

A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, laughing joyfully with his eyes closed and mouth wide open. He is wearing a dark jacket and has his right hand on his head. The background is a heavy rain falling vertically, creating a blurred, streaky effect.

Lake Union HERALD

JANUARY 2011

IT'S BEGINNING TO RAIN

SPECIAL FEATURE

Safety Reforms: Providing Safer
Places for Our Children p. 18

Revival and Reformation

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



In every issue...

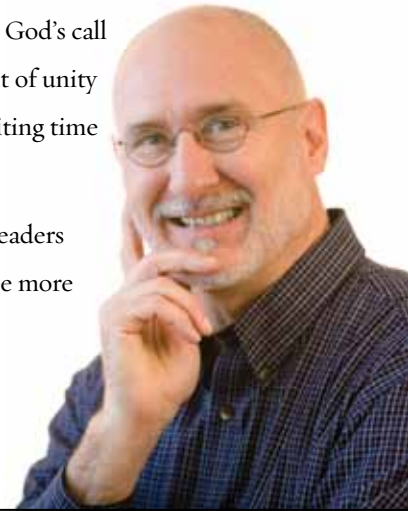
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In this issue...

There is evidence all around us that God is on the move. Good things are beginning to happen simultaneously. People in various communities, as well as leaders at church headquarters, are hearing God's call to prayer. The movement of revival is creating a spirit of unity and precipitating a number of reforms. What an exciting time to be a part of God's family. It's beginning to rain!

In this issue, we share what's on the hearts of our leaders and ways in which our church is making changes to be more in harmony with God's great plan.


Gary Burns, Editor



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A Call to Prayer

Is 40 Days Enough?

We are seeing and hearing of places all around our territory, the North American Division and the world, where God's people are actively seeking Him in a way that will result in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

This past summer my wife, Barbara, and I engaged in the very meaningful experience of 40 days of prayer. It was a blessing to give focus to praying together for the presence and guiding of the Holy Spirit as our World Church came together for a worldwide session of inspiration, elections and church business. We also interceded before God for several individuals.

Across the Lake Union footprint and beyond, many engaged in 40 days of prayer during the last several months, even large portions of many churches. How did it go for you? Did you experience the blessing of prayer? It was a powerful experience for Barbara and me. We believe many people shared our experience of coming closer to God and each other because of this focused approach to deepening our relationship with Him. Entire churches experienced a new dimension to their spiritual life by entering into what God described as the key to discovering Him: "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 4:29 NKJV).

But are 40 days of prayer enough? If our approach is to simply do 40 days of intense praying and then go on with life as usual, our 40 days of praying is just another program, another initiative, another religious exercise; after which, we find ourselves looking for the next activity, hoping to make ourselves feel better spiritually.

God has not called us to simply do another spiritual exercise for a period of time; God is calling us to make the receiving of the Holy Spirit the highest priority in our lives. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..." (Acts 1:8 NKJV).

Did you catch the two parts of the promise—what God is able to do in us, and what He desires to do through us? To only seek the Holy Spirit for a spiritual experience and needed self-improvement misses God's ultimate purpose. The gift of the Holy Spirit is especially given to equip and empower to fulfill His great commission.

Until we bring ourselves before God in total submission, seeking the infilling of His promised Spirit, we will continue to linger, do business as usual and see the people around us continue to spiral downward—maybe us, too.

Although a 40-day focus is a special time of prayer, let's not limit prayer to an event. After His 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus continued to seek His Father and maintained His connection to receive the guidance and power needed to fulfill His Father's mission to save the world.

So here's the call: Let's continue to seek God, bringing out hearts before our Creator in focused and directed prayer as individuals and in community, making ourselves and our churches available to whatever He chooses to do in us and through us to accomplish His mission.

God is ready ... are you?



God Is Faithful

BY DAVE AND SUE MERKEL

We each had a background and family in the Adventist church, and even had the benefit of a Christian education, but church didn't fit in our business plan and was not a part of our lives for many years.

Dave: When I was a student at Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, I was called into the principal's office and told I was wasting my parents' money. I was asked to leave. I didn't want to leave, but I had to learn. So, I went to the public school. I have to admit I had a reputation for being the class clown, and I found myself in the principal's office again. He told me I was the worst piece of

humanity he had ever seen. So, I dropped out of school in the fall of my sophomore year. I would rather work with my dad in his flooring business than go back to school.

Sue and I married in 1964 and soon had two daughters, Kathy and Vickie. We started out in business with Berrien Buggy in 1968 in a small garage in back of the house, and it grew to a full business in 1971 when we moved to our present location.

