands and feet in service for Him.

Sarah Canada is the communications coordinator for the Oakwood Church in Michigan.



“EL FIN DE SEMANA MÁS INCREÍBLE DE MI VIDA”

POR CARMELO MERCADO

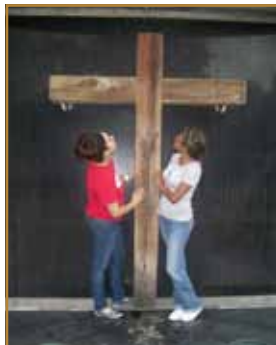
“Dios se complace en hacer felices a los jóvenes, y por eso quisiera que le entregasen el corazón a su cuidado para que sean mantenidas en condición sana y vigorosa todas las facultades del ser dadas por él” (Mensajes para los jóvenes, p. 406).

El título de este artículo viene de un comentario escrito en Facebook por una joven que estuvo presente en el congreso de jóvenes “Conéctate 2010” auspiciado por la Unión del Lago y realizado del 4 al 6 de junio en la Universidad Andrews.

Al haber oído comentarios de muchos jóvenes, aún me maravillo de la manera en que Dios obró durante ese fin de semana. Confieso que cuando decidí planear el congreso de jóvenes a nivel de Unión, sentí la convicción de que este congreso debía ser diferente y tener en mente especialmente a los jóvenes hispanos de segunda y tercera generaciones. Para organizarlo, pedí a los jóvenes hispanos líderes de las cinco asociaciones de nuestra Unión que se unieran a mí para planear el congreso. Y fue así que durante más de nueve meses nos comunicamos por medio de teleconferencias y nos reunimos en la Universidad Andrews. Nunca había visto a un grupo de jóvenes como éste trabajar en forma tan unida y con tanto esfuerzo. Fue para mí realmente un gran privilegio trabajar con ellos. Y es evidente que Dios recompensó nuestros esfuerzos.

Asistieron cientos de jóvenes de todas partes de la Unión y hasta de otros lugares del país. Con la ayuda de Dios tuvimos una programación excelente. José Vicente Rojas, nuestro orador principal, predicó en cada una de las cuatro sesiones principales. Hubo además ocho seminarios distintos de los cuales los jóvenes podían elegir; la mayoría de los maestros de estos seminarios eran los autores del libro titulado en inglés *Changed*. También tuvimos música excelente e inspiradora presentada por un grupo dirigido por el pastor Andrés Flores.

Los jóvenes tuvieron la oportunidad el sábado por la tarde de trabajar en la comunidad en una variedad de actividades.



Jasmine Sandoval y Bessy Flores junto a la cruz en el Congreso de Jóvenes “Conéctate 2010”

Imagínense lo que era ver a cientos de jóvenes hispanos ir en ómnibus y en auto para orar en la carretera por los que desearan oración. Los jóvenes visitaron asilos de ancianos, pintaron mensajes acerca de Cristo en la pared de una licorería, dieron mensajes de salud para niños en un centro comercial usando títeres y fueron de casa en casa ofreciendo oración y material de lectura de corte espiritual. Además, durante todo el fin de semana cientos de jóvenes pasaron por un salón de oración en el que tenían un peregrinaje especial de oración.

También el sábado por la tarde, el pastor Carlos Acosta dio su testimonio y relató cómo había sido su vida cuando estaba involucrado con pandillas en la ciudad de Los Ángeles y cómo Dios lo salvó. Al final de su presentación varios jóvenes respondieron a su llamado de entregar sus vidas a Cristo. El domingo de mañana tuvimos el programa de cierre en la iglesia de la universidad, que culminó con el bautismo de 19 preciosos jóvenes.

“Conéctate 2010” ha sido una gran bendición e inspiración para los jóvenes de nuestra Unión. Nuestro deseo es que como fruto de este congreso, muchos jóvenes puedan mantener una íntima conexión con Cristo.

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

Nota: “Conéctate 2010” se grabó en su totalidad y se podrá ver por Esperanza TV en el próximo mes de septiembre. Para obtener más información vaya a www.conectate2010.org

59th General Conference Session

A NEW WORLD CHURCH LEADER IS CHOSEN

BY ANSEL OLIVER AND MARK KELLNER

Ted N. C. Wilson, a vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the son of a former church president, was elected to serve as president of the 16.3 million member global Protestant denomination.

Ted was appointed by the church's 246-member Nominating Committee and confirmed by the General Conference Session delegation, an international body of 2,410 appointed members and the highest governing body in the church.

Ted replaces Jan Paulsen, who served as president since 1999.

The appointment took place June 25 at the church's 59th General Conference Session, held at the Georgia Dome and adjacent World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

"This is not just an organization, this is not just another denomination. This is God's remnant church," Ted said in an address to delegates after his appointment.

"I do not know everything, but I shall seek wisdom from counselors and from the Bible and from the Spirit of Prophecy," he said, referring to the writings of church co-founder Ellen White.

"The Spirit of Prophecy is one of the great gifts God has given to the Seventh-day Adventist Church," Ted said. "It applies to the past and to the future. And, we are going home soon."

Ted asked that church members ask for God's guidance "and pray that the Holy Spirit would bring us revival and reformation."

Ted was elected as a general vice president of the Adventist Church in 2000 during the General Conference Session in Toronto. His 36 years of denominational service include administrative and executive posts in the Mid-Atlantic United States, Africa and Russia.

Ted began his church career as a pastor in 1974 in the church's Greater New York Conference. He served as an assistant director and then director of Metropolitan Ministries

there from 1976 to 1981. He went on to serve in the church's then Africa-Indian Ocean Division, based in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, until 1990. There he served as a departmental director and later as executive secretary, the second highest officer.

Following his post in West Africa, he served at the church's world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland., United States, as an associate secretary for two years before accepting the position of president of the church's Euro-Asia Division in Moscow, Russia, from 1992 to 1996. Ted then came back to the United States to serve as president of the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland., until his election as a General Conference vice president in 2000.

An ordained minister, Ted holds a doctorate degree in religious education from New York University, a master of divinity degree from Andrews University and a master of science degree in public health from Loma Linda University's School of Public Health.

During his address to delegates, Ted was joined on stage by his wife, Nancy Louise Vollmer Wilson, a physical therapist. The couple has three daughters.

"Our spouses are so important. This wonderful woman is a spiritual backbone for me," Ted said.

Ted is the son of former General Conference president Neal C. Wilson, who served in the post from 1979 to 1990.

Many delegates on the floor of the Georgia Dome said Ted's election demonstrated the church's confidence in his leadership.

Daniel Jackson, new president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America said: "I think Ted Wilson has been given a clear mandate from the Nominating Commit-



Sarah Shaffer

Newly-elected World Church president Ted N. C. Wilson spoke to a crowd of 69,989 at the divine worship service on Sabbath morning, July 3. Following his message, he and his wife, Nancy, greeted eager photographers.

tee. He needs our prayers and our support. I'm happy at the unity of our church."

Don Livesay, president of the Lake Union Conference, added, "As the nominating Committee began its work, it became clear that Ted Wilson had very strong support from the world field. I believe that the diversity and magnitude of that support provides a significant opportunity to keep the World Church connected to North America under his leadership."

Jerome L. Davis, president of the Lake Region Conference, remarked, "Ted and I had the privilege of being classmates in college. He was one of the first persons to congratulate me when I was elected president of the Lake Region Conference. He is a godly man and will do well as G.C. president."

The General Conference Session, held every five years, was an international spiritual gathering and business session to elect leaders and vote on proposed changes to the Church Manual and Constitution.

Some significant statements were also voted during the Session, including statements on global poverty, nurture and protection of children, ending violence against women

and girls, freedom of speech and defamation of religion, and creation: the Bible's worldview. Resolutions were also voted by the delegation in support of the Holy Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. To read these statements and resolutions, and for complete Session coverage, see <http://news.adventist.org>. Additional coverage is also available at <http://www.adventist-review.org>.

Lake Union delegates were interviewed and asked to share their reaction to the Session. View their responses online at www.lakeunion.org in the Media Library.

Ansel Oliver is assistant director of Adventist News Network. Mark Kellner is news editor for the *Adventist Review*. Additional information provided by *Lake Union Herald* staff.

Experience the Sights and Sounds of GC Session

DVDs from the 59th GC Session in Atlanta may only be ordered from the Hope Channel. Call 888-446-7388 for more information and to order.

GC Session photos are available at lakeunion.com, adventistphoto.com and Flickr.com/photos/adventistnewsnetwork.



Meet President Dan Jackson

P R E S S C O N F E R E N C E

BY GARY BURNS

After his election as president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America at the 59th General Conference Session, Dan Jackson (former president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada) answered questions from members of the press. Following is an excerpt from his first press conference, a response to a question posed by the Lake Union Herald editor, Gary Burns.

The volume of divergent voices claiming to define Adventism seems to be raised a bit. How do you plan to approach what it means to be Adventist in North America?

“That’s an excellent question. I have already made a comment about the fact that we have a duplication of many things. We have many presses that are printing many things. We have many broadcasts that are listing many things—some better than others. The fact is that as a church, as a constituency, we need to decide this together.

“We have people who sit on the right and people who sit on the left; and I want to suggest that as difficult as it may be, we all need to talk and we need to build together.

“Obviously, there is an official voice. We have what we call the official organs of the church, and we have a biblical research institute that speaks in terms of official doctrine. But you know, the fact is that as we study the Bible, as we personally and collectively study scripture, and share with one another ... we just need to build a consensus.

“Now I’m not saying, ‘Let’s now find 28 new doctrines.’ We have fundamental beliefs that we’re not going to compromise on. We believe in those things. We believe in those teachings. We will never compromise on those doctrines.

But you know, you’ve illustrated it—the diversity of thought in the Church is immense.

“I have a very strong belief we need to reach out to one another, that somehow we need to acknowledge that we are not the enemy, that we are brothers and sisters in Jesus.

