

*Lake Union*  
**HERALD**

NOVEMBER 2010

**YOUNG  
PIONEERS**

*Facing Challenges by Faith*

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



On the set of "The ADVENTISTS." ©Journey Films



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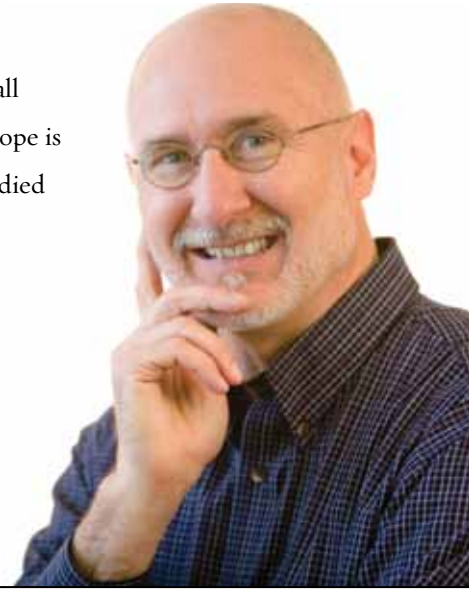
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*In this issue...*

The Adventist Movement began with a small group of young pioneers of faith. Today, our hope is sustained by the same energy and spirit embodied in our young adults, dedicated to the call.

*Gary Burns*  
Gary Burns, Editor



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## Bringing the Best

In my early years attending Sabbath school, I remember being encouraged to do something for the Investment Offering. Based on the parable of the talents (see Matthew 25:14–30), participating in this special offering provided practical lessons in good stewardship while raising significant amounts of money for missions. We often heard a variety of stories. Some people saved loose change, some collected S & H Green Stamps (Are you old enough to remember those?), some took on an additional project to craft something to sell, others went without dessert or beverage or even skipped a meal in order to put saved money into an “Investment Jar.”

I remember there were some stories that went something like this: “I have an apple orchard with good producing trees ... except one. This year, I decided to dedicate that tree to the Lord and give all the proceeds to the Investment Offering. It was the most amazing thing, that tree had more apples on it than any other! I am happy to give all the proceeds of that tree for the Investment Offering.”

Do any of you remember stories like that—a field of grain or a cow that did not produce much, but when given to the Lord each became a productive success? While it is wonderful to see what the Lord does with the weak and lame, this approach falls short of the best stewardship.

If you do a query with the words “without blemish,” you’ll get 41 hits in the New King James Version. Again and again, Israel was directed to bring their offerings “without blemish” or “without spot or wrinkle.” On other occasions, the term “first fruits” referred to the produce of the field. The nature of our offerings speaks to our relationship with God. Here are a few examples:

“...take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide” (Deuteronomy 26:2 NKJV).

“And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: Take one young bull and two rams without blemish...” (Exodus 29:1 NKJV).

“...that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27 NKJV).

When we bring God the first fruits of our time, the best of our developed talents and abilities—when we set aside our tithe and offerings first rather than waiting until what’s left over at the end of the budget cycle—we make a statement to God and affirm to ourselves that God is primary in our lives.

The Investment Offering stories I liked best were when someone gave the best tree in the orchard, the most productive or best cow, calf, ewe or lamb and rejoiced in how God blessed what was best in both direct and indirect ways.



## Impacting Young Adults

BY JEREMI LONDON

I've been a Christian all my life. At the age of 14, my mother began taking my brother and me to a non-denominational Sabbath-keeping church. As a result of this, I have known about the Sabbath for awhile. When I went away to college, finding a Sabbath-keeping church was a struggle. I felt the need to maintain my church-going custom; and as a result, returned to worshipping on Sunday as a temporary solution.

In the meantime, I continued to pray that God would lead me to a Sabbath-keeping church. I met a gentleman named "Ingram" who led Bible studies on campus through the Adventist Collegiate Fellowship at Purdue University (ACFP). He invited me to attend. I really enjoyed the Bible-based discussions and was excited to know that they were Sabbath-keepers. So I thought, *Maybe this is an answer to my prayers.*

I began forming relationships within ACFP. My first interaction with the Adventist Church was through the friends I met on campus. What I learned about the Adventist faith was consistent with what I had been taught before. However, I really appreciated the new insights regarding prophecy and the health message. I took this as an answer to my prayers. I continued studying the Bible in light of the Adventist message and eventually became an Adventist. By my senior year of college I was active in the church, facilitating the same ACFP Bible studies that led me to the faith and leading Young Adult Sabbath school classes. Soon after graduating, I married the gentleman who first introduced me to the Adventist faith.

After learning about Adventism, I shared the insights with my mom; she soon became an Adventist as well! She currently serves as the head usher at the Berean Church



*Jeremi London shares weekends with her husband Ingram on the campus of Andrews University where Ingram is a student at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.*

Gary Burns

in St. Louis, Missouri.

At the Lafayette Church, I am always greeted with a warm smile, a "Happy Sabbath," handed a bulletin, a handshake and given a hug—a personal connection is established immediately. One thing I love about Adventism is that I can attend any Adventist church and participate in the Sabbath school discussion, because we all use the same quarterly. Engaging and Bible-

based are two adjectives that easily capture the essence of these discussions.

After Sabbath school, we transition to the Divine Service. There is worship and the Word of God is spoken. This is something I really appreciate. Potluck usually follows the church service. Oftentimes, the Purdue students continue to fellowship until sunset. Also, on Friday evenings, the ACFP students gather to bring in the Sabbath and discuss God's Word. It's a lovely community.

Upon completing my undergrad degree and graduating, I transferred to the Sharon Church in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area. Once Ingram and I got married, we moved to Houston, Texas, and transferred our church memberships to the Houston Northwest Church. We led a bi-weekly Bible-based discussion on the Adventist fundamentals among our peers there.



Recently, Ingram and I returned to the Midwest for graduate studies. I am pursuing a Ph.D. in engineering education, while he is studying theology at Andrews University. During this adjustment period, I have not been as active as before, but I am slowly finding ways to serve the Lord.

In my opinion, there is great value in incorporating young people into the worship experience. Young people have a unique bounty of energy. Every new generation of faithful young people carry forth the pillars of the faith. Furthermore, they make connections and can be very effective in witnessing to unbelieving youth; in essence, a snow-ball effect results.

There is something I wish all churches understood. Churches, especially university churches, can do a tremendous amount of good in the lives of its youth. Reach out to them as individuals; show that you care about them as children of God. To some, it may not be a big deal to invite the young people over for lunch occasionally, but it means the world to us. Small things, like living a consistent lifestyle before us and demonstrating the love of Christ, go a very long way. Of course, this effort is not free. It takes time and energy, but I think the eternal benefits far outweigh the costs. These small efforts make a huge impact on our decisions to be faithful to the mission, to be active in the church and to love the Lord with unwavering sincerity.

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Jeremi London is a graduate student at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

## **Adventist Campus Ministries at Public Universities in the Lake Union**

### **Illinois**

- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### **Indiana**

- Purdue University
- Indiana University Bloomington

### **Michigan**

- Aquinas College
- Central Michigan University
- Ferris State University
- Michigan State University
- University of Michigan
- Wayne State University
- Western Michigan University

### **Wisconsin**

- University of Wisconsin – Madison

## Learning to Serve

BY KRISTINE HORVATH

In the winter of 2009, Lisa Babcock, along with Gregor and Lynn Staniszewski, Sabbath school department leaders, decided to combine efforts and move their young people into community service. Seeking to find something the kids would be actively engaged in, the leaders asked the classes for ideas. Interest grew as they voted the top three ideas: building something, going on a Maranatha trip and doing a project at an Indian reservation.

The classes prayed for God's leading in their options and decision making. Each option was researched and its feasibility determined. Lisa, a pediatric physical therapist, was approached a year earlier by a family who needed a wheelchair ramp for their six-year-old son who is confined to a wheelchair because of cerebral palsy. The parents were unable to afford the supplies or labor needed to build the ramp. Unfortunately, none of the avenues Lisa pursued at that time proved to be successful in finding help or funding.

The wheelchair ramp idea was presented and voted, and the ramp project was set in motion. After receiving church board approval, a consecration ceremony based on Joshua 3:5 was held outside the church. Each Junior and Earliteen Sabbath school member, leader and teacher took a stone, placed it on the others and built an altar of remembrance. For each rock placed, thanks to God was raised for something He had done for them in the past and how He would lead in the future, and they consecrated themselves to God. From then on, Lisa claimed Psalm 37:5, "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will act" (ESV). Lisa says, "I didn't know how He was going to take a group of kids, raise almost \$1,000 and build a ramp, but I trusted that to Him."

Most of the money raised came through fundraisers, which were primarily "Hire-a-Kid" projects advertised within the church. The young people met on Sunday morn-



Nineteen young people from the Junior, Earliteen and Youth classes, along with ten adults, came together to help build a wheelchair ramp for a family in their community. They also painted a mural in the boy's room, and did some yard work at a neighbor's house.

ings and went to people's houses who signed up for help.

On July 25, 19 Juniors, Earliteens and Youth class members, along with ten adults, shared God's love and acted on their commitment to their community by helping their friends in need. Contractors Dan Minter and Gus Bell shared how the ramp would take shape. So many kids came that some were employed painting an animal mural in the boy's room or weeding and other yard work at a neighbor's house.

It took about six months to obtain the estimates, submit the proposal, raise funds, arrange professional help, secure the site, buy material and build the ramp. The ramp itself took about four hours to complete. When the project was done, the family was thrilled and insisted on feeding everyone lunch.

Before leaving the project site, a prayer was offered thanking God for the opportunity to help and asking for God's blessing on the family.

The Lord always came through. The weather always cooperated, and there was more than enough help. Not only did the young people raise enough money, they had money left over.

The Sabbath school teachers are trying to figure out what God wants them to do next, and what He wants the left over money to go toward.

Kristine Horvath is a member of the Niles Westside Church in Michigan.



## Reflections of My First Mission Trip

BY ALEXANDRA DOMINGUEZ

**T**he mission statement for the Illinois Conference Youth Mission Trip was “To Love Is to Serve.” When the chance to participate in the Illinois Conference mission trip to Costa Rica presented itself, I immediately jumped at the opportunity. I’m 17 years old and entering my senior year of high school, what better way to end my summer vacation? Little did I know that trip would become one of the highlights of my teen years. The friends I made and the adventures we had can be summed up in only one word: extraordinary.

Our goal in Costa Rica was to venture onto the campus of a small school and connect with the children. Our ultimate goal was to establish a relationship with local students and simply listen, play and learn with them.

Our group was divided into four teams with the responsibility to teach physical education and science, conduct a Vacation Bible School, and paint. The P.E. team provided recess activities. The children ran circles around us when it came to soccer, but came to enjoy the new activity of badminton. When they had free time, the children requested that game and played with great enthusiasm. Stories from the Bible, songs such as “Peace Like a River,” and a daily craft were the highlights of Vacation Bible School. Unknown to the kids, they gained an elementary understanding of physics by building and then flying kites. Who knew science could be so much fun? Repainting the school and varnishing the desks and chairs were the responsibility of the paint crew, who seemed to get more paint on themselves than on the building.

I saw relationships grow and friendships formed. When we arrived, the kids were shy and hesitant; we were strangers on their turf. Slowly, they came closer, asked questions and listened earnestly for our answers. It didn’t matter that there was a language barrier for some of us; they didn’t seem to mind, so why should we?

On my second day, a young girl came to my side and simply took my hand. Each day I looked forward to seeing her warm, smiling face greeting me. She gave me a glimpse into



*During the Illinois Conference mission trip to Costa Rica, Alexandra Dominguez says she “experienced life in a new way,” and she praises God for the impact the trip had on her life.*

her life by using my camera to take pictures of her friends and teachers.

We also connected as a mission team. I made some incredible friends while in Costa Rica, I believe working together as a team to achieve a common goal created a bond that will not be broken. A quote attributed to former U.S. president, John Quincy Adams, says, “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a

leader.” The mission leaders truly exemplified this quote. I witnessed passionate, caring, Christ-centered leaders. They encouraged us while we were weary and motivated us when we lost focus.

Jeremiah 17:7 gives a biblical definition of our leaders: “But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence” (NLT).

I hope one day to return to Costa Rica, if only to visit the school where we spent a week, to see how the children have grown and to re-connect with them.