Sue: My mother started taking the girls to Sabbath school every week, and they tried to get me to go to church with them. I think I attended for about three or four weeks; and then one Monday morning, I found a note that David had written and left on my desk. It basically said, "You have to decide between me and the church." Saturday was a really big day for our business, and a lot of it was walk-in customers. They were busy and ... I was in church. That was in 1978, and we were doing \$1 million in sales ... so I didn't go to church anymore.

When our oldest daughter, Kathy, was in eighth grade, we put her and Vickie in Ruth Murdoch Elementary



Dave, Sue, Vickie and Kathy Merkel, a new church-going family, pose for the Pioneer Memorial Church directory in 1989.

School. The girls weren't very happy to leave public school, because all their friends were there. Although they knew a number of kids from Sabbath school, they still didn't want to change schools.

In 1982, we opened a video store. It was a great business opportunity, and we were the only store in the whole area. So, we had the buggy business open six days a week and the video store open seven days a

week.

Then, in October 1986, something very dramatic happened in our lives. I attended my 25th class reunion of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, and we met at a home for Friday night vespers. On Sabbath morning, we were at the academy; and on Saturday night, our class got together at the Lake Union building. Things developed in me all weekend, and I remember saying to somebody Saturday night, "If this is what Heaven is like, I want to be there." My words surprised me, but they came from my heart.

Sunday morning we met again for breakfast, and I realized the reunion was over. I thought, *Now what? ... I want to be a part of this!* That weekend I met Jesus. It always brings tears to my eyes just thinking about it. It was such a wonderful experience. God just changed me. He changed the desires of my heart, and my conversion was immediate. Some of the things I had done I just didn't desire any more. Whether it was music or food or the way I talked, whatever, God just made a big change in me. I began praying so much, I even prayed in my dreams! I liked to sit out by the pas-



Dave and Sue Merkel were featured in the May/June 2008 issue of Sand Sports magazine as part of their 40-year mark in the dune buggy business.



In the Winter 2000 issue of Sand Sports magazine, Dave and Sue Merkel were identified as early pioneers of the dune buggy.

ture and spend time alone with God and study my Sabbath school lesson.

The next Sabbath I was in church. I joined my sister in John Duge's class, and then Ann Kantor invited me to sit with her in church. That was a big deal to not be walking into the church by myself, even though it was "my church" and I was actually still a member there. It had been so long since I had been there, so for her to invite me to sit with her was a big thing.

Dave: Sue had only been going to church a few weeks; I told her she looked so happy, and that I wanted what she had. So I decided to go to church with her. One Sabbath, I don't know what exactly was said by the preacher, I stood up and made a decision to follow Jesus all the way—and that meant closing the store on Sabbath. The video store was open until 9:00 p.m., and in November the sun went down about 5:30 p.m. So we began closing the store much earlier on Friday. That was in the fall of 1986, and we were baptized in March 1987.

Sue: As soon as Dave started attending church, he started pulling R-rated videos off the shelf. Then he started pulling more off the shelf. I thought maybe we could sell the R-rated videos, but Scripture told me no. I was reading my Sabbath school lesson one day out by the garage when it just hit me. It was just like somebody had turned on the light switch and a light bulb came on. I was reading in Acts 19 about how the Ephesians who had practiced sorcery publicly burned all their scrolls so they wouldn't fall into other people's hands. I thought, *Of course, we can't sell these videos. We have to burn them.* We burned thousands of dollars worth of videos in a big bonfire behind the shop.

We're so thankful that church members who knew us and watched us didn't question us as to why we were still operating a video store. We thought we could still rent the

PG- and G-rated movies. It was a process that the Lord was taking us through. Some of it was obvious, and some of it wasn't. We didn't know we would eventually close the video store; but in December 1987 we did, and we've never looked back. We have never, even for a moment, regretted closing that store. We had the love of the Lord, and the store didn't matter.

Since then, we've had some difficult times in our business. During the 90s, we got to the place where we thought we were going to go bankrupt. But we just clung to the Lord and He was faithful.

Dave: It just hit me one day. *As long as I'm doing what He wants me to do, He will supply all of my needs.* That takes all the worry away from me. He's a "just-in-time" God, and He comes through with what we need when we need it. And I just praise Him for it.

Sue: When you have the hope, the trust and the peace, it just takes all the pressure off. In 2004, I was diagnosed with stage three uterine cancer; and miraculously, the Lord provided us with health insurance within two weeks of the diagnosis and surgery. We praised the Lord that insurance was possible through our business corporation, even with a pre-existing condition. If we had lost the business, [insurance] would not have been available. In November of the same year, Dave was diagnosed with prostate cancer. It was caught early, and no other treatment was necessary. When we went through that ordeal with cancer, I finally experienced what it meant to have peace that is beyond understanding.