“And you may not agree with me on my belief on a given doctrine, or on my perception, or on what I say when I preach. You may not agree with everything I say, but we are still brothers and sisters; and we need to link arms and walk toward the Kingdom.

“We absorb..., or we have too much, or we spend too much time in the church trying to shoot at each other. And so my feeling is while we have 28 fundamental beliefs, and we have official position statements, and we have organizations or entities that clarify issues theologically, the common person sitting—and I am a common person—the common person sitting in the pew isn’t really all that concerned about BRI (Biblical Research Institute) and about 27 or 28 doctrinal statements—they are, but they are from their perspective.

“Somehow, we need to get people talking and studying the Word of God. When I think of our pioneers—and I’ll stop after this—when I think of our pioneers and the Sabbath conferences, these people were able to sit together and

“You may not agree with me on my belief on a given doctrine, or on my perception, or on what I say when I preach. You may not agree with everything I say, but we are still brothers and sisters; and we need to link arms and walk toward the Kingdom.”

dialogue, and pray together, and they didn't always agree, but they loved each other enough that ultimately they were able to come up with a series of teachings that has been proclaimed around this world. Why can't we do that now? What is ... what is the issue that because you don't agree with me, somehow—I have to be careful because I get in trouble with my words at times—but, because you and I disagree with each other on a given teaching, why am I a lesser human being? Why is it that because someone is singled out because they have taken a certain position that now they're not only ... they're not only wrong theologically, but now they're vilified morally? Somehow they've become a bad person because they disagreed with me on a theological issue.

“So, the point I am trying to make, simply put, is we need

to talk and build and understand one another, so that we all understand what Adventism is, even though there are official channels...” (comments followed by Alex Bryant, secretary, and Tom Evans, treasurer).

“Let me make one other point on this. A number of years ago I (while being ... while president of the British Columbia Conference), during camp meeting, I went up to the youth hill; and I was in the youth meeting and I think, I can't remember whether it was the Green Iguanas or the Extreme Team or someone who was there, but there were laser shows, and you know, there was a young, one young man who looked..., he was standing on a chair and looked like he had to go to the bathroom; he was trying to do the twist but it wasn't working.

“This was worship, and I stood there and I was singing



Donna and Dan Jackson

Steve Norman

Dan Jackson, 61, is the new president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, elected June 28 by delegates of the world church at their business session in Atlanta,

Jackson was appointed by the church's 246-member Nominating Committee and confirmed by the General Conference Session delegation, which is an international body of 2,410 appointed members and the highest governing body in the church.

He replaces Don Schneider, who has served as President since 2000.

“God never calls us to do things we are capable of, and this thing is so much bigger than me. But He has called, and I accept this with the greatest humility and with extreme gratitude to Don Schneider,” said Jackson.

Responding to the vote, Schneider commented, “Elder Jackson is a wonderful Christian whose leadership has

Answering God's Call

**DAN JACKSON ACCEPTS
LEADERSHIP OF
CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA**

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

the songs and all of a sudden the folks with the cameras arrived. And they pulled up beside me and said, ‘What are you doing here?’

“And I said to them, ‘I’m here because this is my church. This is my church as much as “Just as I am without one plea” down in the main auditorium. This is my church.’

“And you know, and I’ll say this to you today, our church is made up of so many different kinds of people, so many ethnic groups, so much diversity. And, you know, recently in Canada, you know, we have an extension in Canada of the GYC (Generation of Youth for Christ), called the Eastern Canada Youth Conference, and a number of other groups like that, that really are more to the right theologically. And we’ve said, I’ve said to our presidents, ‘We need to engage these people in discussion.’

“I will tell you that, you know, we all know that the issues in the church recently, especially those—and I’m wandering right into hot water, but that’s okay—emerging out of La Sierra University have challenged the Church, and have challenged many people. I want to tell you what I just told Randall Wisbey (La Sierra University president) in the hall, ‘I want an opportunity to come to La Sierra University. I would like to meet with your faculty, to tell them that we

love them, and that we want them in the Church.’

“They need to be a part of the discussion. We ought not to be afraid to talk to one another. Now some people will hear that I said that and think that I’ve immediately sold the store. It’s not the truth.

“We need to quit being afraid of each other, because the more fearful we are of each other and of one another’s positions, the more we create silos. And then the only way we talk to each other is with the shotgun shells’ fire that we hear from those silos. The time has come for us, I believe—because Jesus is coming soon—we need to learn to talk to each other. And to build a stronger church and a stronger unity, and that includes ... and that includes ethnicity. That includes race. We need to learn to talk openly to each other about issues.

“I don’t have all the answers coming into this role. I don’t have all the answers. I don’t know where every discussion will lead or should lead. But the fact is we ought not to be afraid to at least talk. To be open to one another.”

To listen to more of Dan Jackson’s remarks in the press conference, visit www.lakeunion.org (Media Library).

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

demonstrated a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

Jackson is a native Canadian and, with the exception of five years of service in the Southern Asia Division, has lived and ministered in Canada. He is a graduate of Canadian Union College (now Canadian University College) and Andrews University, from which he holds an M.A. in Religion in Systematic Theology.

During his career, Jackson has served the church as a pastor, teacher and administrator. At the time of his election he was serving as the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Donna Jackson, his wife, was serving as the family ministries and women’s ministries director of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Dan and his wife, Donna, enjoy the three children and four grandchildren the Lord has given them.

George Johnson Jr. is the media relations director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Article adapted by *Lake Union Herald* staff.





A Safe Place

BY BARBARA LIVESAY

Is your church a safe place? Is your church a place where people feel really safe—spiritually, emotionally, physically? Are our churches and schools safe havens for children, where they are free and secure to experience the pure love of Jesus and learn to be His disciples?

It is the desire of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to make its worship and education environments just that way.

At this time the disturbing and traumatic increase in recognition of physical and sexual abuse of children has claimed the attention of our nation, the world and *our* church. It is very sad, but Adventist churches and schools which conduct programs for children and youth are not immune from these statistics.

“It is essential that care should be taken when placing men and women in positions of trust. You should know something in regard to their past life, and the character that has been developed. You would better double your classes under God-fearing workers than to multiply teachers whose influence is not in accordance with the holy character of truth which we profess, for their influence will be demoralizing. Let every true, honest-hearted worker be encouraged to work on work with an eye single to the glory of God. Do not refuse to bear responsibilities because you have a sense of your weakness and inefficiency. God can give you strength and wisdom, if you are consecrated to him and keep humble....”¹

Why all the fuss? Why go to the trouble of doing background checks and instituting sometimes inconvenient pro-

cedures for our volunteers and employees who work with our children in our churches and schools? If you have ever cared for the heart of a crushed and broken child/adult who has been preyed upon by the most unsuspected adult, you would feel the pain as I have. Offenders are masterful at their deception and skilled at developing trust. So when they are discovered, it is nearly always a complete shock to the unsuspecting congregation or school constituency. Even those who work with sex offenders professionally admit their accuracy at identifying when a possible sex offender is lying, is about 50/50. The only way to protect our children/families is to require everyone to follow procedures/guidelines that make it difficult for anyone to take advantage of anyone else. We want to minimize the opportunity for anyone—child or adult—to be hurt, especially in our churches or schools.

Education is the key. An understanding of the problem leads to an acceptance of sensible procedures that help create a safe environment by minimizing potential risks. Once people understand, they are so much more likely to support the guidelines. We don’t want people to sign up; we want people to sign on—to understand their role in ministry.

Each one can, by using common sense and intentionally



following the North American Division's guidelines, improve their environment for ministry.

Put light on what you are doing by making yourself accountable to another trusted adult. Keep them informed as to what you are doing and why. Ask them to give you input regarding your ministry and cue you to areas where you may be vulnerable. Encourage others to better and safer behaviors.

Report what comes to light. Some fear that reporting will damage the career of an adult. We, of course, do not want this to happen. False accusations are extremely rare, and those who put sensible procedures into place have an even lower risk of a false accusation. Good procedures and guidelines protect everyone. But we must also think of the life of the child and others in the future. Our children must come first. The data indicates that it takes a child at least ten attempts

to tell of abuse before someone listens, and often they will give up before it ever gets reported. Perpetrators and predators use this to their advantage and continue their practice with bold confidence. Most of the abuses we know of have occurred with trusted individuals. They earn that trust purposefully, and then they hurt people by that trust.

Some may be reluctant to report, fearing that it may hurt the reputation of the church. The church that goes public and addresses the issue legally and morally is held in higher regard than one that seeks to take care of the issue internally or not deal with it at all. It takes courage to stand up and let your voice be heard for those that need a voice. We need to honor and recognize how difficult that is. We should facilitate rather than hinder "doing the right thing."

We are here to support our churches and schools in their

Statement on the Nurture and Protection of Children

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and was released by the Office of the President, Ted N. C. Wilson, at the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, June 23–July 3, 2010.

Seventh-day Adventists place a high value on children. In the light of the Bible they are seen as precious gifts from God entrusted to the care of parents, family, community of faith and society-at-large. Children possess enormous potential for making positive contributions to the Church and to society. Attention to their care, protection and development is extremely important.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church reaffirms and extends its longstanding efforts to nurture and safe-guard children and youth from persons—known and unknown—whose actions perpetrate any form of abuse and violence against them and/or sexually exploit them. Jesus modeled the kind of respect, nurture, and protection children should be able to expect from adults entrusted with their care. Some of His strongest words of reproof were directed toward those who would harm them. Because of the trusting nature and dependence of children upon older and wiser adults and the life-changing consequences when this trust is breached, children require vigilant protection.

REDEMPTIVE CORRECTION

The Seventh-day Adventist Church places a priority on church-based parent education that helps parents develop the skills necessary for a redemptive approach to correction. Many children experience harsh punishment in the name of a biblical approach to discipline. Correction characterized

by severe, punitive, dictatorial control often leads to resentment and rebellion. Such harsh discipline is also associated with heightened risk for physical and psychological harm to children as well as increased likelihood the youth will resort to coercion and violence in resolving their differences with others. By contrast, examples from Scripture as well as a large body of research confirm the effectiveness of more gentle forms of discipline that allow children to learn through reasoning and experiencing the consequences of their choices. Such milder measures have been demonstrated to increase the likelihood children will make life-affirming choices and espouse parental values as they mature.