Jesus once said, “I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)” (John 10:10 AMP). Christ came to love and to serve, and He asked His children to do the same. John 10:10 now has new meaning for me. Because I reached out a helping hand and served, I experienced life in a new way. I praise God for allowing me to have that experience and for the impact it has had on my life.

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Alexandra Dominguez is a member of the Hinsdale Church in Illinois. She is a senior home school student this year.



# FAMILY TIES

## Gossip

WHY PEOPLE DO IT AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

“Is it kind, is it true, is it necessary?” That’s the adage I grew up hearing. It’s always been the necessary that held the most punch for me. I could share something that wasn’t unkind and it may be true, but was it necessary?

Many times I’ve held my thoughts, because what I was tempted to share wasn’t necessary. I also remember trying to defend myself by saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” But the truth was that words did hurt! And there was the Golden Rule based on Matthew 7:12, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them to do to you....” (NIV)



In adulthood, a concept I’ve found to be helpful is to never share anything with someone who is not part of the problem or the solution to the problem. With all this good information and our good intentions, why does gossip thrive in our society?

Perhaps it’s helpful for us to consider why people say unkind things and why humans are so prone to gossip. The definition of “gossip” is two-fold. As a noun, it defines a person who habitually reveals personal or sensational facts about others. As a verb, it is defined as a rumor or report of a personal, sensational or intimate nature.

Typical reasons for gossiping, including spreading rumors, stem from several emotionally-based factors. Some need to feel superior, wanting to be perceived as people who know more than others. If someone feels badly about himself, he may create or spread stories to make it sound as if others are worse off. Another trigger is the need for recognition or attention. Those who don’t feel adequately recognized for their actions may gossip to be the center of attention, even if briefly.

A need for control also triggers gossip. If it makes you feel superior and if it makes you the center of attention, you likely have more power in your group. Some people use gossip, distortions or rumors (think of recent political campaigns)

to increase their status in a group or reduce someone else’s. Gossip can be part of feeling included. If everyone else is talking about people, whether truthfully or not, you may feel compelled to come up with something—accurate information, gossip or rumor—to be included.

People also gossip because of jealousy or a need for revenge. It can also be related to boredom. People who are busy at something productive, or can always think of a new project, are less likely to gossip.

So what are some productive ways to respond to gossip—our own propensity as well as teaching our children how to counter it? First of all, we need to define it, understand the motivators and know how to stop it. In addressing this with our children, it’s okay to tell them that we are curious people, desiring to be “in the know.” They need to know that gossip magazines, TV programs, e-mail, texting, social networks and Twittering all contribute to a culture of trivia and gossip, which is not healthy for us at any age!

Our children also need to know that if they hear something that may or may not be gossip, they should check out the facts. For instance, if they hear a rumor about someone, they can go to that person. If they don’t feel comfortable and the rumor is something serious, they need to know they can come to you or another trusted adult. Getting someone to help in a serious situation is not gossip as long as the information stays with you and the person you go to for help.

Helpful scriptures include Leviticus 19:16, Proverbs 11:13, Proverbs 18:8 and Ephesians 4:29.

Susan Murray is a professor emeritus of Behavioral Sciences at Andrews University, and she is a certified family life educator and a licensed marriage and family therapist.

Author’s Note: Some ideas adapted from ParentingPress.com.



# HEALTHY CHOICES

*The diet decreases chronic diseases and improves your health status.*



*It's more than just olive oil and garlic.*

## Mediterranean Menu

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

**T**oday, we see a renewed interest in the traditional dietary patterns of people of the Mediterranean region. In addition, many health organizations encourage people to adopt the healthy eating habits followed by the Mediterranean coastal regions of Southern Europe, such as Southern Italy and Greece.

The Mediterranean diet emphasizes an abundance of plant-based foods. There is pasta in endless variety served with tomato sauce, beans and macaroni, lots of bread (largely whole grain) typically eaten with olive oil rather than butter or margarine, lots of fresh vegetables (especially greens), and fresh fruit for dessert, rather than pie and cake. The food is seasoned with garlic, onions, basil, oregano and other health-promoting herbs. Olive oil, rich in its monounsaturated fat, is the major source of fat. Cheese and yogurt are used only moderately. A major factor that distinguishes the diet from the rest of Western Europe and the U.S. is the low consumption of meat and meat products, and the regular use of tree nuts and olives. Because of this, the diet is low in saturated fat, and rich in fiber and phytochemicals that act as powerful antioxidant properties. Consumers of a traditional Mediterranean diet also get plenty of exercise and recognize the value of enjoying meals with family and friends.

A systematic review of about 40 studies found that a Mediterranean diet was associated with a favorable health status, a higher quality of life, a decreased incidence of degenerative diseases and a lower risk of overall mortality. Following this diet typically results in lowered blood lipids, less hypertension and cardiovascular disease, less cancers (including the breast and bowel), lower rates of obesity, diabetes, metabolic syndrome and arthritis, less age-related cognitive impair-



ment and a greater longevity. Strict adherence to a Mediterranean diet was associated with a 13 percent lower incidence of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

For both men and women, a Mediterranean diet has been shown to be more effective than a low-fat diet to achieve weight loss. A study in Spain found that high adherence to a Mediterranean diet was associated with an 83 percent decreased risk of developing diabetes, and an improvement in fasting blood glucose levels and better glycemic control.

The Mediterranean diet is known for its abundant use of olives and olive oil. The extra virgin olive oil contains significant levels of tyrosol, hydroxytyrosol, oleuropein and other beneficial phenolic compounds that decrease the risk of blood clots and blood lipids, and possess strong anti-inflammatory properties. Olive oil may also facilitate lower blood pressure levels.

In Barcelona, a Mediterranean diet supplemented with either virgin olive oil or tree nuts reduced blood pressure, improved blood lipids and diminished insulin resistance compared to a low fat diet in subjects at high risk for cardiovascular disease. The benefits of using nuts daily to achieve lower blood lipids is greatest among those with elevated LDL cholesterol levels, and a lower body weight.

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



# EXTREME GRACE

## Vivian's Discovery

BY DICK DUERKSEN

For 20 summers, Maranatha Volunteers International has led teenagers on an Ultimate Workout somewhere in the world. During July 2010, a group of Lake Union teens joined more than 200 others in Chiapas, Mexico, for Ultimate Workout #20. The volunteers built five churches and three kids' Sabbath school buildings. They also led Vacation Bible Schools and helped in medical/dental clinics.

You can be joyfully proud of the work the teens did, and thankful for the ways God helped each one grow spiritually. Vivian Vidales' story is one that stands out in my memories of three weeks in Chiapas.

Walking down the one paved road in the Barrio of San Pedro, Chiapas, I met the town leader and mayor. He asked a few questions about our work, and I invited him to visit the free medical clinic next to the new church our volunteers were building. He said he didn't need anything, but might drop by.

Later, I discovered he came to the clinic, was moved to the front of the line and received the "Full Treatment!" He left with new reading glasses—and a new diet and exercise plan to help him climb up and down the hills without being short of breath.

The next morning he returned, asking if the dentist could pull a tooth that caused him great pain.

We had two dentists, Art and Vivian. Art has been a dentist since before electric drills, and Vivian just graduated from the dental school at Montemorelos University—an Adventist school in Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

Vivian volunteered and began working on the mayor's tooth. A few minutes later Art came over, asked how it was going and offered his assistance.

"No need," Vivian answered. "I'm fine."

Truth was, she wasn't fine. The tooth was fused to the bone, wasn't budging and her arms were getting tired. But she worked on, stubbornly determined to get the job done by herself.

During the next 30 minutes Art came by several times,



*Vivian Vidales struggled for a long time trying to pull the mayor's hurting tooth.*

encouraging Vivian, suggesting different approaches and offering to help.

"No need," Vivian answered. "I'm fine."

The tooth was almost out, but Vivian could barely lift her arm; and that's when she asked Art to help her. In no time, he found the exact leverage point to take the tooth out. A few minutes

later a very satisfied mayor was on his way.

It was just a normal clinic event until Vivian told her story at the clinic team worship that night.

"Where did you see Jesus today?" the worship leader asked.

"He was beside my dental chair," said Vivian. "I saw Jesus personally, and I learned the most important lesson of my life! Let me tell you my tooth story."

"Today, I learned that the only way I can accomplish anything is to relinquish control and let God take charge in my life."

"He's tried to teach me that for so long and in so many ways. He's always been right beside me making suggestions, encouraging, warning and offering His help. But I've always turned Him down."

"Today, I asked God to come inside my life and take full control. Today, the mayor's tooth showed me that I cannot do it myself, that I just have to let go and let God. I cannot do it myself. I can only do it—I can only do anything—in His strength!"

Mission projects are adventures in salvation!

Dick Duerksen is the "official storyteller" of Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact the author at [dduerksen@maranatha.org](mailto:dduerksen@maranatha.org).



## Dear God...

BY DON JACOBSEN

**D**ear God,  
I've noticed a lot of my friends are getting older. I suppose that means I am, too. Maybe that's why it thrills me to see a new generation arriving on the scene whose hearts burn with the same passion mine does.

The Book says Abraham was an old man when his name broke into the headlines. Moses did his greatest work after he was 80. Other than that, just an awful lot of those world-changers who appear in the Scripture saga were pretty young.

I notice that trend shows up again in the early story of my church; Joseph Bates was the only senior among those intrepid spiritual adventurers. Many of the others we would call youth. One key player was only 17.\*

A phone call that came a few days ago gave me pause to reflect on that phenomenon. I heard about a bunch of 20- and 30-somethings who work in our church headquarters building in Silver Spring, Maryland. Thirty-five or 40 of them met recently to have lunch together. Their discussion topic was simple: How can we be a strong spiritual influence here in our church headquarters, and then individually extend that influence into the local churches where we attend?

I understand there wasn't a gray hair in the room; the meeting was chaired by two of their number, Ean and Joy, neither of whom is yet out of their 20s. These are devout young Christians, early in their careers; bright, high-energy people

who want to make a difference in their church and their world.

After a short discussion the group decided to pray. They prayed about their jobs, about their influence in the building, about their desire to know how You would like to use them in their specific career setting, about the things that go on there that are important to Your heart. They asked that You would make them sensitive to people in need, even though they all do church work in a church-owned building.

By the time they finished praying, their lunch time was about over and they had done hardly any planning. I can't help but believe they did the important work first.

They talked about a few specifics, then returned to their offices and cubicles determined to be more than employees—to be part of Your big picture.

I understand they plan to meet again and share ideas You have laid on their hearts of how they can touch the scores who visit there, the hundreds who work there, and the thousands who call every day. Young, alive members of the family, eagerly embracing their sense of mission ... God, I really like that. I have a hunch You do, too.

Your friend.

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

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\*Ellen White

## Poolside Conversations

BY JOY HYDE

A few years ago, Marie Lamond was enjoying a restful afternoon poolside at her condominium complex with her friend, Sandy Knapp. While in conversation, Sandy asked Marie if she would like to come to church with her. Since Marie had been looking for a church to attend, Marie accepted Sandy's invitation. She attended Sabbath services a few times with Sandy at the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan. Marie even attended several of the meetings during Metropolitan's evangelistic outreach in the summer of 2008. But Marie did not make church attendance at Metropolitan an ongoing occurrence.

Marie and Sandy continued their friendship, and one of their activities was walking together around their complex. A short while later Marie attended another church in the area with another friend, but that seemed more of a social gathering and Marie wanted a more spiritual experience. During one of her walks with Sandy, about a year-and-a-half later, Sandy asked Marie if she would take Bible studies with her. Marie accepted. Thus began a regular Monday night meeting.

Sandy guided Marie through the Prophecy Seminar Bible study series. When Marie had questions and Sandy could not answer them, Sandy wrote down the question and consulted her pastor, Jim Howard. The studies went on like this for several months.

In the interim, Joshua Plohocky became the Bible worker at Metropolitan. Sandy continued to ply her pastor with Marie's questions. In about April 2010, Jim suggested that Joshua begin attending Sandy's studies with Marie. Marie had no objection to Joshua's involvement.