We don't want to forget even the little things the Lord does for us over and over and over again. For 24 years now, He's shown Himself to be always trustworthy and faithful.

Dave and Sue Merkel continue to operate Berrien Buggy in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and they are members of the Pioneer Memorial Church.

It's All About Jesus

BY MADLYN HAMBLIN

One day while viewing satellite TV, Eddy and Dennis Benedict heard Lee Venden preach about having a friendship with Jesus. Dennis says, "His preaching was encouraging, practical and uplifting." When Lee came to Battle Creek Tabernacle in November 2009, Dennis and Eddy decided to attend the opening meeting of Lee's "More About Jesus Revival Seminar." Dennis says, "We could not attend every meeting, so I ordered a set of the DVDs. After watching the series two times, I thought everyone should see these videos."

Rick and Caryn Jordan were at the Benedicts' house one Sabbath afternoon and watched a portion of one video, and they expressed interest in seeing more. Dennis recalls, "We prayed for God to impress us whom to ask to come to our home and watch the DVDs. We saw direct answers to prayer, and soon had a group of people who met most every Friday evening for three months."

Out of that small group came a dramatic change of hearts, lives and attitudes.

As the weeks progressed, friendships grew and the group became more unified in learning more about Jesus. "Each member felt comfortable sharing their thoughts and concerns. We all grew spiritually because our friendship with Jesus grew stronger every day," Dennis said. "It was exciting to see how God was blessing everyone with a deeper, loving friendship with Jesus, and to hear how God was answering group members' prayers! I developed a friendship with each member. It was a great blessing having our 'family' together to share with each other weekly." Dennis believes the group was a great support personally and motivated him to have a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Jesus—his Best Friend and Companion—all day long. He says he now enjoys "spending more time in Bible study and prayer to commune with Jesus."

Dennis prayed about how to share this information with more people in the church, and was impressed to share what



One small group meets at the home of Ray and Madlyn Hamblin. The group has grown to 12, and some are now requesting to bring friends.

he learned from the videos with his pastor, Gene Hall. Gene listened intently to Dennis's testimony and expressed an interest in the videos. The pastor enjoyed the first four presentations so much that he and his wife, Cindy, joined the Friday night small group meeting. "They watched most of the remaining videos with our group and were excited about sharing them with the church," recalls Dennis.

Gene told Dennis he wanted everyone to see the videos as soon as possible, so they made plans to show them for three weekends in May and June at the church. Since then, ten families began hosting meetings on different days and times during the week. Some groups have found that studying in the home setting is a great place to build friendships with non-believers and opens doors to renew friendships with members who haven't attended church for awhile. From his experience with the first small group, Dennis says he expects "to see new friendships [formed], increased church unity, increased interest in witnessing and helping with church work, including church offices and leadership." But most important, Dennis believes small group members will have "a continually growing friendship with Jesus who will change their lives."

Madlyn Hamblin lives in Tecumseh, Michigan. She is editor of the *Jackson (Michigan) Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter*. This story is adapted with permission from an interview between Madlyn Hamblin and Dennis Benedict, O.D., in the October 2010 issue.



EXTREME GRACE

A Safe Place

BY DICK DUERKSEN

There was a moment of silence when the visiting preacher sat down. Then bedlam, as everyone talked about what they had just heard.

“When you’re close to God, you’re in the safest place in the universe!”

His text was from Exodus, the passage where God and Moses argued while the bush burned. He talked about shoes, the ones God told Moses to “take off,” and the ones we must remove so we can hear God’s voice.

“Moses wore shoes that were handmade, custom-tailored to keep him safe from desert dangers like snakes, scorpions, thorns, stones and hot sand. But God wanted Moses to realize that no matter how hard he tried, his personal protection was useless in fighting the devil. For that, Moses needed God’s protection.”

“Take off your shoes,” God said. “You’re standing on My ground, and I’ll take care of you. When you’re close to Me, you’re in the safest place in the universe!”

We’d all listened, quite amazed as the ancient tale took on a whole new texture.

Then a young man walked toward the front, to the platform, up on the platform and right over to the pulpit. He was a stranger, and many of us wished for someone from Security. Quick!

Instead, our pastor joined him at the pulpit.

“You may not know Jason,” Pastor Tim began, “but he was raised in our town. Long ago, his parents were members of our congregation—but they moved away. So, I would like to introduce you to a young man who is a stranger, and a friend.”

Several members leaned over to whisper to their spouses, and old Mrs. Weber gasped.

“Could it be?” everyone heard her whisper. “Could that be the Andersons’ little Jason?”