MAKING CHURCH A SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN

The Church also takes seriously its responsibility to minimize the risk for child sexual abuse and violence against children in the congregational setting. First and foremost,

efforts to be safe and encourage procedures to be put into place so that trust in all areas of leadership is warranted and undamaged. For when trust is broken, it not only damages individual lives but ministry as well.

Proverbs 2 provides an excellent foundation for the wisdom that is needed for spiritually safe individuals, churches and schools: “For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart. ... Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you...” (Proverbs 2:6–11 NIV).

Our churches and schools need to have a positive, joyous

and safe atmosphere. Without a surrounding influence of trust, the emotional effect of all other attributes will be hindered. This cannot be compromised. The study of the spiritual embodiment of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ will provide what is necessary to obtain this holy effect. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14 NIV).

Barbara Livesay is an associate superintendent of education for the Lake Union Conference specializing in early childhood education, and an associate director of risk management/human resources.

1. White, Ellen G, “Sabbath-School Influences,” *The Sabbath-School Worker*, Michigan: Review and Herald Publishing Association, April 1, 1886.

church leaders and members must themselves live by a strict code of ethics that precludes even the appearance of evil as regards the exploitation of minors for the gratification of adult desires. Other practical measures toward making church a safe place for children include attention to the safety of the church facility and its surroundings and the careful supervision and monitoring of children and their environment during all church-related activities. Education regarding what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate interaction between adults and children, the warning signs of abuse and violence, and the specific steps to be followed should inappropriate behavior be reported or suspected are vitally important. Pastors and church leaders who are visible and approachable play an important role in prevention as well as in responding well to the needs of children whose safety may have been jeopardized. Regular updates are needed regarding their moral and legal responsibility to report child abuse to appropriate civil authorities. The designation of trained personnel and specific protocols at wider levels of Church organization will help to ensure appropriate action and followthrough when abuse is reported within the church setting.

Because of the complex nature of the problem of child sexual abuse and violence against children, intervention and treatment of perpetrators requires resources beyond the scope of ministry provided by the local church. However, the presence of a known perpetrator in a congregation calls for the highest levels of vigilance. While perpetrators should be held fully responsible for their own behavior, the supervision of persons with a history of inappropriate behavior is

necessary to ensure that such persons maintain appropriate distance and refrain from all contact with children during church-related activities. Provision for alternative opportunities for perpetrators to grow spiritually in settings where children are not present greatly enhances child protection.

FOSTERING EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALING

Children who have been personally victimized or who have witnessed disturbing events need the care of adults who treat them with sensitivity and understanding. Practical support that helps children and families maintain stability in the midst of turmoil empowers victims and their families and promotes healing. The Church’s commitment to breaking the silence frequently associated with child sexual abuse and violence, its efforts toward advocacy and justice for all victims, and deliberate action to safeguard children from all forms of abuse and violence will contribute much toward the emotional and spiritual recovery of all concerned. The Church regards the nurture and protection of children as a sacred trust.

(This statement has been informed by the principles expressed in the following biblical passages: Lev. 18:6; 2 Sam. 13:1–11; 1 Kings 17:17–23; Ps. 9:9, 12, 16–18; 11:5–7; 22:24; 34:18; 127:3–5; 128:3–4; Prov. 31:8–9; Is. 1:16–17; Jer. 22:3; Matt. 18:1–6; 21:9, 15–16; Mark 9:37; 10:13–16; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; 1 Tim. 5:8; Heb.13:3.) (See also “Statement on Ending Violence Against Women and Children,” <http://adventist.org/beliefs/statements/violence.html>.)



Donated equipment aids children with disabilities

New equipment donated to Adventist Paulson Pediatric Rehabilitation Center (Paulson) is helping children with physical limitations improve their quality of life. The universal exercise unit (UEU), a uniquely designed device used to help children learn to walk independently, is expected to benefit countless children with cerebral palsy and other neurological disorders.

Four-year-old Owen Chaidez, the first patient to use the technology, already has made remarkable progress improving his limited range of motion; the boy cannot walk due to arthrogryposis multiplex congenita (AMC), a disorder characterized by reduced mobility of multiple joints. Owen's arms and legs have limited range of motion, and he has undergone therapy at Adventist Paulson Pediatric Rehab since he was two weeks old.

"Physically, he's gained so much range of motion in just a few weeks," said Maggie Chaidez, Owen's mom. "But the emotional gains have been just as incredible. Instead of rolling on the floor to get where he needs, now he wants to walk all the time. He's becoming more independent. Between visits to Paulson, he constantly asks when we're going back there."

By increasing strength and range of motion, isolating the weakened muscle groups, and eliminating gravitational forces on the weak muscles, the UEU improves balance and coordination, promotes motor skills, and enhances a child's self-confidence. The design concept is based on technology originally invented to counteract the negative effects—such as muscle atrophy and osteoporosis—experienced by astronauts due to lack of gravity. The UEU counteracts the force of gravity that prevents weakened muscles from performing.

"This equipment has allowed us to



Adventist Paulson Pediatric Rehabilitation Center physical therapist Carrie Crozier-Arena, left, and care technician Laura Adducci assist four-year-old Owen Chaidez in the center's new universal exercise unit. The equipment was donated to the center.

Bruce Powell

do intensive therapy with Owen," said his physical therapist, Carrie Crozier-Arena. "It's a huge help to me because it supports him, freeing me to concentrate on his individual muscle movements instead of having to hold him in place and work his muscles at the same time."

"The work being done at Paulson directly supports Adventist Midwest Health's mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ," said John Rapp, regional vice president of Ministries and Mission.

"During his ministry, Jesus had a clear emphasis on the importance of nurturing children and keeping them safe, even in the face of aggressive opposition," Rapp said. "The resources we put into Paulson Pediatric Rehab, including a chaplain, is right on our mission of extending Jesus' healing ministry into the 21st Century."

The equipment was donated to the rehab center by The Lazzara Family Foundation, founded by Philip and Antoinette Lazzara in 1984 to support nonprofit organizations in the areas of education, healthcare and human services. The foundation donated \$6,150.

"We are pleased to support the amazing children who rely on Adventist Paulson Pediatric Rehabilitation Center

and its dedicated team of therapists through our grant program," said Jack Lazzara, on behalf of The Lazzara Family Foundation. "We believe it's important to invest in our local communities to provide opportunities for improving the lives of others and we're delighted that Owen and his friends are benefiting so greatly from this new equipment."

Paulson is an outpatient pediatric rehabilitation department of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital treating children up to age 18 with cerebral palsy, developmental delays, autism and speech disturbances, among other needs. The center's mission is to help each child and family reach his or her highest level of independence. To donate to the project, call the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation at 630-856-2000.

"We're extremely grateful to The Lazzara Family Foundation for their generosity," said Susan King, executive director of the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation. "Our hope is that their seed grant will inspire additional donations allowing us to serve even more children in our community."

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health.



This new online MBA program was designed with the convenience of its students in mind.

Andrews introduces online MBA

The Andrews University School of Business Administration will offer an online Master of Business Administration (MBA) beginning August 2010.

The online program mirrors the on-campus graduate degree and was designed with the convenience of its students in mind. "A number of prospective MBA students have contacted us and expressed an interest to avail themselves of the high-quality MBA program offered by Andrews University, but are unable to come to campus because of job, home, family and other commitments," says Allen Stemberge, dean of the School of Business Administration.

The program will consist of 11 courses (three credits each) and can be completed in a minimum of one year (with all prerequisites met). The last two courses must be taken as a three-week intensive on the campus of Andrews University and will culminate with graduation exercises. The mission of the program is to prepare students to hold responsible positions in domestic and international business, in government and for non-profit organizations.

"We believe that it is important for our online students to have the opportunity to feel part of the Andrews University family by spending these three weeks on our campus and then participating in the August graduation exercises," says Stemberge.

A special tuition rate of \$495 per credit hour will be offered to all accepted online MBA students. For additional information about admission requirements and/or other information, visit www.andrews.edu/sba or e-mail mba-info@andrews.edu.

Andrews University has accreditation for its business programs through the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE), located in Olathe, Kansas.

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



Uniquely designed to give students an integrated approach to theology and social work, this new dual M.Div./M.S.W. is the only program of its kind offered within the Seventh-day Adventist educational system.

New dual degree offered: Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work

The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and the Department of Social Work at Andrews University are now offering a new dual graduate degree, a Master of Divinity/Master of Social Work, beginning in the fall semester of 2010. This four-year degree is being introduced with a 33 percent tuition reduction incentive.

The new dual M.Div./M.S.W. degree will prepare students for service in oc-

cupations where social work and the pastoral mission of the church intersect. It is the only collaborative program of its kind within the Seventh-day Adventist Church and only one of 15 throughout the United States.

"The role of today's pastor is different than that of the traditional pastor. In addition to preaching, visitation, weddings, funerals and an annual evangelistic series, pastors must be prepared to deal with a myriad of human challenges both within the congregation and within the community," says David Sedlacek, professor of social work and co-coordinator of the dual degree program.

The program is designed to give students an integrated approach to both theology and social work. It is structured to prepare students for types of ministry where clinical and administrative skills in both social work and theology are needed. Students can choose to complete a dual degree or an emphasis in either social work or Christian ministry.

"Effective evangelism today requires a familiarity with the real problems that people face and the knowledge of how to effectively address them with sound professional and biblical solutions," says J. Michael Harris, director of the M.Div. program. "Studies show that pastors are often the first and most trusted contact for congregants who are experiencing life problems."