In early May 2010, the Holy Spirit convicted Marie of the sanctity of the Sabbath. Marie requested Sabbaths off from her job. Joshua then began studying the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church with Marie to make sure she understood what baptism into the Adventist Church truly meant. Marie prayed earnestly, and she said, "I wanted



*A friendly poolside conversation between Marie Lamond and Sandy Knapp was the beginning of Marie's journey to another "pool" for her baptism. Pictured from left are Marie Lamond, Joshua Plohocky (Bible worker) and Sandy Knapp.*

to be sure God wanted me, at that point, to take that big step in baptism." Soon all her reservations were eliminated, and she prepared for her baptism on Sabbath, June 26.

Marie, who grew up in a Christian home and attended different churches in her adult life, "got an education" in the Bible from Sandy and Joshua that she never received before. Marie said, "I knew the stories, but now I understand the facts behind the stories." Her strength in the Lord grows more and more as she continues her studies with

Joshua. Marie talks to the Lord every day. She is much more conscience of His presence in her life. She knows He helps her through some tough times and has peace with her struggles.

Marie shares her newfound beliefs with her brother and really desires that he will come to the peace and happiness she now has. Marie also volunteered to be an assistant table leader for the Fall 2010 Bible Prophecy Seminar at the Metropolitan Church, because she wants others to know what she now knows. Little did Marie know that a friendly poolside conversation would lead to the knowledge and acceptance of the Lord's living water and a date in the baptismal pool.

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Joy Hyde is the communication secretary of the Metropolitan Church in Michigan.



## CADA MIEMBRO UN MINISTRO

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*Cada miembro de la iglesia debe ser un agente vivo para Dios tanto en la iglesia como fuera de ella. Debemos ser educados para ser independientes, no inútiles e incapaces... Los miembros del cuerpo de Cristo tienen un papel que desempeñar o no serán contados como fieles a menos que hagan su parte. Que se realice en cada alma una obra divina de manera que la imagen de Cristo pueda ser reflejada en cada uno de sus seguidores (Pastoral Ministry, p. 101).*

**R**ecuerdo muy bien el primer taller de entrenamiento auspiciado por la Iglesia Adventista al que yo asistí. El pastor de mi iglesia en el Bronx había visto la necesidad de enseñar los principios de liderazgo juvenil a los jóvenes de su iglesia, de manera que invitó al director del Departamento de Jóvenes de la Asociación de Greater New York para que los enseñara. Siendo que me habían nombrado como uno de los directores de la Sociedad de Jóvenes de mi iglesia, el pastor me pidió que asistiera a ese entrenamiento. Fue un curso de un día entero, después del cual se envió por correo un diploma a todos los participantes. Al concluir el curso me sentí tan agradecido por el privilegio de pertenecer a una iglesia que se preocupaba en adiestrar a sus miembros para ser mejores obreros del Señor.

En el mes de septiembre tuve el privilegio de asistir a la graduación de un curso de entrenamiento llamado “Instituto Laico Adventista” auspiciado por el Departamento Hispano de la Asociación Regional del Lago y la Universidad Andrews. Las clases se impartieron un domingo por mes, todo el día, durante siete meses.



Los graduados del Instituto Laico Adventista con su diploma

Según los informes, los alumnos asistían fielmente y la iglesia se llenaba de los miembros de iglesia. Asistieron, además, un pastor no adventista y miembros de su congregación para recibir entrenamiento. Al presenciar la graduación de ochenta y cinco personas, tanto jóvenes como adultos, y verlas recibir sus diplomas, pude apreciar que valía realmente la pena el esfuerzo que se había hecho para organizar este curso, pues ahora tenemos un equipo mayor de obreros para trabajar en la viña del Señor.

El Señor dice en su palabra: A la verdad, la mies es mucha, pero los obreros son pocos. Rogad, pues, al Señor de la mies, que envíe obreros a su mies (Lucas 10:2). Siento gran alegría

al visitar las diferentes iglesias de nuestra Unión y ver que están llenas de hermanos fieles y de visitas que alaban al Señor. Sin embargo, al salir de las iglesias y visitar los vecindarios que las rodean, siento tristeza por las multitudes fuera de la iglesia que necesitan conocer la

esperanza que tenemos en Cristo Jesús. Y la triste realidad es que no hay suficientes recursos para emplear a más pastores y obreros bíblicos para traerlos al redil. Es por esta razón que el Señor nos dio, a través del adiestramiento de los discípulos el modelo de entrenamiento para laicos.

Hay un mundo que ganar para Cristo. ¿Está dispuesto a recibir entrenamiento para poder ser un obrero fiel y victorioso en su redil? Le invito que se comunique con el pastor de su iglesia para que usted pueda aprovechar del entrenamiento que la Iglesia Adventista ofrece a sus miembros.

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



# THINKING OUTSIDE THE BUN



BY VAN HURST

**T**

here are always two groups of people in life. Imagine walking with me along the road to Jerusalem on the day of the Triumphal Entry, walking as close to Jesus as we can amongst the crowd screaming, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Another group is coming toward us from Jerusalem, the City of God, demanding of Jesus that we be silent. Like a wet blanket thrown on a fire, they try to snuff out God’s display of enthusiasm.

“The rocks will cry out if these be silent,” Jesus counters.

The two groups of people have been apparent throughout the history of the Great Controversy. There are basically two sides. But it’s not always easy to tell who is on the Lord’s side. As it was in Jerusalem, both sides are believers at some level of profession. Yet, the group that consistently embraces and cooperates with God seems to be willing and open to accept a new paradigm that is counter to the traditional or popular culture. They are willing to take risks.

In a recent ad campaign, Taco Bell challenged America to

“Think Outside the Bun!” Instead of the usual burger and fries, they want us to think of sizzling, sauteing, succulent veggies in a steaming warm, aromatic, crispy tortilla shell stuffed with beans and laced with an array of salsas for a fraction of the cost of a meal of burger and fries.

Glen Bell was 23 years old in 1946 when he left the Marine Corps and opened a hot dog stand called “Bell’s Drive-in” in San Bernardino, California. He sold it and built a new store in 1952, adding hamburgers to the menu. Glen soon began thinking outside the bun by selling tacos from a side window for 19¢. He then opened three Taco Tias and four El Tacos. By 1962, he sold the restaurants and opened his first Taco Bell in San Bernadino. Just two years later, he launched the successful Taco Bell franchise we know today.

How long has it been since you've lived "outside the bun?" We are products of life experiences, and we are products of Adventist culture. Our Adventist tradition is not enough to get us into Heaven. God wants every individual to have a new experience, the born-again-new-life-in-Jesus experience—the culture of Heaven experience.

Jesus demonstrated a life lived "outside the bun." He lived outside the expectations of contemporary norms! "Be in the world, but not of the world," was His perspective. (See Luke 17:14–16.)

Some young adults have expressed that they think being Adventist is being forced to live inside a box. The truth is actually the reverse. The everlasting gospel brings freedom. "You shall know the truth and the truth will make you [think-outside-the-bun] free!" (John 8:32 AKJV, *emphasis added*)

Imagine with me standing on the hill of Golgotha. Can you hear the gasps, grunts and groans of the three tortured and anguished prisoners? Do you hear the taunts and jeers of the unsympathetic crowd? Can you see the occasional glance from the three unfortunates hoping to live yet entertaining thoughts of the sweet relief of death?

Three men. Three lives. To think inside the bun or think outside the bun? That is the question.

Jesus lived a life outside the bun. He had the freedom to leave this miasma anytime He chose. The thieves had lived inside the bun, and although they claimed to be freedom fighters they were actually enslaved—locked into their own failures and unable to leave the cacophony no matter how hard they tried. Death frightened them because they did not have the keys to hell and death.

One of the criminals hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" (Luke 23:39 NIV)

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:40–42 NIV).

Jesus removed all doubt of some future possibility and gave him immediate assurance. "You will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43 NIV).

Did you see it? You heard it, didn't you? You didn't miss it, did you? One thief imagined an incredible possibility. He thought outside the bun!

There were only two groups at Calvary that day. And you can tell by their eyes—you see tear-stained eyes, blood-shot eyes, angry eyes, hate-filled eyes, hopeful eyes, inviting eyes, forging eyes, eyes of every imagination. We're all there.

At Calvary, Jesus made a paradigm shift for all eternity. In place of hatred, love. In place of depression, hope. In place of poverty, riches. In place of sickness, health. In place of death, life. In place of fear, confidence. In place of hopelessness, assurance. In place of enslavement, deliverance. In place of devastation, inspiration.

Jesus declared the loser, the winner. "Anyone who loses his life for My sake shall find it," He declared (see Matthew 16:25).

In losing your life for the sake of Christ, you realize God's purpose for your life. His purpose is for you to join Him in taking over the world through agape love. You and I have the privilege of giving the world a true picture of God.

Some years ago, an adult animated saga by Steven Spielberg played on TV. "Pinky and the Brain" were two genetically altered laboratory mice who resided in a cage in Acme Labs. Each episode opened with the feeble-minded Pinky asking the scheming Brain, "What do you want to do tonight?"

Brain responded, "The same thing we do every night, Pinky—try to take over the world!"

During the General Conference Session this summer in Atlanta, it was reported we are baptizing more than 3,000 a day. Now do the math. One hundred thirteen thousand babies are being born every day. That means we are losing ground at the tune of 110,000 per day! How can we hope to take over the world for Christ? May God help us!

We must make a change. We need to think like Jesus thinks—outside the box of traditional norms.

I've heard people say, "The Lord is going to have to finish the work ... whew! We can't do it!"

If God has no expectations of us finishing the work He has given us to do, then He would not be genuine. To the contrary, He has given us the mission, the "Great Co-mission," along with the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill His vision.

Think outside the bun!

Through Christ the victory is won!

Let's get it done!

A generation ago there was another TV program in which a young man came across a superhero uniform. When he put it on, he suddenly had superhuman powers. The comedy was in him trying to learn how to use the power.

"The Greatest American Hero" title song went like this:

*Believe it or not, I'm walking on air.*

*I never thought I could feel so free.*

*Flying away on a wing and a prayer,*

*Who could it be?*

*Believe it or not, it's just me!*



## JESUS DEMONSTRATED A LIFE LIVED "OUTSIDE THE BUN." HE LIVED OUTSIDE THE EXPECTATIONS OF CONTEMPORARY NORMS! "BE IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF THE WORLD," WAS HIS PERSPECTIVE.

Christ has offered His robe of righteousness and the power of the Holy Spirit to us—His agents of hope to a lost world. The tragedy is in our disbelief and fear of putting on Christ and accepting the mission.

We have the privilege of being missionaries to the world. And to help many of us participate in that worldwide commission, God has sent the world to the United States. His strategy is to bring the world to us to be trained in the everlasting gospel, so they can return to their homelands and evangelize the world.

We must learn how to live outside the bun in the freedom of the gospel, in the freedom of the church and the freedom of grace, so we will never be stuck inside the bun of sin and death.

Living outside the bun is to live with integrity.

Living outside the bun is to live with purity.

Living outside the bun is to live with honesty.

Living outside the bun is to live with spirituality.

Living outside the bun is to live with empathy.

Living outside the bun is to live with unity.

Living outside the bun is to live with generosity.

Living outside the bun is to live with humility, and so much more!

Jesus said, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself" (John 12:32 NKJV).

Notice the text does not say *when* I am lifted up, it says *if* I am lifted up. Since Jesus knew He was going to die on the cross for the sins of the world, it wasn't a question of *if*. What was He implying by saying "if"? We *must* lift Him up! If we lift Him up, He will draw people to Himself!

"The love of Christ, expressed in His great sacrifice to save man, has broken every barrier down. The love of God flows into the soul, and gratitude springs up in the heart that was as cold as a stone. Christ crucified, Christ our righteousness, wins the heart and brings it to repentance. We want to present this precious truth to the people who are

bound in sin. Let all see that Christ was slain for their transgressions; He desires to save them" (*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, January 28, 1893).

I saw this principle at work the other day when the name of a Christian lady hundreds of miles away came to mind during my morning worship. I felt the conviction that I should call her that evening. She longed to be freed from her slavery to tobacco, so when I telephoned her I started talking about Jesus and His power to deliver. We talked about His promises and how outstanding the love of God is from Calvary. She accepted God's promises, and by God's grace is free today!

We have been praying that God will send us new, committed Adventist young adults and professionals who are excited about sharing this good news and living Christ's mission!

If we only think the thoughts of those who have come before us, then God has wasted giving us life! He expects, *He demands*, that each generation rise to the challenge of bringing hope and healing to a broken and hurting world.