Pastor Tim cleared his throat and continued. “Jason has been back in town for a few days, making some apologies and looking for a job.”



“I found a job,” Jason said. He stood uncomfortably, one hand in his pocket and the other grasping the pulpit with white-knuckled fervor. “I’m working at the Hardware. You’ve been mighty nice to me. I hope that knowing who I am won’t change that.”

Pastor Tim gave Jason a hug and then leaned down and began to untie his shoes. Left shoe untied and removed. Right shoe untied and removed. Both shoes tossed behind the pulpit. Then he moved to the microphone.

“Today our visiting pastor told us, ‘When you’re close to God, you’re in the safest place in the universe.’ If we really believe that, then our church must be about the safest place around—especially for someone like Jason.”

Mrs. Weber gasped again. “But he... And he also...,” and then her voice died away, drowned to silence by the applause that thundered through the congregation.

Jason cleared his throat and spoke clearly. “I am sorry for the way I lived here when I was young.” Then he leaned down and began removing his basketball shoes. “I’m not the same anymore. You’ve accepted me and been so kind since I’ve gotten back that I’ve decided to give God a chance with my life.”

Jason finished with his shoes and tossed them over by Pastor Tim’s.

For a few moments you could only see the tops of heads as ancients, youth, men, women, deacons, Dorcas leaders and even Mrs. Weber leaned over to untie, unzip, slip off and determinedly remove their shoes.

When all was quiet, Pastor Tim spoke once more.

“Lord, here’s your barefoot brigade. Keep us safe.”

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



FAMILY TIES

It's All About Perspective

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Some years ago, Christian writer and counselor H. Norman Wright and a colleague pastor, Wes Roberts, shared a list of ten negative reasons why couples marry, which can be found in the book, *Before You Say I Do*. I believe the reasons still hold true today. If you are considering marriage, you may want to stop right now and write out your own list. Then compare your list with the following negative reasons:

- To spite your parents
- Because marriage will make you feel worthwhile and will give meaning to your life
- To be a therapist or counselor in order to fix your fiancé (To try to fix or change your fiancé)
- The fear that you might never be married
- The fear of independence or thinking you need to be with someone to feel safe and/or fulfilled
- To ease the pain of having broken up with someone else
- Being worried over what will happen to your fiancé if you break up, even though you know this marriage should not occur
- To escape an unhappy home
- Because your fiancé is pregnant
- Because you have been involved sexually

Experts list five healthy reasons why couples marry:

- Companionship
- To work together and fulfill your own and each other's needs
- To fulfill sexual needs in the way God intends
- Love and commitment
- Because you are convinced that it is God's will for you to marry this person

Marriage readiness also involves personal growth in what Scripture labels as the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23), being appropriately adaptable and flexible, having the ability to empathize, being able to work through problems, being able to give and receive love, being emotionally stable, having more than a few things in common, having effective communication skills, and having similar family backgrounds.

Even with all these positives in place, couples usually dis-

cover some level of incompatibility. Why? Because we come from different gene pools, were reared by different parents, come from differing cultural or socioeconomic backgrounds, and are different genders. Confronting and processing incompatibilities lovingly and not turning them into battlegrounds are essential.

In George Knight's book, *Walking with Ellen White*, he shares insights into the marriage of James and Ellen White. Because the couple lived and worked together, and because both were driven by a belief they must accomplish what God called them to do, they did not have an easy marriage. James "firmly believed that his wife's messages came from God," but her "straight words" about some of his choices and actions, including his working too much, were hard for him to accept. He confided in one of his sons about how difficult Ellen was to live with.



After James suffered a series of strokes, between 1865 and 1881, he became subject to mood swings and suspicions, causing him to respond quite defensively. At about the same time, Ellen shared with a friend how difficult James was to live with. Sometime later she wrote from California to James, "Forgive me and I will be cautious not to start any subject to annoy and distress you. ... Wherein I have done this, I am sorry." James countered with an apology of his own.

Whatever the tensions, incompatibilities and frustrations of their marriage may have been, their love and commitment were real. After James died in 1881, Ellen reportedly missed him very much. Twenty-five years after James died, Ellen described him as "the best man that ever trod shoe leather."

Susan Murray is a professor emerita of behavioral sciences at Andrews University, and she is a certified family life educator and a licensed marriage and family therapist.

*Get off the couch
and give yourself an
energy boost.*



*Enjoy a better
quality of life in
the new year.*

Walk the Talk

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

An estimated 80 percent of Americans do not have an exercise program. So why are we so comfortable sitting on the couch when we know the value of regular exercise and how crucial it is to living a healthy lifestyle? Exercise can add not only years to your life but life to your years.