Applicants for the M.Div./M.S.W. dual degree program are required to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university in the United States, or an equivalent educational credential from another country. Applicants must apply separately and be accepted, by both the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and the Department of Social Work.

To learn more about the dual M.Div./M.S.W., e-mail mdiv-msw@andrews.edu or contact the program coordinator at 269-471-6249.

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

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Little Lambs preschoolers celebrate their graduation

Illinois—On Sunday, May 16, the Little Lambs Early Learning Center preschoolers delighted family and friends with their performance of “The Hot, Hot Furnace” by Karen Henley, at the Hinsdale Fil-Am Church. Throughout the play, the children covered the power of Jesus, the Ten Commandments and the Fruits of the Spirit! Their rousing rendition of “A-Ha Lelujah! Shout to the Lord!” delighted the 120 family and friends in attendance.

The group was also gathered to celebrate the graduation of 14 children from the Little Lambs Early Learning Center, situated within Hinsdale Adventist Academy. Director Cherie Jackson of Hinsdale said, “It is so important for us to stop and celebrate the significant milestones in our children’s lives. Our hectic schedules can take over day to day, but to be able to stop



Heather Hoffman

The Little Lambs Early Learning Center’s 14 graduates perform “Watch Me as I Graduate.”

and recognize how special our kids are makes life that much richer for them.”

Becca Conditt, Pre-K teacher, said, “It is so sad to let our little graduates move on, but we know we have given them a love for learning that will be an excellent foundation for life.”

For several of the attendants at the graduation, it was their first time inside a Christian church. “Little Lambs Early Learning Center attracts families from all walks of life,” said Jackson. “We have all major religions represented here—Muslims, Hindus, Jews—along with many families from different Christian denominations. Our Little Lambs Early Learning Center is one of Adventist education’s most effective channels for evangelism. We are very open about our faith, and the community families

willingly bring their children into an environment where they are going to learn about Jesus.”

The Hinsdale Fil-Am Church donated beautiful children’s Bibles as graduation gifts for each child.

Little Lambs Early Learning Center is a full childcare center offering preschool, pre-kindergarten and daycare for children three to five years of age. For more information, visit www.haa.littlelambs.org or call Cherie Jackson at 630-323-9220.

“He carries the lambs in His arms and holds them close to His heart” (Isaiah 40:11).

Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference, as shared by Cherie Jackson, director, Little Lambs Early Learning Center



Krista Tate, Justin Reece and Eliel Cruz (base) used their gymnastics skills to get the job done at the San Francisco Family House.

Gymnics give glory to God

Andrews University—Instead of spending a week on the beaches of some exotic locale, the Andrews University Gymnics spent their 2010 Spring Break participating in a mission project, with a few spur-of-the-moment performances along the way. They flew to California and spent the majority of their time volunteering at the San Francisco Food Bank and San Francisco Family House, a nonprofit organization housing families of young cancer patients who do not live locally but cannot afford to stay in the area for the time the treatments require.

The time spent at the Family House made memorable impressions on the

Gymnics. As the number two leading research hospital in the country, the San Francisco Hospital draws families from all over the country who bring their children there for treatment. The Family House provides meals and a safe place to stay for the families. The Gymnics spent three days there, painting, gardening and deep-cleaning the rooms to make them safer for patients. Their multiple impromptu performances along the way had effects beyond what the team could have imagined.

Caleb, a 13-year-old living at the house, has battled cancer since he was two. He had been in remission but the cancer returned and treatments weren’t working. “When we performed for him,” recalls Chrissy Lairson, sopho-

more English and journalism major, “he started laughing and smiling. He thought the moves were so cool. His mom came up to me, crying, and hugged me. She said, ‘Chrissy, I haven’t seen my son smile in months. Thank you so much for what you’ve done for him and my family!’”

Lairson also met Christian, a five-year-old from Hawaii who she got to talk and play with in between applying coats of paint to the walls. On her last day, Lairson remembers Christian running up to give her a hug. “‘Be careful of my heart!’ he said before hugging me,” she says. Christian’s grandmother later told Lairson he had undergone a two-hour heart surgery that day. “I

couldn’t believe the joy this little boy had; I know I would have been moping around ... crying my eyes out if I were him,” said Lairson.

“I think that little boy touched my life more than I touched his,” says Lairson of her experience. “It made all the paint in my hair, dirt in my fingernails and the thorns from gardening worthwhile.”

At the San Francisco Food Bank, which provides and distributes food to all the soup kitchens and homeless shelters in the Bay area, the Gymnics sorted and packaged large quantities of the food received from area donors.

Although the group is primarily known for their gymnastics, they had

no scheduled performances—however, that didn’t stop them from doing flips and pyramids. “In the streets everywhere we went, and also on the beach or in parking lots,” says Lairson.

Being a member of the Gymnics gives Lairson the opportunity to minister through her gymnastics. Previously, she says, she had struggled to find a way to make her sport all about God. “Gymnics, I believe, accomplishes it. We take care of our bodies and work hard to train so we can put on shows for people we would not be able to reach otherwise.”

Samantha Snively, student news writer, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

[YOUTH NEWS]

Youth ‘Connect with Jesus,’ the Church, the World

Lake Union—“Connect with Jesus” was the theme for the First Bilingual (affectionately referred to as “Spanglish” by Latino youth) Spiritual Revival Weekend. Last fall Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union Conference vice president, called together youth leaders from across the Union territory; he inspired them to dream of a “God thing” for this territory and then he empowered them to do it. The result was a spiritual revival on June 4–6 that spanned the globe and a created synergy within the body of Christ that brought glory to God.

Youth lay leaders from Lake Union territories, Conference leaders, pastors, Andrews University, North American Division Youth Department and the Center for Youth Evangelism all collaborated to promote and support the revival weekend. The cooperation of these different organizational bodies wasn’t just a good thing, it was a God thing. More than 800 young people came primarily from the Lake Union territory but also some came from across North America. Additionally, more than 1,500 young people from



The Lake Union is reinventing youth ministry for the Hispanic community. More than 800 young people recently attended the “Connect with Jesus” youth congress at Andrews University, and more than 1,500 young people worldwide joined in through a live Web feed online.

around the world joined in through a live Web feed online. A group from Mexico which watched the live feed asked when the next revival is, because they want to drive up to be a part of a God thing. The Lake Union is reinventing youth ministry for the Hispanic community. God be praised for youth and their leaders who are on the move to “connect” people to Jesus Christ.

This wasn’t just a revival weekend, it also was a reaping weekend. One young person invited by a friend had attended an Adventist church for two years, but

kept saying “no” to baptism. During one of the appeals, he decided he must get baptized. After leaders talked with the pastor of his church, that young person joined 18 others who connected with Jesus through baptism. When Mercado witnessed this happen, he says, “[I] knew then that the Holy Spirit was indeed present, and the experience taught me that Pentecost can happen again ... even in the 21st century.”

Jose Rojas, the general session speaker, along with several authors from the popular evangelism sharing book, *Changed*, presented and conducted seminars throughout the weekend. Their testimonies inspired people to be light in the darkness. But they didn’t just talk about being light, they were a light to the surrounding community through various outreach projects. “Prayers by the Wayside” got an amazing response right on the side of the road. Young people held up signs offering to pray with people if they were feeling sad or discouraged. Many others cleaned windshields at two gas stations while offering literature and prayers. Others visited a local trailer park and found more than 60 Bible study interests. Milton Coronado led a group of 60 young people as they painted a religious mural on the side of a liquor store with the blessing of the owner! Don Livesay, Lake Union Conference president, reflects, “The



Youth congress presenters challenged young people to be light in the darkness.

‘Connect with Jesus’ bilingual conference was way more than a social experience; it was a powerful spiritual event. God’s church has a positive future with this army of youth focused on making a difference for the mission.”

Hilario Mendoza of the Sheboygan Hispanic Church in Wisconsin says he has no regrets about coming. He said, “This is the first time that I participated in an event like this; but to be honest, I don’t have words to express how happy I am to be here ... especially because my brother-in-law accepted Jesus (during this event) and will be baptized this morning!”

Daniel Martinez, a local church youth director, shares, “God really worked in my life once again. I felt rejuvenated and full of energy to go back again and keep on living this Christian journey because at times I feel like giving up, but once again I felt God’s presence there.”

“I am very glad we got Pastor Jose Rojas as our main preacher and all of the pastors that are part of the book

Changed. [These were people] full of the Holy Spirit and with amazing stories to share, not to inspire us but ‘to move us into action.’ I want to be a light, I want to use my talents to end the darkness of the world,” exclaimed Jhunixa Gutierrez.

Dozens shared their blessing of connecting at this revival weekend across cyber space on Facebook.

“This weekend is going down in history as one of the most blessed and BEST weekend EVER!” wrote Alberta José of Frankfort, Ind.

“Probably the most amazing weekend of my life. It was life-changing. Best \$75.00 I’ve ever spent, for sure,” added Jasmine Sandoval of Fort Wayne.

Manny Cruz, associate youth director from the North American Division, shared with his leaders, “Praise God for what has happened here this weekend. I am very encouraged to see my church being intentional in reaching 2nd & 3rd generation Latino youth in [the] NAD.”

The Lake Union Conference will continue to provide innovative youth leadership across all multicultural lines. This coming fall it is sponsoring the “2nd Annual Youth Leadership Development,” in partnership with the Center for Youth Evangelism, which will bring leaders from across the North America and the world to offer multi-level youth leadership training for all levels of youth ministry: children, Pathfinders, youth and young adult. There will also be a Spanish track. Next summer the Lake Union will host the “Gente Joven Youth Leadership Convention.” For more information, check

out www.conectate2010.org.

“Connect with Jesus/Conéctate con Jesús” accomplished its primary, prayed-for objective to connect young people with Jesus. At the same time, it showed the power of the whole church connecting across the borders of age, language and territory. We are reminded that the body, with many parts connected to the head who is Christ, will herald the coming of Jesus and bring Glory to God.

Ron Whitehead, executive director, Center for Youth Evangelism



Volunteers worked diligently at registration as excited young people arrived for the youth congress.