We need the kind of outside-the-bun-thinking that young adults bring to our historical redemptive page. We need their energized and innovative leadership as our elders, deacons and officers in our local congregations— young adults for whom Jesus means everything!

"Whenever I am exalted [to praise, laud, acclaim, applaud, sing the praises of] from the Earth," Jesus says, "I will draw all people to Myself" (John 12:32 NKJV, *emphasis added*).

I say, "Lift up Jesus!"

"Lift up Jesus!"

"Lift up Jesus!"

Jesus! Jesus! It's all ... about Jesus!

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Van Hurst is president of the Indiana Conference.

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1. Geyer, Stephen. "Believe It or Not." Lyrics Perf. Joey Scarbury. *All-Time Top 100 TV Themes*. T.V.T. Records, 2005.





# Make the Connection

BY AARON CLOUTIER

**M**y family has always been spontaneous, and there really wasn't any specific direction. We had a basic moral foundation, and anything that sort of fell within those guidelines was it. I had a set of basic morals that were formed by my parents and family. My parents visited a number of churches, and I always knew that I should follow God—whatever that meant.

It wasn't until I was about 16 that I started talking to God on my own to test the waters and see who God really was. I saw other people around me who talked to Him and had relationships, but I had never experienced Him for myself; and, I guess, at that time I wasn't fully convinced. I really hadn't solidified it in my own mind.

My first job was working at a fast-food restaurant. I thought it was the perfect job—all the food I could eat and the only guy working with a bunch of girls! But then I started to see the people who were really struggling with obesity and poor health order the food I prepared; and I'm like,

*Wow! Do you really want a number 4? Maybe you'd like a side salad. You know what I mean?*

It was sort of a reality check because I always believed I shouldn't hurt people. But then I thought, *I'm not only hurting these people, I'm hurting me!*

So I started thinking; I wasn't praying, I was just thinking on my own and ended up telling myself that this was so unhealthy and I shouldn't be eating this or that. I could see the fat, the slime, because I was the one washing the dishes. At some point I began to feel it wasn't just me talking to me, it was God talking to me. So I started talking to the Lord.

By the way, did I mention that I weighed more than 320 pounds? There was a time during high school when I wanted to be something. I couldn't be the fastest, but I could be the biggest! I worked out in the weight room a lot. I didn't want to be fat, just big. I was also partying and socializing with wrong influences. I knew I should be different because of the basic moral influence I had grown up with, even though I didn't really know what that was. I just knew that it was there.

My weight got out of hand, and my parents had set me up with dietitians who taught me how to count calories. I hated math, and I sure didn't want to mix math with food! So this time, as I was beginning to talk to the Lord, I just wanted simple principles; and that's when God started talking to me about being primitive. I began to look at my diet, and I thought, *You know, soda pop isn't the best thing for you and it's not natural*, so I stopped drinking it. Then along with that I stopped eating fried food. I was testing the waters.



*As Christians, we're really good at telling people what the Bible says, but we have a hard time connecting. Connecting takes commitment, and it's hard work.*

As I had these little conversations with God, I noticed He provided for the little things I talked to Him about. That encouraged me to trust Him with bigger things.

It wasn't until I saw the doctor for something really minor and they put me on the scales that I discovered I weighed *only* 290 lbs. I was thinking, *Obviously they need to re-scale me. Something must be wrong. What happened? Where did it go?*

My weight was down 30 pounds or more, and I didn't even know it. Something's working! So I started letting go of other "little" things, like cheeseburgers. I became more selective, eating more fish, chicken and green leafy vegetables; then, ultimately, I became a total vegetarian.

Weight started coming off me like snow on a hill. It was scary. I couldn't keep pants or clothes. In less than a year, I lost more than 150 pounds. My skin is still trying to conform back to me.

I had worked with dietitians and tried diets before, but nothing worked. No one could help me. I couldn't do it on my own. Now it was clear to me that God spoke. That was the first real experience I had with God. It was something I had wanted all my life. It had been like a ball and chain, and God blessed me with a wonderful freedom I hadn't thought possible. That's what launched my spiritual life with God.

When I saw God working in my life with my diet, that's when I first started thinking, *Whoa! This is for real!* It wasn't really until I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that God was working in my life that I decided, *Maybe I ought to take a second look at this.*

It wasn't long after that when I began attending the same kind of evangelistic seminar that I had experienced years before, but this time it sunk in because God was real to me. I think that's what everybody wants—something real.

When God works on one thing in your life, He begins working in other areas. When you see God is real, you start opening yourself up to Him and start allowing Him all this room to roam. God is working in other areas of my life, not just health, although that is a constant ongoing battle—it's a daily thing. Yet, it's such a small thing because He's gone past that. He's on to bigger and better things. He used that first experience to come into my life—that was His door. Now He's in the house!

I'm married. I've been to school, and I'm working. Adulthood opens up a whole plethora of challenges with their own characteristics. Fortunately, I have a God who can provide. It's wonderful to know He helped in one area of my life and that He's so willing to work with anything and everything else.

I am extremely fortunate to have a supportive community in my church family. It would be foolish not to embrace such an awesome resource. That's who God works through—the people in the church—people like you and me.

Our church family is filled with young adults and youth. I can easily go to church on Sabbath and just relax with the friends I have at church. We believe the same things, and we can bounce ideas off each other and talk about God. It's hard on the outside to find people you can connect with on a spiritual level when that's who you are.

God has put us in the place where we have to connect with people, no matter the circumstance. People my age struggle with certain things. My wife and I are able to work with other couples who are newly married also, whether they're in the church or not. Opportunities like that help you find and build community.

Our church family has grown quite a bit. Our church

is located on campus grounds, which gives us a chance to reach out to others. A lot of the young adults who are the pillars in our church were once people in the college nearby or were trying to find others who struggled with similar things, and that's how they found their way into this church. So it's actually become a hub. We're tremendously blessed because of that. A lot of churches don't have many youth or young adults.

We're a group of people who can connect. People are looking for something real, so it's really easy to bring people in. But it's harder to *keep* people in. You have to consistently show them God is real and working in your life. God's been working on me quite a bit, but I'm not perfect. And yet, I know He has been working through me to help others.

We've been talking about this quite a bit: Why is our church sort of the local joint for the youth? I mean, people are leaving other churches to come to our church. We wonder what's setting us apart from all the others. I honestly don't know, but I think maybe it's because we do want to connect with others.

God has placed me on a Native American reservation. I know, for many, a reservation seems to have an invisible fence: *Don't cross that line. You have no idea what's going to happen.* So God placed me right smack in the middle of the culture at the Native American Museum where a lot of the culture is being perpetuated and taught. And there is some danger in that. But those are people too, looking for something real. Native Americans are spiritual people. They are taught from their youth about the Creator. And they can relate to the Seventh-day Adventist message in so many different ways. It's amazing.

God is expecting me to connect with them and show them who He is. And in the process, I've learned a lot from my Native American brothers. The youth are very important to them, and they are highly valued. To bring up a child is an important thing, because they are the future. That's actually why the elders are valued so much. These treasures of wisdom are supposed to teach the youth and perpetuate the culture's important values.

I'm coming to this opportunity as both an outsider and an insider. My family is Native American, but they have not been traditional for this past generation or so. My upbringing included a lot of the Native American values, but I just didn't realize it.

It's becoming obvious to me that God is wanting me to work with people, and it must be a part of my sanctification. There's this saying: "I would love everybody if it wasn't for people." God is working on me. My personality is such that

I love people, but I hate working *with* people. It's a little annoying.

God has brought me to a place where I had not wanted to be for some time. My wife and I feel called to full-time ministry. But in what capacity? I don't know. All I know is that the Lord is tugging at my heart a little at a time, showing me to step out in faith. He's made it clear that certain kinds of work I have sought before was not what He wanted. But whatever it is, it involves people. I know that for sure.

As Christians, we're really good at telling people what the Bible says, but we have a hard time connecting. Connecting takes commitment, and it's hard work. That's where the real work is. That's how God's Word is going to go out.

Connecting by making friends, getting to know them and who they are is important. But like a light bulb that has no usefulness apart from its source of power, we must have a relationship with God. I believe a true connection with people involves an awesome relationship with God. He is ultimately the bond by which you and I come together.

God wants to be in your life, He wants to reveal His will in your life—not only for you as an individual, but for the sake of others. I believe that is one of the most important lessons for us today. Time is short, and we don't have time to mess around with all the foolish stuff.

That's where the true work lies. It's connecting with people and having an honest, solid relationship with God.



Aaron Cloutier has discovered an honest, solid relationship with God. He now sees that "a true connection with people involves an awesome relationship with God."

That's where God spoke to me, and that's the area where God has had to work on me the most. It used to be just me and God. Now it's more *we* and God.

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# Young Pioneers

BY GARY BURNS

**T**he 25-year-old James White held a small slip of paper with the signature of justice of the peace, Charles Harding, evidence he was now the lawful protector of 18-year-old Ellen G. Harmon. Although their work of telling others of the soon return of Jesus had placed them in close association as they traveled throughout New England in the year following The Great Disappointment of 1844, the thought of marriage had never entered their minds. James later wrote:

“We both viewed the coming of Christ near, even at the doors, and when we first met had no idea of marriage at any future time. But God had a great work for both of us to do, and He saw that we could greatly assist each other in that work. As she should come before the public she needed a lawful protector, and God having chosen her as a channel of light and truth to the people in a special sense, she could be of great help to me.

“But it was not until the matter of marriage was taken to the Lord by both, and we obtained an experience that placed the matter beyond the reach of doubt, that we took this important step. Most of our brethren who believed with us that the Second Advent movement was the work of God were opposed to marriage in the sense that as time was very short it was a denial of faith, as such a union contemplated long years of married life.”<sup>1</sup>

Ellen weighed a mere 80 pounds at the time and often fainted, appearing to be near death. James described her condition during their travels, referring to himself as “the writer”:

“It was necessary that she should have one or more attendants. Either her sister Sarah or Sister Foss traveled with her. And as neither her aged father nor feeble brother were suitable persons to travel with one so feeble, and introduce her and her mission to the people, the writer, fully believing that her wonderful experience and work was of God, became satisfied that it was his duty to accompany them.”<sup>2</sup>

As you can imagine, this close association presented a bit of a problem. James continues:

“And as our thus traveling subjected us to the reproaches of the enemies of the Lord and His truth, duty seemed very clear that the one who had so important a message to the world should have a legal protector, and that we should unite our labors.”<sup>3</sup>

Listen to how they describe one another:

“We were married August 30, 1846, and from that hour to the present she has been my crown of rejoicing.”<sup>4</sup>

“I feel that he is the best man that ever trod shoe leather.”<sup>5</sup>

One might argue that they were young, idealistic and foolish, based on their own descriptions.

“We entered upon this work penniless, with few friends, and broken in health. ... In this condition, without means, with very few who sympathized with us in our views, without a paper, and without books, we entered upon our work. We had no houses of worship at that time, and the idea of using a tent had not then occurred to us. Most of our meetings were held in private houses. Our congregations were small. It was seldom that any came into our meetings, excepting Adventists, unless they were attracted by curiosity to hear a woman speak.”<sup>6</sup>

James felt a compelling of the Lord to write; that was supported and confirmed by Ellen. At times, he would cut hay or chop wood all day long to earn maybe 50¢ to support them in the work. At other times, God provided in a sensational way such as when they had no fare for the train and a gentleman rode up to them on a speeding horse and said, “Is there anyone here who needs means? I was impressed that someone here needed money.”<sup>7</sup>

When we think of James and Ellen, we don't often think of them as young adults. Yet, some of the most significant, difficult and far-reaching work in terms of setting the stage for the organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including the *Advent Review*, was accomplished before either of them reached the age of 30. Short of a few visions, how different are Ellen or James from any young adult today?

Lest you assume that everything was fine and dandy, the record shows that both of them struggled with doubts, depression, poor health, discouragement, fatigue, uncertainty. In other words, the same things we go through.

On one occasion, the newlyweds were on their way to Boston, by ship, when a storm threatened their lives. Ellen records the incident:

"It was a scene of terror and confusion. As the boat rocked, one lady above me fell out of her berth to the floor, crying out at the top of her voice. Another turned to me and asked, 'Are you not terrified? I suppose it is a fact that we may never reach land.'