Exercise is known to lower your blood pressure and blood cholesterol levels, and lower your chances of Type 2 diabetes. Exercise and diet combined are an effective way for you to achieve your weight-loss goals, rather than dieting alone. Regular exercise is also valuable and effective for helping to keep the weight off. Strength training also helps to maintain muscular strength and bone mass. Without it, we lose muscle mass, our muscles weaken and elderly folks can easily lose their balance. Exercise also improves your digestion and the quality of your sleep, and greatly diminishes anxiety and depression.

As 2011 kicks off, we need to get our exercise program into high gear. Walking is a really good activity to get into shape. You don't need any special equipment. You can do it anywhere, anytime, whatever the weather. Casual walking will burn about 250 calories per hour.

The psychological benefits of exercise were recently measured by researchers in Georgia. They found that even a low-intensity workout, such as a regular leisurely stroll, could boost the energy level of a sedentary person by as much as 20 percent, compared to a couch-potato. Light workouts were found to fight fatigue by up to 65 percent. In another study, sedentary postmenopausal women who exercised for one to three hours a week for six months not



only lost weight but also experienced enhanced mental outlook and renewed vitality. Regular exercise can go a long way toward increasing one's energy level.

There are almost 12 million cancer survivors in the U.S., with about one-half of them breast or prostate cancer survivors. Research has shown that those cancer survivors who exercise have better

everyday function and overall quality of life. In addition, men and women who walk 30 minutes a day, five times a week, have a 40 percent reduction in risk of stroke.

To stick with your exercise program long-term, you must enjoy the workout. Find a soul mate. A friend, relative or a colleague can support and encourage you through tough times. Connecting with someone who shares your goals will enable you to stick it out. Workout sessions must be scheduled in regular time slots or else the day will slip away without any time spent on exercise. Realistic and safe goals should be set that can be reasonably accomplished. Keep a journal on your progress. Keep your routine simple, as you are more likely to continue the program when there is little hassle involved. Vary your program—with cycling, walking, use of an elliptical, routines with stretch bands, etc.—so you don't get bored. Now is the time to start.

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



Friendship with God

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

Human beings are created to live in fellowship with God. We are meant to have and to enjoy life in relationship with God. Without this relationship we are like branches cut off from a tree, like toasters not plugged in.

Prayer is the way we get in touch with God and the way we keep in touch with Him. I used to think of prayer as a spiritual exercise, a discipline that had to be worked at. Through the years, however, God has taught me to see it more and more as the talking part of a friendship. One of the early church fathers called it “keeping company with God.” I like that!

Several years ago as I tried to define prayer, God led me through a series of steps. At first I thought of prayer simply as talking with God. Then the idea of relationship emerged, and I began to see that prayer is the talking part of a relationship with God. Months later my definition changed again, and I began to understand that prayer is the talking part of a love relationship with God. But there was still more I had to learn. I came to see that prayer was the talking part of the most important love relationship in our lives. With that addition I thought that I finally had it, but some years later God added one more element. Then the definition, a definition that I still live with today, came out as: “Prayer is the conversational part of the most important love relationship in our lives, our love relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Sometimes people ask how much time they should try to spend in prayer each day. I used to suggest that 20 minutes of formal prayer a day was a minimum. I reinforced that by reminding them of the many things that need to be included in a prayer, and then I added that 20 minutes a day was only about two percent of our waking hours each day.

Now when people ask about the time they should spend in prayer, I simply tell them they should spend enough time to build a good relationship. And, considering that the relationship we are talking about is life's

most important love relationship, that means plenty of time.

What does God do for those who relate to Him in love? The psalmist put it well when he said, “You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand” (Psalm 16:1 NIV).

What's the good of prayer? Just this! It helps us to grow into and live out of that most important of all love relationships. But, of course, it's only as good as we make it. So, what good are you making of it?

Reflect

What can your prayer life tell you about your love relationship with God?

What more could you do to deepen your friendship with God?

Pray

Praise God for His love and for His readiness to have a love relationship with you.

Ask God to strengthen your prayer life and deepen your relationship with Him.

Ask God to fill you with joy in His presence and to give you eternal pleasures at His right hand.

Thank God for His generosity in making these gifts available.

Act

Intentionally set aside some time to spend with God. Do some relationship-building things with Him during that time. Write down the three most important things that you got out of your time with God.

Alvin J. VanderGriend is co-founder of the Denominational Prayer Leaders Network and currently serves as evangelism associate for Harvest Prayer Ministries, in Terre Haute, Indiana. This article is an excerpt from his book, *Love to Pray*. Reprinted with permission.