During an appeal for commitment to Jesus, 19 young people made a decision to be baptized.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

CHIP Express program changes a life

Indiana—A large man with a confident voice immediately caught the attention of the Sabbath-morning crowd which filled the Indiana Academy gymnasium during the state-wide Sabbath Celebration service April 10. His voice

thundered, “You have probably heard it said, ‘We live and die by our choices;’ and, ‘For every choice we make, there is a consequence.’

“My life has been a witness and example of those quotes,” he continued. “The unhealthy foods I had been choosing to eat and a lifestyle of physical neglect were producing consequences that were life-threatening to me. I experienced three heart attacks, and was ad-

vancing rapidly toward diabetes, kidney and liver diseases. There were numerous ongoing but unsuccessful attempts by my physicians through medication to manage my high cholesterol, blood pressure and weight gain. I was told that I was morbidly obese.

“I remember the words of my doctor well—‘Elwood, what am I going to do with you?’”

All this took place before Elwood



Elwood Reams participated in a hands-on demonstration at CHIP Express where 15 of the 16 participants were from the community.

Reams, a Fishers community resident, attended a CHIP Express (Coronary Health Improvement Project held twice a week for four weeks) during the month of March. It was held at the Public Works Building in Westfield, sponsored by the Carmel Hope Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists. Based upon Reams' extremely poor first health

screening at CHIP Express, Susan Landess, director of Indiana Healthy Choices, told Reams she was going to keep him in her prayers.

The audience listened intently as Reams continued his story. "I also prayed for God's divine assistance in developing the ability to make healthy choices in all phases of my life, and God truly answered my prayers! After 30 days of participation, I graduated from CHIP Express embracing a plant-based diet and exercise, and with an increased spiritual focus.

"I lost 15 pounds. My cholesterol was reduced by 95 points, my blood pressure was down 40 points, and my glucose level went from pre-diabetic to normal! I had a real sense of hope!"

A few days following Reams' graduation, he was scheduled for a yearly physical. His doctor was very impressed with the results of his lab work and screenings. Based upon the "new" person he had become, she ended this appointment

with the same words she had used prior to his involvement in CHIP Express, but this time the words had a positive tone—"Elwood, what am I going to do with you?"

Reams looked his listeners in the eyes as he leaned forward and lowered his voice. "I am truly grateful to God and the CHIP Express team ... for giving me hope along with knowledge, wisdom and skill for maintaining a new, healthy lifestyle. I have a new sense of awareness realizing that truly, 'We live and die by our choices,' and, 'For every choice there is a consequence.'"

The entire crowd broke into applause as Reams concluded his testimony—"I'm like a modern-day Lazarus; I have been raised from the dead!"

Judith Yeoman, correspondent, Indiana Conference, as shared by Elwood Reams, attendee, CHIP Express, and Linda Reece, member, Carmel Hope Fellowship



Church members and honored guests break ground for the new Plymouth sanctuary. Pictured (from left) are Jacque Wilson, Bob Wilson, Dave Houghton, Judy Clippinger, John Heinlein, Delmae Carterman, Nathan Carterman, Myriam Rios, Shirley Patten, Mark Senter (Plymouth mayor), Bryce Bowman (Plymouth Church pastor), Gary Case, Laurie Hagen, Dennis Gann, Lenny Gann, Rick Finkbeiner, Janine Finkbeiner, Amelia Troyer, Isaac Troyer, Katie Bowman, Caleb Bowman, Aaron Carterman and Oren Carterman.

Plymouth Church begins Phase Two building project

Indiana—The land for the current Plymouth Seventh-day Adventist Church was located in the fall of 2003. It was purchased at a subsequent auction in February 2004. Since that time, members have worked diligently to see their new sanctuary become a reality.

Fund-raising and planning began in earnest, leading to the Phase One

groundbreaking in March 2007. In May of that year, church members were blessed with the assistance of Maranatha Volunteers International, whose volunteers helped erect the present structure, dedicated on Dec. 15, 2007.

On Sunday, Apr. 18, a special groundbreaking service was scheduled to mark the spot where Phase Two—the new sanctuary and covered driveway—would begin. The service opened with a welcome and prayer, and then Oren Carterman, head elder, presented a historical sketch about the Plymouth Church.

Present at the groundbreaking ceremony were Mark Senter, Plymouth mayor, and Keith Hammonds, the Plymouth building commissioner. The mayor spoke, and then Plymouth Church pastor, Bryce Bowman, gave a short dedicatory homily titled, "Come and Go," emphasizing the need to come to Christ and share His commission for Christians to "Go and tell others." Bowman was followed by Gary Case of the Indiana Seventh-day Adventist Headquarters, who gave a short, inspirational message and offered a dedicatory prayer.

Following the groundbreaking, Bowman presented the mayor with a beautiful copy of *The Desire of Ages*, with his name embossed on the front. Bowman says, “The highest form of appreciation that can be shown to another is introducing them to Jesus. With this in mind, we chose to present the mayor with a copy of *The Desire of Ages* accompanied by a prayer that, as he reads, he will grow to know Jesus better.”

Upon receiving the book, the mayor expressed his gratitude at such a beautiful gift and stated that he “would be sure to read it,” said Bowman.

Dave Houghton, second elder, then offered a prayer of thanksgiving, and a fellowship lunch followed.

The footers and foundation walls

for the sanctuary were poured the week of May 3. Maranatha volunteers will return again to Plymouth to help with the Phase Two construction project; a major portion of the project will be built Aug. 17–31 with their help.

When completed, the sanctuary will seat approximately 140 people and allow the current space (a temporary sanctuary built in Phase One) to be used as a fellowship hall, classroom and for community events.

Plymouth Church members raised enough funds to complete the structure and the exterior. Once that is completed, they will raise additional funds to complete the interior—pews, drywall, carpeting, etc.

“It is our desire that this building

shall be a center for community outreach and service, for sharing God’s love and the knowledge of His soon return to this Earth and for preparing people to live in Heaven with Him,” remarked Shirley Patten, head deaconess.

Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference with Bryce Bowman, pastor, Plymouth Church



The Phase Two building committee lifts shovels of soil, marking the ground where the new Plymouth Church sanctuary will be erected.



Brian LaTour checks blood glucose levels of a visitor to the health fair.

‘Fresh Start’ health fair reaches community

Michigan—Under the direction of its health and temperance leader and many assistants, the Paw Paw Church opened its doors on Sunday, Mar. 28, to members, area churches and the community-at-large for its first annual health fair, titled “Fresh Start.”

With approximately 100 in attendance, the fair offered blood pressure and glucose screening, weight loss advice, demonstrations of proper posture and lifting techniques, oral hygiene, free chair

massages and a few health-related booths sponsored by local businesses.

In addition, there were free samples of healthy snacks provided by Country Life Natural Foods (a division of Oak Haven, located in Pullman, Mich.), homemade bread was available to purchase, and an assortment of healthy living magazines and books were offered by a Paw Paw Church member who is a personal lifestyle coach. Also offered were several demonstrations on how to cook healthy with free recipes handed out afterward.

Breakout seminars on nutrition, depression, obesity and cholesterol levels

were presented by local and visiting doctors, and were followed with the opportunity to have an individual one-on-one “Ask-the-Doctor” session.

The fair also included a blood drive presented by the regional chapter of MIBlood (see www.miblood.org). A total of 12 pints of blood were donated from both church members and area residents, all of which will be used within the church’s community.

One of the highlights of the fair was the Fresh Start UNcoffee Shop, which featured a non-caffeine latte’ created by a Paw Paw Church member. The secret ingredients for this truly delicious drink include Roma, soy milk and hazelnut flavoring.

“This event required much prayer, a lot of dedication, organization and hard work,” says health and temperance leader Kerry Mattson. “And I couldn’t have done it without all of my team, but I am convinced it was worth the effort and I know it was a blessing to many so I’m sure there will be a second annual health fair; and hopefully, next year we will be able to reach an even greater number of people with our healthy lifestyle message.”

Pauletta Johnson, communications leader and church secretary, Paw Paw Church



Christian Prohaska

More than 30 sites hosted a "Hope Can Be Yours" series of meetings for Chicagoland residents.

Chicagoland series touch lives for Jesus

"Hope Can Be Yours" began as an idea in late 2005 and the beginning of 2006 as a way to reach the sprawling population of Chicagoland. According to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the Chicagoland area is defined as the greater metropolitan area of Northeastern Illinois, which includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties. With more than 10 million people in this area, Chicagoland is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States. Yet, even with this large population, the Chicagoland area has an Adventist demographic that is below the North American division average.

The Illinois Conference, as a part of its initiative "Touch Everyone for Jesus," made reaching the people of Chicagoland a priority. The "Hope Can Be Yours" campaign was planned to be the final push of "Touch Everyone for Jesus."

The original plan and thought process was to have a major "Net" event

and broadcast it across the Chicago area with Mark Finley, then vice president of evangelism for the Seventh-day Adventist World Church, as speaker. However, through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the decision was made to not have one central evangelistic meeting broadcast throughout Chicagoland, but rather strategically plan on a number of locations to have "live" evangelistic series.

Because the Chicagoland area is shared by two conferences, it was also deemed to be of utmost importance to include the Lake Region Conference in planning. Famous Murray was the Lake Region Conference leader. As the Chicagoland Evangelism committee began the planning process, they utilized James 5:7-8 as the guiding text. The text counsels that we should "watch the farmer." Learning from the farmer, the plan was put in place to have a plan, cultivate the soil, sow the seeds, care for growth, reap the harvest and preserve that harvest.

As pastors and conference leaders heard this plan, excitement began to grow; and the original 12 sites grew to 18 sites, then 18 sites to 22 sites, then

22 sites to 26 sites, and finally ending with more than 30 sites across Chicagoland.