"I told her I made Christ my refuge, and if my work was done, I might as well lie in the bottom of the ocean as in any other place; but if my work was not done, all the waters of the ocean could not drown me. My trust was in God, that He would bring us safe to land if it was for His glory."<sup>8</sup>

Maybe you've felt the tug that James felt on his heart when God called him to be a writer, but had no means or prospects to carry it out. Describing such a situation, Ellen wrote: "My husband was impressed that it was his duty to write and publish the present truth. He was greatly encouraged and blessed as he decided thus to do. But again he would be in doubt and perplexity as he was penniless. There were those who had means, but they chose to keep it."<sup>9</sup>

"We sat down to prepare the matter for that little sheet, and wrote every word of it, our entire library comprising a three-shilling pocket Bible, Cruden's Condensed Concordance, and Walker's old dictionary, minus one of its covers. [We were] destitute of means; our hope of success was in God."<sup>10</sup>

James and Ellen faced opposition that many young leaders face in the church today—opposition from both sides. "Many ... charged me with conforming to the world. On the other hand, the nominal Adventists charged me with fanaticism."<sup>11</sup>

"About this time I was subjected to a severe trial. If the Spirit of God rested upon a brother or sister in meeting, and they glorified God by praising Him, some raised the cry of mesmerism. And if it pleased the Lord to give me a vision in meeting, some would say that it was excitement and mesmerism.



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"Grieved and desponding, I often went alone to some retired place to pour out my soul before Him who invites the weary and heavy laden to come and find rest. ... Then I would relate what God had revealed to me alone, where no earthly influence could affect me, but was grieved and astonished to hear some intimate that those who lived nearest to God were most liable to be deceived by Satan."<sup>12</sup>

"All these things weighed heavily upon my spirits, and in the confusion I was sometimes tempted to doubt my own experience."<sup>13</sup>

Sound familiar? If you are a young adult with a sense of duty and calling from the Lord, take courage from the experience of two young adults who have gone before you. And if you are older and tempted to criticize the vision, the methods and the efforts of the young, well...

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

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## Hospital event honors cancer survivors

More than 1,600 cancer survivors and their families attended the 2010 Cancer Survivors Day program and lunch hosted by Adventist Midwest Health. The event took place Aug. 15 at Brookfield Zoo.

The theme of this year's event was "Living in Full Bloom." Cancer Survivors Day acknowledges people who received cancer-related treatment at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital and Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital. Upon registration, each cancer survivor was given a ribbon; the ribbon's color corresponded to the number of years they've been a cancer survivor. Survivors then placed their ribbon on a colorful "survivor's tree" at the event.

"Cancer Survivors Day is a celebration that puts a face on our cancer program and promotes hope and healing," said Clarissa Moholick, regional manager of cancer data management for Adventist Midwest Health and this year's event organizer. "The feedback we get from community members about this program every year is so positive. We were blessed to have more than 100 volunteers who committed their time and talent to making this a successful event."

Heidi Kramer, of Cary, Ill., and Yamaha recording artist Kerri Sherwood, of Kenosha, Wis., presented "Celebrate Sweet Life," an inspirational performance blending music and Kramer's story of breast cancer survival. As an international speaker and registered dietician, she offers a message of healing and hope.

Speakers included Rick Wright, chief executive officer of Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital and regional executive of cancer services at Adventist Midwest Health; Donald Sweet, M.D., medical director of cancer services; Patricia Madej, M.D.,



These individuals represent some of the more than 100 volunteers who helped make the Adventist Midwest Health 2010 Cancer Survivors Day a success.

medical director of comprehensive breast centers; Colleen Hagen, M.D., senior attending surgeon at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital; Colleen Narbone, hospital chaplain; and Jeannie Cella, executive director of Wellness House. Susan Anderson and Debra Fager provided survivor testimonial presentations, and Cathie Kucek and Betsy Sweeney conducted the survivor roll call.

Adventist Cancer Network provides a full continuum of services for cancer treatment—from early detection to diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. Our metropolitan Chicago oncology departments are backed by the latest cancer technologies, and we strive to meet the emotional, spiritual and educational needs of cancer patients and their families.

The cancer programs at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital and Adventist Hinsdale Hospital are Accredited Comprehensive Community Cancer Programs with commendations by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. Both facilities received this accreditation with commendations in November 2009. This designation ensures patients will have access to comprehensive cancer treatment and care,

including state-of-the-art technology and services, close to home. In 2009, the Comprehensive Breast Center of Hinsdale and Comprehensive Breast Center of La Grange were among the first to be accredited in Illinois by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. For more information, visit [www.keepingyouwell.com](http://www.keepingyouwell.com).

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist,  
Adventist Midwest Health



Upon registration, each cancer survivor was given a ribbon; the ribbon's color corresponded to the number of years they've been a cancer survivor. Survivors then placed their ribbon on a colorful "survivor's tree."

## Cuneiform Tablet donated to Horn Museum

The Horn Archaeological Museum has received a donation of ancient artifacts from Dick Rentfro, a man who first worked with the Horn Museum on a dig in 1957. The collection includes an arrowhead, an Egyptian coin, a Samaritan pot and a mammoth tooth—and a clay cuneiform tablet from around 2039 B.C.

The one-inch tablet from the Third Dynasty of Ur is a receipt of a goat, signed by the scribe, Lukalla. The transaction occurred in the tenth month (the day is illegible) of the seventh year of Amar-Sin's reign, in the province of Umma. The tablet was translated by the curators at the Babylonian Collection of Yale University, and reads: "One dead goat, received from Lugal-mashtaba, sealed by Lukalla. The month of the feast of Shulgi, the year Huhnuri was destroyed."

Rentfro was one of the participants in the 1957 Holy Land tour sponsored by Siegfried Horn. He attended as part of classes he was taking at Potomac University, which was shortly to combine with Emmanuel Missionary College and become Andrews University. He spent almost three months visiting sites such as Petra, Nineveh and Babylon. The experience made such a large impact on



The Horn Archaeological Museum recently received a donation of ancient artifacts from Dick Rentfro, which included a clay cuneiform tablet from around 2039 B.C.

Rentfro that when he heard of the Horn Museum, he knew the gift "had to go there."

The Egyptian coin dates from 221–204 B.C., and quite possibly was in circulation during the lifetime of Jesus. The Samaritan pot dates to the time of Christ, and the arrowhead dates from 1500 B.C. The arrowhead was found near the city of Mamaria. The mammoth tooth was found in Oregon by a friend of Rentfro, and the Horn Museum plans to donate the tooth to the Andrews University Museum of Natural History, located in the Science Complex.

The Horn Museum houses one of the largest cuneiform collections in the country. The curators of the Horn have teamed up with the Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative (CDLI). A collaborative effort between Assyriologists, museum curators and archaeologists, the project's goal is to make the images and content of large cuneiform collections available through the Internet.

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

## Newsweek recognizes Andrews

According to *Newsweek*, Andrews University is one of the 25 most diverse schools in America. In an effort to "address the real concerns of parents and prospective students," *Newsweek* has released their first "College Rankings: Schools for Every Kind of Student."

Out of 12 "best of" lists of universities, some of the other categories in-

clude: The 25 Most Desirable Schools, 25 Schools for the Service-Minded, The 25 Most Desirable Rural Schools, and rankings of small and large universities. Andrews University is the only Adventist institution on any of *Newsweek's* lists. On the same diversity list are top schools such as Stanford University, Columbia University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as well as smaller liberal arts colleges.

To evaluate the "25 Most Diverse

Schools," *Newsweek* compared the population of the school with the percent and distribution of ethnic groups, geographic origin of the students, economic status and gender. The number of students receiving Pell Grants was also taken into consideration.

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

## [ EDUCATION NEWS ]

## University students embark upon scholarship by giving through service

Andrews University—During Andrews University Freshmen Orientation Week, held Aug. 15–22, new students spent less time mulling over their college plans and anxieties and more time serving others.

On Friday morning, just three days before the start of the 2010–2011 school year, nearly 350 student and University volunteers boarded the buses and headed to various locations in the community to tackle service projects. The projects covered a wide range of needs, including yard work, cleanups, moving boxes, painting and childcare, among others.

“Volunteer service is such an important part of what the world needs,” says Charlotte Smith, events coordinator for the Office of Social Recreation & Athletics at Andrews University. “We like to expose our students to its importance their very first week on campus.”

The Volunteer Day was organized by Smith and her department’s student workers in conjunction with the Office of Campus Ministries and their Outreach volunteers. Following conversations with various businesses in the area and the Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan, cleanup projects were created and assigned to group leaders and students. The service projects were not mandatory; and yet, nine busloads of volunteers were sent out.

Groups who chose to serve in Benton Harbor worked on projects at Six Degrees Resale Store, Child & Family Services, Consequential Minds, Kid Zone, the Orchards Mall, and several other locations in the city.

“We went to a charter school in Benton Harbor and put mulch on the playground and gravel around the



During Andrews University Freshmen Orientation Week, nearly 350 student and University volunteers tackled service projects in nearby communities.

building,” says Christian Tchamba, a group leader. “The man that we helped was very grateful. He said that the work usually takes 3–4 weeks to complete himself and he hasn’t had help in over two years. Everyone was willing to work and no one was complaining. It was a really good experience.”

Another group was sent to Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve in Niles, and another still to St. Joseph to paint at the Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan.

“They did a great job painting our office, and now it looks fresh and clean,” says Debra Panozzo, adult and family volunteer coordinator, Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan. “It was good to speak to them about volunteering and for them to support us in our effort to promote, support and connect volunteers who work to build a strong, caring community. Volunteering is a good way to fulfill the mission of Andrews University as the students seek knowledge and affirm faith in order to change the world.”

Another group got messier than most at Arthur Dodd Memorial Park in Cassopolis, Mich. Students worked along the Dowagiac River shoveling mud, building fences, staining wood,

filling the playground area with wood chips, and removing trees and branches that had fallen in the river.

“The pleasure was all ours in hosting those wonderful young adults at Dodd Park...,” says Scott Wyman, director, Cass County Parks and Recreation. “Their enthusiasm and energy were so much appreciated by my staff; and to be honest, they worked so hard that I ran out of projects toward the end of the day! I am hopeful that this newfound partnership has a chance to flourish for many years to come.”

Personal service projects were also taken on, and volunteers helped local families in need by doing yard work, cleaning houses and playing with children. In Berrien Springs, students cleaned buildings at the Historical Center at Courthouse Square and completed odd jobs for the local public schools.

In the end, nearly 14 major projects were completed.

“Thank you to all of you who made this day possible and please keep our students in your prayers,” says Smith.

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





Collene Kelly

From left: Taylor Uphus, Kara Shepard, Julie Kelly and Nick Ashley stand in front of the newly-unveiled statue of Jimmy O'Donald, a survivor of the USS Indianapolis that sank when torpedoed by a Japanese submarine.

## Students witness unveiling of Jimmy O'Donald statue

Indiana—Last school year, my class along with our teacher, Collene Kelly, went to the City Market in downtown Indianapolis. We witnessed the unveil-

ing of the statue of Jimmy O'Donald. O'Donald, a resident of Indianapolis who was a survivor of the USS *Indianapolis*. The ship sank on July 30, 1945, when it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in the Philippine Sea. It sank in 12 minutes. Of the 1,196 men on board, approximately 300 went down with the ship. About 900 men were left floating in shark-infested waters with few lifeboats and almost no food or water. By the time the survivors were spotted four days later, only 316 were still alive.

Our class was introduced to five of the survivors of this worst naval disaster in U.S. history. The first gentleman I talked with was Art. He had been in charge of one of the smaller guns on the ship; but since all the men were sleeping when the torpedo hit, he did not get a chance to shoot. When he and the other survivors were in the water, he said their skin began to burn and peel off because the salt water mixed with the oil from the ship.

The next gentleman I visited with was Paul. He had been in charge of the larger guns on the ship. He recounted that it was about midnight when every-

body went to bed. Not long thereafter, the torpedo hit. It hit so hard he was thrown out of his cot and hit the ceiling. He remembers being dizzy and then falling off the ship into the ocean about 40 feet below. Many of the men died when they hit the water, so Paul gave all the credit to God for saving his life. All the surviving men received a Purple Heart, "the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first American award made available to the common soldier." (Source: <http://www.purpleheart.org>)

The official program began with a speech in honor of O'Donald. All the survivors were thanked for their heroism and bravery. Indianapolis mayor Greg Ballard also gave a speech, and the black granite statue was unveiled. Several men with bagpipes played "Amazing Grace," and the ceremony ended with prayer.