HOMBRES DE ACUERDO AL CORAZÓN DE DIOS

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Los que a la vista de Dios son hombres, y que así figuran en los libros del cielo, son aquellos que, como Daniel, cultivan todas sus aptitudes en la forma que les permita representar mejor el reino de Dios en un mundo que yace en la impiedad....El mundo necesita hombres de pensamiento, hombres de principios, hombres que estén creciendo constantemente en comprensión y discernimiento” (Mensajes para los jóvenes, p. 31).

En el mes de septiembre tuve el privilegio de asistir a un evento histórico que se llevó a cabo en la ciudad de Grand Rapids, estado de Michigan. Fue el primer congreso de hombres hispanos. Incluyo a continuación un informe escrito por Luis Maldonado, quien fue el encargado del evento.

“Por mucho tiempo yo había visto a mi esposa trabajar a favor de las damas y cómo crecía el ministerio femenino y daba frutos en nuestras congregaciones, pero no había nada para los caballeros”.

“Hace varios años asistí por primera vez al programa “Hombres de Fe” (Men of Faith) que realiza la Asociación de Michigan y fue una gran bendición para mí. Sin embargo, también fue de mucha tristeza ya que al ser todo en inglés, una gran mayoría de los miembros de nuestras iglesias hispanas no podían beneficiarse con los temas y la camaradería cristiana que se desarrollaron en este encuentro. Además, las necesidades, realidades y vivencias de nuestra población hispana son diferentes a las de nuestros hermanos de habla inglesa; por lo tanto, cualquier evento que se llevara a cabo debería ser diseñado específicamente para nuestras necesidades”.

“Con esto en mente nos propusimos organizar un encuentro en español, dirigido a hombres hispanos. Le expusimos nuestra idea al pastor Eddie Allen, vice presidente de la Asociación Regional del Lago, y él vio luz en el proyecto y nos ofreció la ayuda que tanto habíamos buscado.

Inmediatamente pusimos manos a la obra, y bajo el nombre “UN HOMBRE DE ACUERDO AL CORAZÓN DE DIOS”, junto con el pastor Héctor Leger escogimos la fecha del 25 de septiembre de 2010. Le dimos cuerpo al programa, comenzando con una feria de salud incluyendo temas de nutrición, salud, sexualidad masculina, finanzas y por supuesto temas espirituales. Los expositores escogidos

fueron los doctores Edwin Hernández, Rodney Moret y Senéz Rodríguez, y los pastores Oreste Natera, Carlos Salazar y Saulo Sauza. También el pastor Allen nos ofreció un inspirador devocional y el pastor Carmelo Mercado tuvo a su cargo la oración de despedida”.

“Definitivamente éste fue un gran evento. Estuvimos juntos desde las 8:00 de la mañana hasta las 5:00 de la tarde. Desayunamos, oramos y almorzamos juntos como hermanos. Más de 100 hombres de diferentes iglesias tanto de la Asociación Regional como de la Asociación de Michigan, incluyendo a algunos invitados no adventistas, disfrutamos de este programa. Esto fue definitivamente un éxito para Cristo”.

Por lo que entiendo se planea repetir el evento este año y se espera que aún más hombres puedan asistir. Mi oración es que este evento sea como semilla para que se pueda tener otros eventos similares en distintos lugares de la Unión y que como resultado aún más hombres puedan ser beneficiados.

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



Laicos y pastores que participaron en el retiro de hombres en Grand Rapids, Michigan.

A Magnificent GOD

BY DAN JACKSON

A group of young people, high school students, knelt around me today and prayed. And one of them said, “Help Elder Jackson to put self aside, because self and You are like oil and water. And help us all put away our greasy, oily selves so that You can be seen.”

It’s a huge blessing and challenge to assume the role that we currently occupy. If it was a surprise to other people, you should have felt what I felt inside.

It is an honor to serve God in any capacity. That God would touch your life regardless of your role or your position and invite you to come into partnership with Him is a huge honor and a blessing.

I want to talk this morning about magnificence. The word carries an awesome quality with it, doesn’t it? When somebody says, “That was magnificent!” you know that it was not usual; it was not something that we normally experience every day.

Webster defines the word as: splendid, lavish, beautiful as to arouse admiration and wonder.

Think about the moments you’ve experienced that were magnificent. To look up at the sky on a clear, crisp fall evening and see the heavens is magnificence. To go along the ocean in California and see the waves smash against the shore at Big Sur is magnificence. To see the Northern Lights in Northern

Canada and to watch them ripple with multi-colors across the sky is magnificence.