Training was held in the fall and winter of 2009. Lay members and pastors were trained in Bible instruction, small group studies using *Unsealing Daniel's Mysteries*, *CHIP*, the *Nedley Depression Recovery Program*, *Lifestyle Matters*, *Stress: Beyond Coping*, and *Country Life Natural Foods Cooking Schools*. More than 1,000 people were trained in these various ministries. In addition, literature and DVDs from Anchor Point Films were distributed, and health expos held. There was a flurry of activity for the Kingdom as God's people utilized their training and began sharing with friends and family.

As the evangelistic series grew closer, advertising efforts were expanded. There were 30 radio spots on WBBM AM, newspaper advertisements and more than 1.2 million handbills sent out across Chicagoland. Yet, most importantly, people all across Chicagoland prayed that God's spirit would be poured out.

The involvement in the project was tremendous not only from a lay perspective, but also in church leadership. Pastors led their congregations; several pastors were speakers for the series, many invited evangelists participated and Illinois Conference president, Ken Denslow, was a speaker. Union officials were very supportive and helped create promotional material. NADEI director Ron Clouzet was a speaker, and 40 seminary students came as a support team and completed part of their field school requirements in Chicagoland. Finley and Armando Miranda, a vice president of the World Church, were speakers. Something special was happening in Chicago.

Opening night of all locations, there were more than 4,600 people in attendance. More than 2,700 of those attendees were guests. As of today, 300-plus people have been baptized with many more expected. By the fall, there should be between 400 and 500 baptisms total.



Benjamin Benjamin (center) was born in Iraq, where he first encountered the Seventh-day Adventist message. Years later, his family's prayers were answered as he responded to God's call and was baptized. Also pictured: Emmanuel Baek, evangelist, and Christopher Holland, pastor.

Often people will say evangelism doesn't work any longer. Some say it is too expensive. Others say the results don't justify the efforts put forth. Even though the above numbers seem to negate those kinds of attitudes, it isn't the numbers that make a difference ... it is the people. As we consider whether evangelism works—whether it is too expensive, or whether the efforts are worth it—I would ask you to consider two stories and see what evangelism meant to them.

Benjamin Benjamin was born in Iraq, and is culturally an Assyrian. He was brought up in the Orthodox tradition. In the late 1970s, Benjamin encountered the Seventh-day Adventist message while still living in Iraq. He was moved by God's truth and excited to learn these biblical messages. However, a negative experience turned him away from the Church. His family moved to Greece where his wife, Shami Benjamin, was baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist family of faith. Benjamin continued to resist the Holy Spirit. The family then moved to the United States. Shami continued to be faithful to the Advent message and faithfully reared her children in the Church.

Despite Benjamin not becoming a Seventh-day Adventist and sometimes needing a fair bit of persuasion from Shami, he continued to send his chil-

dren to Seventh-day Adventist schools. Though one of Benjamin's sons died tragically in a car accident, his other two children are faithful to the Lord. His son Fainer is a literature evangelist and his daughter, Fadia, is co-president of Anchor Point Films, a supporting ministry that focuses on biblical documentaries.

Through the years Shami, Fainer and Fadia prayed that God would make a way for Benjamin. Even though Benjamin wasn't a Seventh-day Adventist, he attended church almost every week. For 30 years he seemed to resist what God was doing in his life. When the "Hope Can Be Yours" campaign arrived, he planned to attend the seminar. More than just attend, he asked God that he would understand and be changed by the messages of Emanuel Baek. As the seminar wound down, Baek made a call for commitment and asked people to stand if they wanted to be baptized; Benjamin stood for the Lord. The night after, Baek made the same appeal but asked people to come forward; Benjamin took that stand and came forward. Beyond his stand, several others made decisions because they saw Benjamin's commitment. On May 22, Benjamin was baptized into God's last-day remnant church.

Dorin Chudin grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home in Russia. He first met Finley when Finley stayed in the Chudin's home during an evangelistic series in Russia in 2002. Finley normally stayed in hotels, but because of the dangerous times he stayed in Chudin's father's home. This was the same point in history when Chechen rebels took over a theater in Moscow.

Chudin left Russia and attended Andrews University. Unfortunately, over time, he drifted from the Lord. After leaving Andrews, Chudin came to Chicago to work. During his time in Chicago, he attended church occasionally but never felt convicted on the matter. One day his girlfriend began asking very probing spiritual questions. Chudin went online and came across Finley's "Discoveries '08" presenta-

tions. The couple watched them and enjoyed the messages.

Then one day a flier came in the mail. This flier was an invitation to attend Finley's Amazing Discoveries "Reveal the Future" series. Chudin and his girlfriend both attended the meetings. Both were baptized.

These are just two of hundreds of incredible stories that happened in Chicagoland. Every penny spent was and is worth it for just one individual. Ellen White says, in *The Desire of Ages*, page 633, "By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord's return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God."

And while it seems an impossible task, we are also promised in *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 333, "As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings."

May we move forward in faith and live out the commission of Jesus.

Christopher Holland, Chicagoland evangelism coordinator, Illinois Conference



Dorin Chudin (left) grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home in Russia, but over time drifted from the Lord. After attending Mark Finley's series of meetings Chudin was baptized, along with his girlfriend. Also pictured: Ron Schultz, senior pastor, Hinsdale Church.

Christian Prohaska

[WORLD CHURCH NEWS]



Daren Heshoy/MC

Andrews Study Bible released

Andrews University—The only formal study Bible ever produced by a Seventh-day Adventist publishing house, the *Andrews Study Bible*, was recently released.

Using the widely accepted New King James Version of the Bible, the historic publication is a full-feature study Bible, with more than 12,000 original study notes written by an international team of Adventist scholars who represent the latest in faithful Biblical scholarship, according to Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University. The volume includes navigational tools, articles, helps, cross-references, maps and notes, and a unique, linked reference system to highlight the great themes of the Christian faith. “All of this is to make Bible reading and understanding more accessible and easier—and it’s all within the cover of one reasonably-sized book,” says Andreasen.

The *Andrews Study Bible* project began to take root in 2007 when the General Conference Biblical Research Institute Committee and Church leadership considered whether a tool, such as a study Bible, would promote Bible study throughout the Church. Andreasen says, “They encouraged Andrews University to respond to this concern in the form of a study Bible, and the General Conference joined Andrews University in helping to fund the project.”

The Project Committee, chaired by

Andreasen, was charged with supervising the development. Committee members included Mark A. Finley, then a vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; Denis Fortin, dean, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University; Ernő Gyéresi, business manager, Andrews University Press; Gerry D. Karst, then a vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; Ronald A. Knott, director, Andrews University Press; Juan R. Prestol, undertreasurer, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; Ángel M. Rodríguez, then director of the Biblical Research Institute, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; and Jon L. Dybdahl, professor emeritus of biblical studies, Walla Walla University, and general editor of the *Andrews Study Bible*.

Andrews University Press, the primary academic publishing house serving the World Church, contracted with Dybdahl and the contributing editorial team of Bible scholars from around the world, bringing an international academic perspective to the *Andrews Study Bible*, according to Andreasen. The staff of the General Conference Biblical Research Institute provided editorial consultation.

Andreasen notes, “This is a practical study Bible the lay reader can really use to understand the depth of Scripture. In fact, our tag line for the Bible is ‘Light. Depth. Truth.’ We’ve tried to bring light and depth to our understanding of the truth in God’s Word.”

Church leaders from across North America have been generous in their commendations. Tom Lemon, vice president for administration for the Mid-America Union Conference, says of the *Andrews Study Bible*, “This is a very practical tool for anyone wishing a deeper understanding of the Bible. But beyond usefulness, it is an outstanding example of what faithful, spiritual scholarship is all about.”

“The *Andrews Study Bible* is an outstanding work with excellent study tools and is exactly what is needed at this time of earth’s history” says Don Noble, president of Maranatha Volunteers

International. “I would like to see every Seventh-day Adventist around the world have access to this wonderful resource.”

A key feature of the Bible is the linked reference system, focusing on the great themes of the Christian faith. According to Knott, “Readers will easily be able to study the foundational concepts of Bible truth, like Creation, Sin, Salvation, Assurance, the Sanctuary, the Second Coming. Key passages of scripture dealing with these and many other themes are addressed in the study notes at the bottom of the page.”

The *Andrews Study Bible* takes its name from Adventist pioneer John Nevins Andrews. Andreasen says, “Andrews was the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s first overseas missionary and was a renowned Bible scholar. It’s fitting to use the Andrews name for this study Bible because that name inspired the University, and the University is now inspiring Bible study all over the world. Today, with the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in particular, Andrews is committed to providing theological education all over the world, and the church needs the *Andrews Study Bible* to go there, too.”

In the days ahead, church members will learn more about the *Andrews Study Bible*. The June 17 issue of the *Adventist Review* carried a five-page cover feature about the work, and time was given at the GC Session in Atlanta to introduce the Bible to delegates from around the world. On June 11, the Bible became available for purchase in many Adventist Book Centers across North America. It is also available online at www.andrewsstudybible.com.

Founded in 1874, Andrews University is the flagship institution of higher education for the Seventh-day Adventist church, located one-half mile east of the U.S. 31 Bypass in Berrien Springs, Mich.

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

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

Weddings

Christy Kubasiak and Ben Heistand were married May 23, 2010, in Battle Creek, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Charles Hanlon.

Christy is the daughter of Judy and the late Gary Kubasiak and Rick and Sue Gillett all of Battle Creek, and Ben is the son of Dan and Wendy Heistand and Lisa Keesler all of Battle Creek.

The Heistands are making their home in Battle Creek.

Obituaries

BAPTIST, Lee, age 87; born Aug. 27, 1922, in Bryan Cty, Okla.; died May 25, 2010, in Lebanon, Mo. He was a member of the Springfield (Ill.) First Church.

Survivors include his sons, Leon and Byron; daughters, Amelia McBride, Ellen Giem, Irene Mueller, Orla Anderson, Ulena Robinson and Zetta Gore; brothers, Ross, George and Norman "Dale"; 23 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor John Wolfe, and interment was in the Seventh-day Adventist Cemetery, Lebanon.