I am so thankful for the many men and women who risked their lives to protect our country.

Taylor Uphus, fifth-grade student, Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School

### [ LOCAL CHURCH NEWS ]

## Romanian Men's Chorus conducts worship service

Michigan—Just think, 30+ talented singing men traveled all the way from Romania just to take over the worship hour at the Metropolitan Church. Well, parts of this statement are true. The Romanian Adventist Men's Chorus did travel all the way from Romania and did grace the Metro Church sanctuary for the worship and vesper hours on Sabbath, July 3. Metro Church was so blessed because of the connections and great effort of Metro Church members, Lucia and Daniel Modiga. And no, these men did not travel to the United States just to sing at Metro. They came to the U.S. to sing at the first Sabbath worship



Lucia Modiga

A group of Romanian Gypsies also sang during the worship service presented by the Romanian Men's Chorus.

hour of the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta.

Now here is the rest of the story. Lucia's nephew, Alin Apostol, is the director of the Romanian Men's Chorus. Apostol studied theology and music at Walla Walla University, and while there

he sang with the Oregon Men's Chorus. He so very much enjoyed praising God through music with a large group of men. When he returned to Romania, after completing his studies, he recruited Adventist men from all across Romania to sing in his group.

The chorus in Romania consists of more than 120 men. During his sermon on July 3, entitled “God Still Works Miracles,” Apostol, now the youth leader of the Moldova Conference in Romania, shared how the Lord led and helped to establish this chorus and told of the “miracles” the Lord performed getting the chorus to the U.S. for the G.C. Session. Apostol was still connected to the director of the Oregon group. The General Conference invited the Oregon Chorus to sing in Atlanta, and the director asked Apostol if his chorus would like to join them. Of the more than 120 Romanian singers, half had the time and resources to travel to the U.S. The Romanian government only granted travel visas to half of the remaining men. But the amazing part was that this subset of

the original Romanian group that came to the U.S. was just the right mix of voices to provide a proper and sufficient blend for all the musical parts.

Also, the timing was just right so the group could fit a visit to the Detroit area into their plans and spend their second Sabbath in the U.S. with the Metro Church. After the Sabbath in Atlanta, the group, via a hired bus, saw the sights of Washington, D.C., New York City, and all parts in between. Lucia found lodging for 54 people, consisting of the men, their friends and family members, in the homes of the Metro and Romanian Adventist Church congregants. She also arranged meals for Sabbath lunch and supper in the Metro Fellowship Hall, no small feat considering most of the food was cuisine the Romanians

were used to enjoying at home. Lucia did all this planning while she and Daniel were studying to take the exam for U.S. citizenship, which they took and passed on July 1.

After leaving Metro Church, the Romanian troupe traveled to Battle Creek and the Historic Adventist Village, and then continued to Chicago then home to Romania.

The efforts and hard work of Lucia and Daniel produced a mighty day of beautiful music and praise and glory for our heavenly Father. Only Heaven will be better than what we at Metro experienced on July 3.

Joy Hyde, communication secretary,  
Metropolitan Church



From left: Steve Nelson, Noble Church pastor, prepares Jennifer Borton, Linden Kistner and Amanda Byam for baptism.

## Noble baptisms enlarge family of God

Illinois—September 11 was a high Sabbath at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Noble. After months of studying the Bible with the church’s pastor, Steve Nelson, Jennifer Borton and her sister, Amanda Byam, along

with Amanda’s oldest son, Linden Kistner, were baptized together.

“It was special to be baptized with my son. I thought, when we began studying, that I would be the last person to be baptized, but I ended up being the first to be ready!” says Byam.

Linden, ten years old and full of faith beyond his years, said he was so excited his knees were shaking prior to his baptism. He says, “It was wonderful to be baptized with my mom. Now we are both part of the family of God.”

It was Linden’s aunt, Jennifer, who requested the Bible studies and asked her family to join her. “Giving birth to my daughter changed my life, and I wanted to get closer to God,” she says. “Pastor Steve and [his wife] Samantha have had a very big influence on my life.”



Linden Kistner was excited to be baptized with his mom.

Other family members have been taking studies too, and Nelson hopes there will be more baptisms in the near future.

Diane Thurber, assistant communication director,  
Lake Union Conference, as shared by Samantha  
Nelson, correspondent, Noble Church

## Altgeld Gardens Church promotes good health, non-violence

Lake Region—At the time this article was written, CNN had documented more than 200 murders in Chicago in

this year alone. Lawmakers called for National Guard troops to police the streets of Chicago.

As a result of this tumultuous atmosphere surrounding the Altgeld Gardens Seventh-day Adventist Church, for the second year in a row members held a community outreach event to promote good health and non-violence.

On Sept. 19, in the city of Chicago, church and community members rallied to walk or run 2.5 miles around Carver Park during an event named “Rambo Run.” The first 50 participants received a free t-shirt.

After a young man, Derrion Albert, was murdered in September 2009, Philip Willis Jr., Altgeld Gardens



Last year's Rambo Run heightened community awareness of health issues and promoted non-violence. Rambo Run was held again this year; community and Altgeld Church members both benefited from the experience.

Church pastor, recalls reading one person's perspective in an article online in *MEDILL REPORTS CHICAGO*, that described the community near his church: "Altgeld Gardens looks like a war zone. From burned-out CHA structures to potholes deep enough to make streets [impassable], it looks and feels more like war-torn Baghdad than Chicago."

This environment is exactly what Willis says he was confronted with in May 2009 when he began as pastor of the remaining 12 members attending the 300-member congregation. His inner-city church is nestled in the heart of one of South Chicago's most violent communities. Willis says, "I was very familiar with this type of scene having returned from my second tour in Iraq in January 2009. Altgeld is a place where crime is high due to lack of resources, adequate education, social and mental needs going unmet due to teen parents, unwed mothers, incarcerated fathers and, yes, the murder rate being high." The Altgeld Gardens Church is on a dead-end street and the only way in or out is through the Altgeld Gardens community.

The article Willis read also emphasized that Altgeld Gardens' young people "are acting out. ... But instead of acting outward, they're turning in on each other." Willis stated, "Our key mission is to reach out to this community in everything that we do and change the culture

of violence and poor health choices." He and his growing church family believe that through health fairs, Rambo Runs and other family relationship/education programs they can positively impact lifestyle on a social/personal level, and ultimately touch hearts on a spiritual level. Willis says, "We have a target audience, and we have set our standard for success. The bar is reachable, because it's inch by inch, step by step, door to door with constant prayer. We want to do things in a fresh and new way that will bring light and joy to their souls."

This may seem a daunting task for such a small church group; however, Willis reports there are now about 25 who come for church services. He says, "People left when things started getting violent and when the apartments fell out of code. Some simply improved their situation and moved away." This is why he is "pressing to improve the conditions, so community members can feel safe to come out of their homes day or night to attend services."

The Rambo Run held the past two years is a way church members engage their community. Both community and church members say they benefited from the experience.

Roger Tisby, 13, a community participant, shared, "My experience at the Rambo Run these past two years has been fantastic. ... I endured and I

accomplished something I needed, too. Exercising was the key for me to lose weight. I took what opportunities [were] offered and walked/ran 2.5 miles. I am now mentally and physically ready for the challenges that God puts out there for me."

Church member Vivian Garrido stated, "To me this event is a precious opportunity to reach out to the community and fellowship with them, and by relating with them a difference can be made in the community. Relationships more than knowledge change behaviors."

"The Rambo Walk/Run was encouraging for me because of the volunteers who worked each year in getting out the message and putting the program together. The church members embraced the idea and worked in unity to make it successful. ... The walk around the field was invigorating for me and a good way to lead by example and personally jumpstart my exercise regime, which I have accomplished," remarked Monique Boozer, an Altgeld Church member.

Willis says, "Everyone had a great time and looks forward to making the event even bigger next year."

Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference, as shared by Philip Willis Jr., pastor, Altgeld Gardens Church

Source: <http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/chicago/news.aspx?id=143467> (accessed Sept. 29, 2010)



Marlene Pittman picked up a cross and carried it around the park. Her pastor, Philip Willis Jr. said, "The spontaneous nature of the cross raised the level of everyone's enthusiasm."

## Robert Weaver, D.D.S. receives Dr. Emmett C. Bolden Dentist Citizen of the Year Award

Michigan—In 1969, young Robert “Bob” Weaver accompanied his family to Karachi, Pakistan, where his father had recently accepted a position as chief surgeon at the Seventh-day Adventist Missionary Hospital. And so began a life dedicated to the healing arts. Weaver eventually attended dental school and began a solo practice in Livonia in 1989. Since then, he’s lived a life of service to the under-served, both at home and abroad, traveling to India, Honduras, Micronesia, Ecuador, El Salvador and Zambia. A pair of forceps, local anesthesia, scalpel and a flashlight are all he needs to make a difference. Weaver’s remarkable life invites our collegial admiration and respect.

Recently, Weaver received the Dr.



Robert Weaver, an oral surgeon, recently received an award from the Michigan Dental Association for his gratis work. In this photo, Weaver provides dental relief to a suffering individual in Egypt at Nile Adventist Academy. Also pictured: Justin, Robert’s son, and Jeanie Weaver, his wife

Emmett C. Bolden Dentist Citizen of the Year Award from the Michigan Dental Association (MDA). Though Weaver’s missionary service to citizens of other countries is more than admirable, he was actually granted the award for his charitable and humanitarian efforts domestically. The MDA gave Weaver the award because of the gratis work he does at his oral surgery practice in Livonia.

The MDA sends Weaver patients

who cannot afford the oral surgery treatment they require. The MDA screens these patients prior to sending them to Weaver’s office. Weaver said, “As long as I have an opening in my schedule, I fit the patients in. My office workers have to be there anyway. As soon as I finish with one patient I ask for another one.”

The MDA noticed the volume of patients Weaver handled for them and realized he was more than worthy to receive the reward. Weaver spoke to approximately 900 of his dental colleagues at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. During this speech, Weaver challenged his audience to do their share to ease the suffering and pain of the residents of their community, state or the nation. Members of the Metropolitan Church where Weaver attends are sure he’ll hear these words when Jesus comes: “Well done, my good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21 NLT).

Joy Hyde, communication secretary,  
Metropolitan Church

## [UNION NEWS]



The Midwest General Surgeons staff in Bolingbrook, Ill., were thrilled to receive three trophies for patient care. Featured left to right are Barbara Weimer, Laurie Lopez and Jason Goliath, M.D.

## Adventist surgeon and staff recognized for compassionate care

Illinois—Chocolate roses covered in red foil are crowded into a large vase, vying for space. Adventist Midwest Health sends a rose every time a Compliment Card is shared, and Jason Goliath, M.D., has received a lot of cards from his patients.

Goliath has a reputation at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital for being friendly and compassionate, a man who is truly interested in patient care. That’s why it was no surprise when Goliath and his staff were awarded trophies for “Top Score” among Adventist Health Partners, a group of 150 regional physicians. The monthly awards are given to those practices which receive the highest marks in patient care from the patients themselves. This month Goliath’s practice received three trophies for the best scores possible in Care Provider, Nurse/Assistant and Personal Issues.

Laurie Lopez, office manager and clinical coordinator, receiving the three awards on behalf of herself and her office, noted, “Truth be told, I love my patients and while thankful for this award, I don’t work for the praise; I work with my whole heart for them.”

A member of the Fil-Am Church with his wife, Grace, and two children, Goliath served at Ottawa Hospital for seven years where he performed

general surgery before joining Adventist Midwest Health in 2009. His one-year anniversary last April was marked by hanging a painting in the waiting room: Nathan Greene’s “Chief of the Medical Staff” featuring Jesus standing among the surgical team and guiding the hand of a surgeon as he performs a delicate operation. For Goliath, it’s all about having Christ at the center of the practice. “For me, medicine is another opportunity to witness about the goodness of God in our lives. People are most vulnerable when they are sick, and we can provide not only care but caring service. I have found that when I am able to have a prayer with patients before surgery, it sets a different tone and helps to open their hearts to the healing power of Christ.”

Barbara Weimer, office receptionist and member of the Naperville Church commenting on Goliath, noted, “I’ve seen him kneel before an elderly patient to tie his shoe. I’ve heard him give reassurance to nervous patients who don’t

know what to expect; and I've known him to take all the time necessary to explain test results. Am I surprised patients think highly of him? Not at all. God has blessed him, and he's passing on the blessing."