She walked toward me, and she had this..., well, baby. It was our first child, and she was very British. And she came to me and said, “*Tatta*, she’s yours,” because at that point I thought she looked like a lizard. So, I did touch her. I touched her on the bottom of the heel and said, “That’s enough for now,” but the moment was magnificent. Every time a child was born to our family, it was magnificent, and we praised God; and we praise God for our children. A deep sense of gratitude to God wells up in the soul, and to *Tattana*, on those three occasions.

However, as great as the experiences that fascinate us and that titillate our senses, there is something far more magnificent. It is the magnificent experience that all of us can share—the magnificent experience that God wants to draw us into, and that is living daily in the presence of a magnificent God.

Our understanding of God has often been twisted and perverted to the place where we’re not so sure that we want to do

that—that we want to live in His presence. The ponderings of theologians, philosophers and the common man have more often than not produced faulty portrayals. And experience with less than loving fathers has produced an unwillingness on the part of many individuals to call anyone “father,” let alone a being they cannot see.

Yet, when we think of the Seventh-day Adventist Church... When we think of the role that God has given to each of us personally, and to us corporately, understanding God is the key to loving and serving Him, a key to living in His presence... This subject of reaching up to God and embracing Him as our personal Lord, Master, Friend, Lover is a crucial one. Because, if I understand Scripture and if I understand the writings of Ellen White correctly, the message of God’s people in the last days—that message which is to encircle the globe in a loud cry—is that of the glory of God as seen both in the words and in the lives of His people. The loud cry, the glory of God encircling the Earth with His love is a significant thought. There is a real sense in which our privilege here places a heavy responsibility on every one of us personally to know, understand and experience God. Listen to how He describes Himself in Scripture. To Moses on Sinai, God spoke these words:

“The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation” (Exodus 34:6, 7 NKJV).

And then Jesus, who came to be the expression of God, whom Scripture calls the God-man, lived His life on this Earth and gave it all up on Calvary. And when He had completed His mission to save all humanity by demonstrating the true nature of God, the apostle John writes, “Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us (has given to us) that we should be called the sons (and the daughters) of God” (1 John 3:1, *emphasis added*).

If the self-revelation of God on Sinai, as recorded in Exodus, and the beautiful descriptive words of John are true, and I believe they are true and accurate representations of what God is like, why don’t I live in constant connection with God?

Where do we lack?

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our

life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 668).

What emerges here is the idea that we do not know God as we might. But He says, “You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 29:13, 14 NASB).

If the issues confronting the North American Division are to be resolved in a God-honoring way, it will be because they have been first resolved in your life and mine.

You and I need to know God more fully. We need to sense and experience Him as a magnificent God in order to be drawn into a love relationship with Him that will go on for all eternity. [We need to be] drawn into a partnership with Him where we will be able to consistently share the great news of a wonderful God with the men and women all around us who need the hope and peace that you and I often take for granted.

The circumstances that challenge us to the max may not just have a better business solution, or perhaps we can find more money, or perhaps if we could just convince so-and-so to give more money we could do this better. God doesn’t need money. God doesn’t need better programs. He needs people willing to say to Him, “I’m Yours. Take me today, take me every minute and use me for Your name’s honor and glory. Take me! Take me! I want to be Yours. I want to come home. I want to return.”



Many years ago I was invited to serve a congregation. It was absolutely amazing to me. The second week that I got there, after church, some of the elders came to me and told me this story. They said, “Well you know, in our church we do things a little differently. The secretary lives in common law with the personal ministries secretary, and they’re just such good people. We love them here at our church.”

You know, that congregation had a huge potential. They did.

And they had a lot of money, too. They were not held back by talent; they were not held back by resources. They had a big piece of land, and they wanted to build a church on that land. But, you know, the jurisdiction where they were located said, “You can’t use that land. It is only to be used for planting fruit trees. It is agricultural land and you can’t use it.”

You know, as much as they tried, and they had some high-flying realtors and people with influence in government who tried again and again and again to have that land released...

One night, I called the conference president and told him, “I’m going to call the elders together and tell them that they are all guilty of fornication.”

He said, “Brother, you just went to that church. You should be very careful.”

And I said, “Well, I can’t stand pastoring there. I’m staying there; but I can’t stand it, and it can’t stay the same.”

So I did. I knew I had gone to school with the head elder and his wife. They had a house with 48 doors in it. And way back then, they had a dining room table that was, I think, \$20,000 for the dining room table—and this was a long time ago. I asked her, “Can you make us a feast for the elders? Make us a feast.”



And she said, “Sure.”