BIGGS, George, age 86; born June 14, 1923, in Gary, Ind.; died Apr. 18, 2010, in Munster, Ind. He was a member of the Mizpah Church, Gary.

Survivors include his sons, Brian G. and Byron G.; daughters, Gwendolyn Biggs and Verna Ertherly; sister, Gloria Wilson; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Gerald Hall, and interment was in Fern Oaks Cemetery, Griffith, Ind.

BONNELL, Mary Belle (Waltz), age 80; born Sept. 24, 1929, in Eldorado, Ill.; died Mar. 12, 2010, in Glen Carbon, Ill. She was a member of the Alton (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Charles W.; sons, Charles D., Raymond and Dwight Bonnell; daughters, Karen Bonnell and Illa

David; brothers, Alvin, John, Bill and Jim Waltz; sisters, Lola Irvin and Beatrice Stafford; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dale Barnhurst, and interment was in Bunker Hill (Ill.) Cemetery.

CARTER SR., Nathaniel, age 66; born Dec. 16, 1942, in Chicago, Ill.; died Oct. 24, 2009, in Chicago. He was a member of the Shiloh Church, Chicago.

Survivors include his sons, Nathaniel Jr., Barry A., Timothy W., Samuel K. and Christopher B.; daughters, Vanessa, and Keturah Daye Candance; 17 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Famous Murray, with private inurnment.

DAVIS, Orlie A., age 97; born Nov. 13, 1912, in Ravenden Springs, Ark.; died May 13, 2010, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Niles Westside Church.

Survivors include his brother, Herman.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Walt Williams and Pastors Darrel Roux and Bill Dudgeon, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs, Mich.

FIEBELKORN, Winona May (West), age 95; born May 9, 1914, in Corunna, Mich.; died Mar. 13, 2010, in Marianna, Fla. She was a member of the Burlington (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, David Fiebelkorn; daughter, Frances Stone; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Joel Nephew, with private inurnment, Burlington.

FOPAY, Betty J. (Thompson) Kellum, age 85; born May 28, 1924, in Macomb, Ill.; died May 26, 2010, in Urbana, Ill. She was a member of the Champaign (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her son, David Fopay; stepdaughter, Jynne Condon; sister, Maude Carstens; and one step-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by

Pastor Raymond J. Plummer, and interment was in Grandview Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Champaign.

GOTKE, Edmund, age 73; born Dec. 15, 1936, in Constanza, Romania; died Mar. 31, 2010, in Holland, Mich. He was a member of the Holland Church.

Survivors include his daughter, Barb Howard; brother, Reinhard; sister, Magdalena Grentz; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Craig Harris, and interment was in Graafschap Cemetery, Holland.

HESLER, Marjorie M. (Kimberlin), age 91; born Oct. 28, 1918, in Noble, Ill.; died May 7, 2010, in Whitney, Texas. She was a member of the Noble Church.

Survivors include her son, Charles W. Hesler; and eight grandchildren.

Inurnment was in Crest Haven Gardens Cemetery, East Richland, Ill.

KOLMODIN, Grace H. (Leech), age 85; born Aug. 18, 1924, in Tupelo, Miss.; died Nov. 12, 2009, in Indianapolis, Ind. She was a member of the Brownsburg (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Douglas Kolmodin; daughters, Gloria Bolejack and Debbie Kolmodin; sister, Betty Miller; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Steven Manoukian, and interment was in Lincoln Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Whitestown, Ind.

LIECHTY, Karl O., age 88; born July 22, 1921, in Monroe, Ind.; died Mar. 5, 2010, in Alpena, Mich. He was a member of the Alpena Church.

Survivors include his son, David Liechty; stepsons, Edward J. and Wayne G. Seiler; daughter, Becky Sue Liechty; and stepdaughter, Cheryl Seiler.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Austin, and interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Roger City, Mich.

MATTHEWS, Howard C., age 84; born Apr. 8, 1926, in Canton, N.Y.; died Apr. 13, 2010, in Peoria, Ill. He was a member of the Princeton (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, B. Joan (Fountain); son, Gary L.; daughter, Emily M. Matthews; brothers, Roland, Duane and Bill;

sisters, Alice Blackmer and Ellen Janack; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Mike Weakley and Clarence Small, and inurnment was in Hermon (N.Y.) Cemetery.

NEPHEW, Zechariah M., age 19; born June 22, 1990, in Holland, Mich.; died Mar. 30, 2010, in Ypsilanti, Mich. He was a member of the Holland Church.

Survivors include his father, Mark Nephew; mother, Eldonna (Andrus) Nephew; brother, Ethan; and sister, Jessica Nephew.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Craig Harris, and interment was in Olive Twp. Cemetery, Zeeland, Mich.

PEKINPAUGH, Wilma, age 91; born Aug. 4, 1918, in Tell City, Ind.; died June 5, 2010, in Tell City. She was a member of the Tell City Church.

Survivors include her brother, Wayne Pekinpaugh.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Justin Childers, and interment was in Deer Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Tell City.

SHEPPLER, Ethel L. (Thompson), age 87; born June 8, 1922, in Goodlands, Kan.; died Mar. 18, 2010, in Burr Ridge, Ill. She was a member of the Glenwood Church, Dowagiac, Mich.

Survivors include her sons, Clinton P. and Larrie L. Sheppler; daughter, Delores Pawlak; sister, Mildred Howell; 10 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Travis Smith, Elder Allen Middaugh and elder Harry Sponseller, and interment was in Rockland (Wis.) Cemetery.

SPRAGUE, Russel C., age 82; born Apr. 30, 1927, in Harrison, Mich.; died Apr. 19, 2010, in Saginaw, Mich. He was a charter member of the Clare (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Marylou (John); sons, Stephen R. and Bradley J.; daughters, Dara G. John and Lynn Ann Sprague; brother, Linus; sisters, Lola Armstrong, Birdie Kelly and Louise Crook; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

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

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

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Employment

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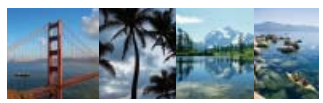
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School Notes

BY JUDY SHULL

Sharing Sunshine

In mid-April, more than 100 Grand Rapids Adventist Academy (GRAA) students participated in a week-long annual fundraising activity called, "The Money War." Students bring pennies and bills, which equal positive points; and all other coins are negative points. The money is collected in class containers. Students add positive money to their container, but put the negative coins in other class containers. The goal is to see which class gets the most points.



joy giving a \$70 miniature goat. GRAA's goat will live with an impoverished family in the Philippines where goats are known as "the poor man's cow." The breeding doe gives the family additional income and access to milk for the children. Students were invited to submit a possible name for our goat. Ruffles, Rocket and Cookie sounded good, but so did Sunshine, Hope, Blessings and Princess. After a couple rounds of voting, a fourth-grader's suggested name of "Sunshine" was selected.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help fund student activities and a giving project. This year the big winner of the "war" was the third grade. After looking through the Adventist Development & Relief Agency gift catalog (see www.giftcatalog.adra.org), the teachers decided the students would en-

As the school year ended, students and their families were asked to pray for our goat and the family Sunshine will help break out of poverty.

Judy Shull teaches sixth grade at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy in Michigan.



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.

Illinois

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the 31st regular constituency session of the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Hinsdale Church, Hinsdale, Illinois, with the first meeting called at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, **October 31, 2010**. This session is for the purpose of receiving reports of the quadrennium which ended December 31, 2009; to elect officers, departmental directors and an executive committee for the ensuing term; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the constituency, including possible changes in the Constitution and Bylaws. Delegates are those duly elected by the churches of the conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the constitution. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each fifty members or major fraction thereof, based on actual church membership as of September 30 preceding the meeting.

Ken Denslow, president
Kyoshin Ahn, executive secretary

Indiana

Campestre Hispano 2010: Hispanic Camp Meeting is **Sept. 3-6** at Timber Ridge Camp. For further information, contact Antonio Rosario, Hispanic ministries coordinator for Indiana, at 317-856-5770 or prarosario@aol.com.

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. For further information, 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, Antonia Demas, Gwen Foster and George Guthrie. Registration fee includes dinner Thurs. evening, and breakfast and lunch on Fri. with Chef Mark Anthony. To register, contact Susan Landess at 765-621-7557, or visit the Indiana Healthy Choices Web site at lifestyle4health.org.

Two Elders Training Events designed to assist elders with biblical preaching will be held in Indiana this fall: **Sept. 18** from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the South Bend First Church with Doug Jacobs; and **Sept. 25** from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Bloomington Church with Glenn Russell. Both Jacobs and Russell are homiletics professors specializing in teaching preaching.

The Indiana Academy Alumni Association welcomes all graduates/attendees to the IA campus for Alumni Homecoming, **Oct. 8-9**. Honor classes this year are: 1960, '70, '85 and 2000. In addition, the following classes will be recognized: 1940, '50, '80 and '90.

For detailed information regarding the alumni weekend, contact Bonny Dent, IAAA president, at 269-422-6464 or dent@andrews.edu. For information regarding the alumni golf/auction event on Fri., contact Lawrence Johnson at 765-649-7256 or ljohnson@mustinbuilders.com. For RV and/or hotel information, visit www.iasda.org or call IA at 317-984-3575.

Lake Union

Offerings

Aug 7 Local Church Budget

Aug 14 World Budget (Oakwood College/Andrews University/Loma Linda University)

Aug 21 Local Church Budget

Aug 28 Local Conference Advance

Special Days

Aug 28 Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day

Michigan

Young Adult Retreat (ages 18-35), Sept. 9-12. Mark your calendar and join fellow young adult singles for a wonderful weekend of fun and fellowship at beautiful Camp Au Sable. This is a great opportunity to get away and enjoy all of the awesome activities the camp has to offer. Christ-centered, uplifting programming with speakers Justin Kim and Jeff Ackenberger. Plenty of fellowship and spiritual enrichment has been planned. Enjoy time with friends and make new ones. Tell everyone you know, and we hope to see you there. Registration forms

available at www.misda.org (family life). For more information and prices, call Alyce Blackmer at 517-316-1543, or e-mail her at ablackmer@misda.org.