Barbara Weimer, office receptionist and member of the Naperville Church, Illinois Conference, as shared with Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference

## [WORLD CHURCH NEWS]



Mridul and Johnson Choppala felt impressed by God to begin a ministry for the eunuchs of India after reading Isaiah 56:4, 5. The Choppalas are committed to sharing God's love with the eunuchs, which they say are "the most marginalized and rejected people in India."

## Former Andrews professor ministers to eunuchs of India

Johnson Choppala, who worked in the Andrews University Department of Biology from 1967–1969, is a retired senior scientist with the federal government in the departments of Army and Veterans Affairs. He has served as a volunteer professor at universities and colleges in Kenya, Trinidad, Thailand, Roorkee and Pune, India, since retiring in 1999. In 2007, for the first time in Seventh-day Adventist Church history, Choppala began a unique service project—taking God's Word to the eunuchs of India.

When Sunith Das, senior pastor for the South Asia Church of Michiana\*, learned of Choppala's work, he invited him to be the featured speaker for the church's monthly worship service. The service took place on Sept. 4 in

Burman Hall at Andrews. The service focused primarily on Choppala's ministry in India.

Choppala began the sermon talking about his service as a professor at Spicer Memorial College, in Pune, India. He and his wife, Mridul, were having devotions one morning when they stumbled across two verses that would eventually "transform a biologist into a minister of the Lord." They began reading Isaiah 56:4, 5: "For thus says the Lord: 'To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant, Even to them I will give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off'" (NKJV).

"For people with an Indian background, when we read this, we were floored," said Choppala. "It was profound. As soon as we read that, we knew that this was coming to us from the Lord."

Choppala explained that eunuchs are the most marginalized and rejected people in India, saying, "They are treated as outcasts by society. They are trans-genders—neither men nor women—who suffer from rejection. They have no rights; their parents put them out of their homes, and they are forced by society to beg, fall into prostitution and dance for a living."

After doing more research on the people, the Choppalas were shocked to find there are more than four million eunuchs in India alone. Though the church has been in the country for more than 116 years, no one has ever reached out to the group with Isaiah's message.

With one more year of contract teaching left at Spicer, the couple prayed every day for God's guidance, asking if it was His will for them to minister to the group. At the end of the school year, they say they felt they were hearing the Lord tell them, "Yes, I want you to go," so they packed up and left the college, not sure where they would end up.

On Feb. 7, 2008, the couple met Ammaji, the leader of a group of eunuchs in Bhimavaram, India.

"I went and talked to the eunuchs. That itself was unusual because no one talks to them with respect," says Choppala. To Ammaji's astonishment, the couple became friends with the group and invited a large number of them to attend Mridul's birthday party in November. It was the first time any of them had been invited to a party where they would be treated as guests.

As the Choppalas established relationships with eunuchs across Bhimavaram, Palakollu, Tanuku and in other cities nearby, the idea of OASIS was born. The Organization for the Advancement of Special-Gender Individuals through Education & Welfare Society (OASIS) was co-founded by the Choppalas in 2009 and aspires "to reach every eunuch in India with the message that God loves them." The organization's goal is to establish educational centers where eunuchs can learn trade skills such as tailoring, beauty cosmetology and hairstyling in order to give them "alternative ways of living" besides prostitution and dancing.

The Choppalas purchased two acres of land for the organization and are currently raising money for a school structure, dormitory and director's residence to be built. At the end of September, they will leave their home in Jackson, Miss., and return to India to continue their work.

"Through all of these experiences, we ask ourselves the question, 'If God loves these people so much, why don't we?' One of the greatest lessons we've learned is to love people," says the couple.

To learn more about OASIS International Eunuch Welfare, Inc., visit [www.oasisinternational.in](http://www.oasisinternational.in) or e-mail [johnsonchoppala@usa.net](mailto:johnsonchoppala@usa.net).

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

\*Michiana is a region in northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan centered on the city of South Bend, Ind.

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](http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org). Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

## Weddings

**Staci Shepard and Tyler Burns** were married Aug. 8, 2010, under the trees on the campus of Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastors Alvaro Sausa and Gary Burns.

Staci is the daughter of Craig Shepard of Detroit, Mich., and Judi and Alvaro Sausa of Missoula, Mont., and Tyler is the son of Gary and Maryann Burns of Berrien Springs.

The Burnses are making their home in Missoula.

**Lois R. Newberry and Carmi E. Edwards** were married Dec. 13, 2009, in Holly, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Brandon Korter.

Lois is the daughter of the late Louis and the late Ruth Fechtenburg, and Carmi is the son of the late Ross and the late Ruth Edwards.

The Edwardses are making their home in Linden, Mich.

**Karel Schmidt and John Ochs** were married July 11, 2010, in Lawrence, Wis. The ceremony was performed by Pastor William Ochs.

Karel is the daughter of Kathy and the late Kenneth Schmidt of Appleton, Wis., and John is the son of William and Gladys Ochs of Madison, Wis.

The Ochsese are making their home in Appleton.

**Baylie Thompson and Ryan Thurber** were married Aug. 1, 2010, in Indianapolis, Ind. The ceremony was performed by their fathers, Pastors Charlie Thompson and Gary Thurber.

Baylie is the daughter of Charlie and Trish Thompson of Arcadia, Ind., and Ryan is the son of Gary and Diane Thurber of Franktown, Colo.

The Thurbers are making their home in Westminster, Colo.

## Obituaries

**BARRINGER, Marvinna L. (Wolfe)**, age 85; born Feb. 3, 1925, in Adrian, Mich.; died July 8, 2010, in Port Huron, Mich. She was a member of the Port Huron Blue Water Church, Marysville, Mich.

Graveside services were conducted by Elder Bayani Pastrana, and inurnment was in Oakwood Cemetery, Adrian.

**BENJAMIN, Joseph A.**, age 72; born Aug. 6, 1938, in Beterverwagting, Guyana, SA; died Aug. 1, 2010, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley V. (Hillman); son, Joshoil; brother, Eustace; sisters, Mirian Moore, Norma Tyndal and Claudette Holder; and one grandchild.

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

**BURKE, Zilphia M. (Blaylock)**, age 81; born Sept. 16, 1928, in Johnston Cty., N.C.; died July 6, 2010, in Flint, Mich. She was a member of the First Flint Church.

Survivors include her husband, Mannus Burke; son, Earl Travis; daughter, Delois O'Neal; and sisters, Linda Flowers and Brinda Blaylock.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Stevenson, and interment was in Pine Lawn Cemetery, Hastings, N.Y.

**COFFEY, Charles T.**, age 78; born Jan. 10, 1932, in Russell Springs, Ky.; died July 6, 2010, in Greenwood, Ind. He was a member of the Indianapolis (Ind.) Southside Church.

Survivors include his wife, Irene (Burton); son, Randy; daughters, Debbie Owens, Linda Kuhn and Janice Moore; 14 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Brian Yensho, and interment was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Greenwood.

**DICKEY, Russell E.**, age 85; born May 20, 1924, in Kokomo, Ind.; died May 1, 2010, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Kokomo Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Lou (Flick); son, Alan R.; daughter, Julie A. Dickey; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Don English and Rick Moushon, and interment was in Sunset Memory Gardens Mausoleum, Kokomo.

**FREDERICK, Charles O.**, age 90; born Nov. 25, 1919, in Bear Creek, Ala.; died Aug. 6, 2010, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his son, Allen; daughter, Cheryl Withrow and "adopted" daughter Silvia Vitek; one grandchild; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor George Akers, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

**HAVARD, Ocelia (Flynn)**, age 63; born Apr. 13, 1947, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died June 30, 2010, in Indianapolis. She was a member of the Indianapolis Eastside Church.

Survivors include her husband, Johnny Havard; son, Eric Flynn; stepson, Calvin Cargile; daughters, Berona and Donna Flynn, and Cassandra Fisher-Flynn; mother, Hattie Culp; brothers, James and Daid Culp, and Ernest R. Robinson; sister, Sherrie L. Smith; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Charles Willis, and interment was in New Crown Cemetery, Indianapolis.

**KUHL, Marvin R.**, age 85; born Nov. 16, 1924, in Clam Falls, Wis.; died July 12, 2010, in Green Bay, Wis. He was a member of the Green Bay Church.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn (Hill); daughters, Sandra Sloan and Barbara Koch; sister, Betty Peters; five grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Mick Burrington and Pastor James Van Arsdale, and interment was in Milton Junction (Wis.) Cemetery.

**MCPHERSON SR., Clare R.**, age 86; born Jan. 31, 1924, in Gladwin Cty., Mich.; died July 9, 2010, in Saginaw, Mich. He was a member of the Edenville (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his son, Clare Jr.; daughters, Jeanette Wray and Sandra Broka; brothers, Ovid, Robert and Dan; sisters, Ella Greve, Viola Chen, Goldie England and Jeannie Mack; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Christien Hodet, with private inurnment.

**MOTE, Sharon S. (Hollingsworth)**, age 79; born Dec. 18, 1930, in Kokomo, Ind.; died Aug. 9, 2010, in Kokomo. She was a member of the Kokomo Church.

Survivors include her husband, Leonard E. Mote; sons, Rick H., Larry, David, Ron and Jimmy Mote; daughters, Marlene Dowden and Rita Brett; brother, Jack Hollingsworth; 31 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Javier Quiles and Blake Hall, and interment was in Albright Cemetery, Kokomo.

**SPENCER, Clyde N.**, age 88; born Mar. 18, 1922, in Nunica, Mich.; died June 22, 2010, in Traverse City, Mich. He was a member of the Grand Haven (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Lois (Yost); sons, Richard N., Ronald J. and Steven L.; daughters, Sharon L. Hall and Beverly A. Creasey; 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Lewis Anderson, and interment was in Spring Lake (Mich.) Cemetery.

**WILLIAMS, Russell W.**, age 94; born Dec. 4, 1914, in Niles, Mich.; died Nov. 30, 2009, in Niles. He was a member of the Niles Westside Church.

Survivors include his wife, Elanore (Thomas); sons, Larry W. and Ronald L.; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Paul Pellindini, with private inurnment, Niles.

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## Employment

**RESEARCH COORDINATOR** opportunity available in Andrews University's Physical Therapy department. Ideal candidate will be a Physical Therapist with a doctorate degree and experience in research, teaching and cardiopulmonary. For more details and to apply, please visit [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_faculty.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi).

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**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks Ph.D. prepared Biologist for Spring 2011. Looking for talented, committed Adventist creationist who

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**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF VISUAL ART AND DESIGN** seeks professor to teach Web and print design. Successful candidate will possess an M.F.A. and comprehensive understanding of contemporary design culture in both interactive and print media. Candidate must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae (including a statement of teaching philosophy), portfolio samples

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**Miscellaneous**

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**HERITAGE SINGERS**, celebrating their 40th Anniversary, are now taking concert invitations for fundraisers and special church events. Call Max Mace at 530-622-9369 to book a 2011 concert while there are still available dates.

**WANTED TO BUY 1-10,000 AND FOR SALE:** Used Adventist books, cookbooks,

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## School Notes

BY DANIEL PATTON

## A Journey

I cannot recall one pivotal moment that led me down the path to medicine but rather a series of slight turns. Most of these occurred at Wisconsin Academy (WA).

I started working in the Science Department with Mr. Brassington, christened "Brother B" by upper classmen. Brother B was earnest, spiritual and fun; he made learning science fun.

Fast-forward to my senior class trip. WA traditionally spent a week building a church, opening a dental and medical clinic, and doing children's Bible classes. The best part was all, this was in tropical Belize. I worked with Dr. Epple who showed me the great impact I could have in a few moments with simple tools, some knowledge and a heart that cared about others. I began to ponder turning my interest in anatomy into a career.

As I look back at WA, I think about the people who added color to the journey. When I walk down

the hospital hall contemplating a patient, worrying if I have forgotten an important detail, I still remember Mrs. Sigler telling me to "ThiMk!" (Yes, with an enunciated "M"), if I neglected a homework assignment or meeting. I also met James Fox who mentored me through medicine, relationships and my spirituality at every step in the last ten years.

It was on the WA lawn during recreation time and on tour for choir or gymnastics that I met my best friend and my wife, Jamie Danaher. Our paths would have never crossed except for WA. Words cannot express my gratitude for the gentle guidance and immense sacrifice my parents, the WA staff and the community put into my journey. For me, WA was not just about education but rather setting my feet on a journey.

Daniel "D.J." Patton, graduated from Wisconsin Academy in 2001, Andrews University in 2005, and Loma Linda University in 2010. He is completing his residency in Seattle, Washington, at Harbor View Trauma Center and the University of Washington.



# 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](http://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](http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org).

## Andrews University

### Visit the Horn Archaeological Museum Sabbath afternoons from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

The Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum is home to more than 8,500 artifacts and objects from the Bible lands. Come explore our seven exhibit halls: Main Exhibit Hall, Mesopotamian Hall, Transjordan Hall, Life of Christ Hall, Classroom Hall, Egyptian Hall and Cuneiform Hall. Tours are available during the week by appointment only. For more information, contact us at 269-471-3273 or [hornmuseum@andrews.edu](mailto:hornmuseum@andrews.edu).

## Illinois

### Are you ready ... for what is soon to take place?

This question is the focus of a Bible prophecy series conducted by Pastor Steve Nelson for the Noble Church Thurs., Fri. and Sat., **Oct. 28-30 and Nov. 4-13**, starting at 6:30 p.m. This series will take a look at Earth's final events as mirrored in the life of Jesus. For more information, go to <http://fairfieldsdachurch.org> or [www.unlockingtruth.org](http://www.unlockingtruth.org).

## Indiana

**Teen Caving Weekend** is a great time to explore the spectacular array of caves in Indiana. To learn more about this **Dec. 3-5** underworld adventure, send your request to: [www.indysdayouth@yahoo.com](http://www.indysdayouth@yahoo.com). E-mail or call the Indiana Conference youth department today at 317-844-6201.

## Lake Region

**Teen Leaders Training Retreat:** We are proud to announce the Lake Region Conference "WE R ONE" First Annual Teen Leaders In Training Retreat, **Nov. 5-7**. This year's location is Camp Wagner, and special guests will be Shane Francis, Andrews University; Ron Whitehead, International Pathfinder Camporee executive director; and Gordon Atkins, TLT coordinator for the Michigan Conference. For more information, contact Angie via e-mail at [gardner.angeline@yahoo.com](mailto:gardner.angeline@yahoo.com), or contact your local area TLT coordinator—Chicago Area: Pat Watts-Coleman; Motor City Area: Weata Powell; Michiana Area: Kim Henley; Illiana Area: Victor Burns; Minn./Wis. Area: Moses Lewis; Hispanic Ministries Area: Vanston Archbold.

## Lake Union

### Offerings

- Nov 6** Local Church Budget
- Nov 13** World Budget (Annual Sacrifice)
- Nov 20** Local Church Budget
- Nov 27** Local Conference Advance

## Special Days

- Nov 6-27** Native Heritage Month
- Nov 6** Stewardship Sabbath
- Nov 7-13** Week of Prayer
- Nov 20** Human Relations Sabbath
- Nov 27** Welcome Home Sabbath

## North American Division

**Every Year is a Year of Evangelism**—three days of inspiration, training and relaxation for laity, pastors, full-time evangelists and conference administrators. Southern Union Evangelism Council 2010, **Dec. 6-9**, at Daytona Beach, Fla. Presenters include Mark Finley, Carlton Byrd and Charles Byrd. For more information, visit [www.suevangelism.com](http://www.suevangelism.com).

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# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 3	Dec 10
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:37	5:29	5:23	5:18	5:16	5:14
Chicago, Ill.	5:42	4:34	4:28	4:23	4:20	4:20
Detroit, Mich.	6:23	5:15	5:08	5:04	5:01	5:00
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:40	5:33	5:27	5:23	5:20	5:20
La Crosse, Wis.	5:52	4:44	4:37	4:32	4:29	4:28
Lansing, Mich.	6:28	5:20	5:13	5:08	5:05	5:04
Madison, Wis.	5:46	4:38	4:32	4:27	4:23	4:23
Springfield, Ill.	5:54	4:47	4:41	4:37	4:34	4:34

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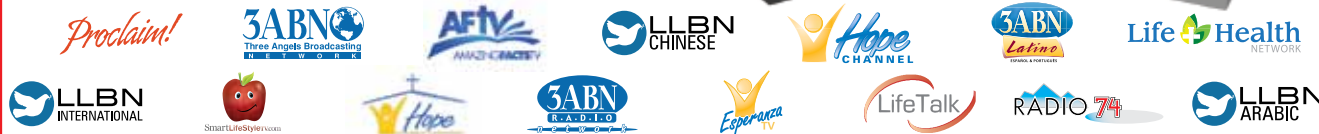
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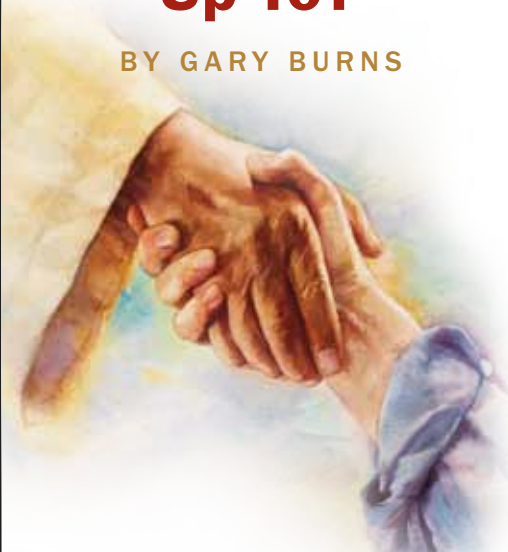
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## PARTNERSHIP with GOD

### What Is God Up To?

BY GARY BURNS



I just got a call yesterday from my recently married 23-year-old son, Tyler. I could tell by the tone of his voice he was excited about something. *Did he catch a record fish with his jfy rod?* I wondered. He loves to tell me about his fishing escapades.

"The church is having a meeting next Wednesday night, and they're inviting a bunch of us to bring our musical instruments and make plans about our worship service. And guess what? They asked me to be a worship leader!"

The conversation that followed centered mostly on his joy and attitude about God "messing with his life."

"How do you feel about that?" I asked.

"I feel pretty good about it," his smile evident even over the phone. "Whatever God has for me, I'm ready."

We're so thankful Tyler and Staci attend a church where members love them and engage them in ministry. They've also been leading out in the little Primary room since they returned from their honeymoon. The challenges there have helped to develop their faith.

Our conversation shifted from excitement about being a worship leader to a real concern for the life of the church. "If we don't step up to be leaders, Pop, the church doesn't have much of a future. Most of the people are as old as you!"

He's right about stepping up. It's obvious God is working, and that God is equipping and calling Tyler and other young adults. We thank God there are people who recognize what God is up to, and are partnering with Him to accomplish His purpose.

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

## An Irresistible Church

BY JOSIE BURNS

**W**hy are so many from my generation accepting the teachings of Jesus while rejecting the church? Most of my friends don't go to church anymore. Some of them were examples of what a "Christian" really ought to be. Many people I looked up to, who were so on fire for Jesus, have simply stopped being Adventists.

Personally, I identify with some of them who have struggled with connections to the church because of so many contradictions; not just in how we live, but contradictions between policy-driven practice and the teachings and example of Jesus. I don't think that simply walking away from the church is the answer, but I understand their frustration and disappointment because I feel it too—I know where they're coming from. Their observations are correct. It makes me sad. I have high expectations of my church. I think Jesus does too, or He wouldn't use terms like "spotless" and "pure" to describe it, nor would Ellen White suggest that He is waiting for His character to be perfectly reflected in it—in us.

We are so insular. Our world is too much about us. I want a church that is active and integrated in the community—not in a "we're so holy and you're lucky we're helping you out" kind of way, but a deep-rooted commitment to caring for each and every person in our world with a Christ-like love—a church that deserves the trust and confidence of the community, including those of other faith expressions.

I love the stories about people who are shining examples of Christ and are acknowledged and appreciated by the community, but those are examples of special individuals, not examples of the reputation of the institution.



I spent a school year as a student missionary in India and was inspired and challenged by the Hindu mindset and devotion to their gods and their faithfulness in worship. If we as Christians were half as committed to our God as they are in every aspect of their faith, we would see so many

blessings and miracles that our heads would spin. But what would we do with that kind of power? I would hope that we would share it with our world.

I want to be in the middle of the Earth's final showdown with the devil, look evil in the face and "fear not." We should not be so afraid to take a stand in our ever-changing world. We should be leading the changes that are grounded in biblical principles, not standing back and commenting from time to time.

Christ was in the middle of the social changes happening in His time, He was leading it. Jesus showed His community perfect love. Why can't I do that? I know it is comfortable to just sit and talk about how we can make our church better, but we need to be out there doing it. I think that kind of church would be not only more welcoming of my friends, but it would be an attractive and inviting—even irresistible—place for them to be. Love is the first step.

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Josie Burns is a freelance writer. She is completing her studies in English, French and communications. She writes from Berrien Springs, Michigan.

**Hugo "Lance" Gates**, 17, is a member of the Carbondale Community SDA Fellowship and lives in Murphysboro, Illinois. This is Lance's first year at Wisconsin Academy. He was homeschooled his first three years of high school.

Lance feels the most important thing he learned from his schooling experience is that every word and action affects people immeasurably. So often we do not see the outcome of our influence on others, the only safeguard is to stay in constant communication with God. See Ecclesiastes 12:14, Genesis 5:24, Philippians 1:21, John 15:1-6.

During the summer, Lance worked as a colporteur in Rockford, Illinois, and had an experience with God. He learned about Christian servant leadership and witnessing, as well as perseverance. He really grew spiritually. To people who want to find God more fully, he recommends they spend the summer serving God.

Lance's favorite class was Anatomy and Physiology. He loved studying about the intricate workings of the body that God gave us. He especially enjoyed learning about cells, DNA and protein.

After graduation, Lance plans to spend the summer colporturing again, and then he will attend a missionary training program next fall. After the missionary training program is completed, Lance hopes to attend Southern Adventist



Lance Gates



Erica Gillen

University to study theology and nursing.

**Erica Gillen**, 18, is a member of the Green Bay Church and lives in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Erica came to Wisconsin Academy (WA) her junior year. This year she is the spiritual vice president at WA. In that capacity, Erica helps plan, organize and implement all of the spiritual activities at the academy. In addition, she serves as one of the small group leaders who helps lead peers to a saving

relationship with Jesus Christ.

Erica has learned a lot about herself while in academy. She realized that her learning won't stop here. Erica also discovered God has bigger plans for her than she ever had for herself. Her most memorable experience during the last year was when Great Lakes Adventist Academy visited WA for a spiritual emphasis weekend. They performed a powerful play on the life of Jesus. Afterward, they asked the students to stand up for Jesus and come to the front of the chapel. A large amount of WA students, including Erica, made that stand. They prayed and cried and supported each other. It was the first time in Erica's life that she felt the Holy Spirit right there in the room with her. It was a mountain top experience.

Erica is still considering her options for college after graduation. She wants to make a difference in others' lives in whatever God leads her to do. She will give 100 percent. Even if all she makes is a little dent in this world, that's all that mat-

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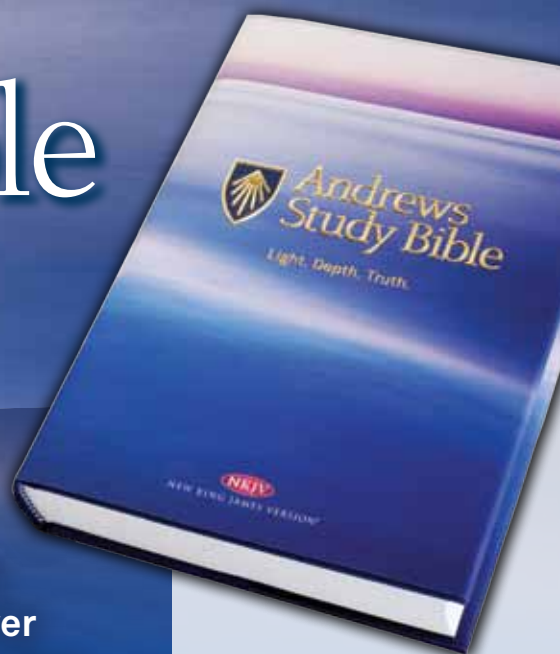
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