The annual Health Professionals Retreat will be held at Camp Au Sable, **Sept. 16-19**. Guest speaker will be David Fernandez, M.D., FACS, an orthopedic surgeon in Flint, Mich., and a founding member of the Grand Blanc Seventh-day Adventist Church. Scott Michael Bennett will provide music. Michigan Conference is partnering with AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network), a national organization of Christian physicians and dentists whose purpose is to share Christ in their workplace through medical evangelism, to sponsor this event. For registration information, please call 517-316-1527, or e-mail schristie@misda.org.

Christian Singles Fellowship Retreat (35 and up), Oct. 21-24. Join us this year at Camp Au Sable and enjoy the beauties of nature, fun activities, praise and worship, and fellowship with other Christians. Take advantage of six different classes taught throughout the weekend on topics such as "Getting Out of Debt," "Developing a Personal Fitness Plan," "Healthy Cooking for One or More," "Natural Remedies for Today's Ailments," and two on witnessing and personal Bible study. Tell your friends, and don't wait to register. Call Alyce today at 517-316-1543, or e-mail her at ablackmer@misda.org.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Aug 6	Aug 13	Aug 20	Aug 27	Sep 3	Sep 10
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:58	8:49	8:38	8:28	8:17	8:05
Chicago, Ill.	8:04	7:55	7:44	7:34	7:23	7:11
Detroit, Mich.	8:47	8:37	8:27	8:16	8:05	7:53
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:53	8:45	8:35	8:25	8:15	8:04
La Crosse, Wis.	8:23	8:13	8:02	7:51	7:40	7:27
Lansing, Mich.	8:53	8:44	8:34	8:23	8:12	7:59
Madison, Wis.	8:14	8:04	7:53	7:42	7:31	7:19
Springfield, Ill.	8:07	7:59	7:49	7:39	7:29	7:18



Crystal Mountain Marriage Retreat, Nov. 12-14. This is a great opportunity to get away with your spouse to reconnect and be renewed spiritually. The location and facilities are very conducive to make wonderful memories, meet new friends, gain valuable marriage advice and just have a great time. Our speakers this year will be Dr. W. Clarence and Dianna Shiit. They have a message that will change your life. Make plans to attend this year, and do something great for your marriage. For more information or to register, call Alyce at 517-316-1543, or e-mail her at ablackmer@misda.org.

North American Division

WU Alumni e-Newsletter: Walla Walla University is starting an e-newsletter to communicate with alumni. It will go out once a month. To sign up to receive the e-newsletter, please visit the Web site at alumni.wallawalla.edu.

Sligo Homecoming Weekend: Come home to Sligo Church for a joyous reunion, **Aug. 6-8!** From Fri. evening vespers through Sun. brunch and beyond, you will catch up with friends, feel stirred as former pastors dig into God's Word, enjoy the best of music (as always!) and have fun at a Sat. night talent show. For a true homecoming, you've got to be here! For more details, visit www.sligochurch.org or phone 301-270-6777.

Invitation to Recall 150th Anniversary of Adoption of the Name 'Seventh-day Adventist': Oct. 1 marks the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the name "Seventh-day Adventist." Adventists worldwide are invited on **Oct. 2**—the Sabbath closest to the anniversary date—to commemorate this historic anniversary in a variety of ways. In addition to individual members and

local churches, other Adventist institutions and organizations are also invited to commemorate the choosing of our name sometime during the month of Oct. Program suggestions, historical resources and other information for the commemoration are available at www.150SDA.org. You, your congregation and your institution are invited to join the worldwide Adventist family in commemorating the 150th anniversary of choosing our church's name.

Wisconsin

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the quadrennial sessions of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the Wisconsin Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists are to be held at Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, Wisconsin, on Sunday, **October 3, 2010.** The organizing committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. with the

first meeting of the session convening at 9:30 a.m. Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to elect officers, directors of departments/services, and members of the executive committee, constitution and bylaws committee, and nominating committee for the new quadrennial term, along with corporation trustees for the ensuing quadrennial term. Delegates will also transact such other business as may properly come before them. Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof.

Mike Edge, president

Roger L. Driver, conference secretary

Richard G. Habenicht, corporation secretary

PARTNERSHIP with GOD

God's Growing Family

BY GARY BURNS



I left the hotel early this Sabbath morning to catch the train to the Georgia Dome for the last day of the 59th General Conference Session. When I arrived at Five Points, my transfer station, the platform for the westbound Blue Line was overcrowded with my international family. From one end of the platform to the other, my brothers and sisters were singing hymns as one mass choir. My family was not limited to Seventh-day Adventists. Others joined their hearts and voices to sing the familiar hymns, including some of the workers at the Dome.

Just before our train arrived, we sang "We Have This Hope." The words and music were unfamiliar to some of my brothers and sisters, but the message rang true to their hearts. Their faces lighted up as we lifted our voices on the last strain. I couldn't help but imagine how

our Heavenly Father must have felt as He heard the praise of His children—His different children.

As we approached the Dome, I asked a worker if she'd ever experienced anything like that before. She said, "No, but I was blessed. It started my day off right."

When we entered the Dome, we were greeted with a cheerful "Happy Sabbath" by a number of workers.

God's children are everywhere. It's time to recognize and acknowledge one another, to join our hearts and voices in familiar truths, and to teach one another new songs with messages that ring true.

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



My Patient God

BY SARA OLAKOWSKI

This past year I have been teaching English at Nile Union Academy, which is on the outskirts of Cairo. I came to Egypt with the intention of helping, but maybe even more so with the intention of growing. I asked God to stretch me and to teach me the lessons I would run away from if I hadn't been 6,100 miles away from home. He has.

This year has probably been the best year of my life, but it has also been the most challenging. I have never had difficulty in school—unless you count that time my senior year of high school when I was taking calculus and cried out of frustration during a couple tests.

I came to Egypt to teach English to students who have a more difficult time learning, with no training whatsoever. Running on very little sleep and having no idea what I was doing, I stayed up until one or two in the morning working on lesson plans. Without even a book to follow, I had no knowledge of how to do ... well, pretty much anything. I was at a breaking point. Somehow, it ended up being five minutes before class started when I still had no idea what I was going to teach 38 tenth graders for 80 minutes. Any little thing would have caused me to just fall apart. I went back to my room and asked one of my roommates what I should do. She saved my life. That day, my class started essays (with absolutely no preparation on my part!), but it took all 80 minutes of class time.

One of the boys in that class, whose English is worthy of ESL to say the least, called me to his desk to check his thesis statement. It said, "I like my best teacher Miss Sara.



She is my sister because she tell me I need help. She offer to help me and she is patient with me." It was not the format I wanted, but it showed me my work wasn't completely in vain.

Maybe I had no idea what I was doing and was unqualified for my position. Maybe my weaknesses had really begun to flourish. But on the verge of a breakdown in a world I didn't understand, teaching students who were different than anyone I had ever met, God reassured me. He didn't talk to me the way I talked to myself. I didn't need the reassurance; life would have gone on. Eventually, I would have understood the best

way to teach them, and I would have gotten the hang of things. I didn't need that, but God gave it to me; and it just reassures me that He cares about the little things. It reassures me to know that God doesn't view life as a boot camp where I am consistently inadequate. I have things to learn, but I have peace living for a God who is more patient with me than I am with myself.

Sara Olakowski is a junior studying nursing at Andrews University. She is a member of the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hinsdale, Illinois.

Brandon Baptist, 18, from Rockford, Illinois, is a graduate of the Indiana Academy (IA) class of 2010. He was a positive influence on campus and well-known for his cheerful attitude and friendly smile.

Brandon loves to play all types of sports. He is a well-rounded student who is musically talented and has an excellent academic record. A member of the IA chapter of the National Honor Society, Brandon graduated with high honors. His favorite subjects are math courses, especially Calculus. He plans to attend Andrews University next year and would like to become an academy Math/PE teacher some day. Most importantly, Brandon has a strong love for the Lord.

Brandon loves to sing, and he happily joined in nursing home outreach opportunities. Brandon's most exciting adventure last year was leaving the U.S. for the first time to participate in a mission trip to El Higo, Mexico, with the Cicero Church and several members of the IA senior class. Brandon's most memorable experience was gaining insight into life in another culture. He returned with a renewed sense of gratitude for what God has done for him.

Brandon is the son of Stephen and Edna Baptist, and he is a baptized member of the Rockford Church.



Brandon Baptist



Vivi Pizarro

Derling "Vivi" Pizarro, 18, is a graduate of the Indiana Academy (IA) class of 2010. Originally from Peru, South America, she makes her home in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Vivi served as a resident assistant in the girls' dorm and also worked in the registrar's office, where she provided thorough and reliable assistance. Vivi was a member of the IA chapter of the National Honor Society and received the prestigious Judy Jordan Scholarship for her leadership in the dormitory.

Vivi's favorite classes at IA were English and Bible. She says: "It is so much more important to help others, rather than yourself. This is where true joy lies." Putting this motto into practice, Vivi participated in a mission trip to El Higo, Mexico, with the Cicero Church and several members of the IA senior class. As part of a school outreach team, she recently visited a maximum security prison to speak and sing to the prisoners. She also provided the children's story for worship services and assisted with music in Indiana Conference churches. Vivi is described as one who brings sunshine wherever she goes.

Vivi plans to attend Southern Adventist University next year and will study biology in preparation for dental school. She is the daughter of Carlos and Elena Pizarro, and Vivi is a member of the 2nd Hispanic Church in Indianapolis.

Address Correction

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

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Official Publication of the Seventh-day Adventist Church/Lake Union Headquarters

www.LakeUnionHerald.org

August 2010

Vol. 102, No.8

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