And she did. We sat and we dined. Then about two-thirds of the way through the meal, before the dessert was served, I took out a red book and I said to all of them, “I want to tell you folks, you are all fornicators. And if you want me to prove it to you, I’ve got lots of quotations right here. You are allowing open sin in the church, and God will never bless you. You will never succeed in what you want to do, because you have determined that it’s okay.”

They were pretty shocked. But, you know, they took it. I told them what I wanted to do. I said, “I’m going to leave this home, and I’m going to go over for my first visit with this

couple. I’m going to tell them I’m going to give them three weeks to get married. They’ll drop their offices. We’re not going to take them and humiliate them in front of the church. We’re just going to ask them to quietly withdraw and then to get married.”

They had a son, by the way, who was really acting up and they couldn’t figure out why.

So, I did. I went to the house and I said to the man, “You, know, you’re the man. You’re going to be moving. You need to find another place for about three weeks, and then after three weeks, you can come home. But I want you to be married. You can be married whenever you want.” And they did. They got married in two weeks, as a matter of fact. It only took them two weeks, because they loved each other. And they got married. And they were happy. We told them they couldn’t be married in the church, but the church members would all come. And that was because we had to have the church repent.

So they came, they were married, and came back to church. And with no further discussion or anything, one month later after their marriage, no applications, no discussions, the province where they were located sent them a note and said, “You can use that land to build a church on.”

It was a life lesson for me. But you know, I suspect there are many places in many quarters. ... Friends, the problems that we face have spiritual roots to them. When our General Conference president says, “We need revival and reformation,” though some of us in North America say, “Well, you know, in North America those are kind of old-time words, why don’t we use better words?” And we kind of palaver on this and that, you know. That fact is, it’s true. We need revival and reformation. God wants the church in North America to shine like the stars of the heavens. He wants every conference and every institution. He wants every student. He wants every pastor, and every teacher, and every choir, and every organization, and anyone who calls His name in North America to be within His grasp. He wants them to be used for His glory and His power. And we can’t fix it with more dollars and better organization, and better structures and better plans. But the Holy Spirit can fix it all if we’re willing to give our lives to Him. That is the story. That is the story of the book of Amos. That’s your story and that’s my story. God wants you and He wants me.

Dan Jackson is the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

To an auditorium full of church representatives from throughout North America and Bermuda, Dan Jackson delivered the Sabbath morning message on November 6, 2010, during Year-End Meetings in Silver Spring, Maryland. This is an excerpt from his message. To listen to the entire message, visit lakeunion.org and retrieve the audio file from the Media Library in the Main Menu.



A New Awakening

IT'S BEGINNING TO RAIN

BY DON LIVESAY

One could not help but sense a very strong, powerful spiritual process taking place at the General Conference Annual Fall Council this past October. A desire for revival, reformation and a spirit of unity was evident. It was heartwarming to witness the reality for which God has led many of you to commit significant time in prayer. Thank you for your faithfulness to His call.

Again, a similar experience was evident at the North American Division Year-End Meetings a few weeks later. Significant time was given to prayer, and a number of young people helped lead the prayer initiative who had experienced an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at a teen prayer conference in Gentry, Arkansas, the week before.

God is moving in His church, and one of the results is a new focus on revival, reformation, unity, reclaiming missing members and reaching out to our communities with the everlasting gospel. We realized that without a dramatic change, on a par with the experience of the early church in the book of Acts, we are powerless to accomplish our mission to the whole world. Therefore, at the General Conference and North American Division autumn meetings, the members of both sessions overwhelmingly affirmed to commit to the following:

- To personally place priority on seeking God for spiritual revival and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter-day power in our own lives, our families and our ministries.
- To individually set aside significant amounts of time daily to fellowship with Christ through prayer and the study of God's Word.
- To examine our own hearts and ask the Holy Spirit to convict us of anything that may keep us from revealing the character of Jesus. We desire willing hearts so that nothing in our lives hinders the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power.
- To encourage the ministries of the Church to spend time praying, studying God's Word and seeking God's heart to understand His plans for His Church.
- To encourage each of our church organizations to set

aside time for administrators, pastors, healthcare workers, publishing house workers, educators, students and all employees to seek Jesus and the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit together through a study of God's Word and prayer.

- To use every available media outlet, conference and workshop to appeal to church members to seek a deeper relationship with Jesus for the promised revival and reformation.
- To urgently appeal to and invite our entire church membership to join us in opening our hearts to the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit, which will transform our lives, our families, our organizations and our communities.

It was especially noted that children and youth will play a significant part in fulfilling the gospel commission, and we should encourage their full participation. Participants felt the urgency of a united call to prayer and suggested that we seek God for spiritual revival and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel by uniting in prayer at 7 o'clock, morning and/or evening each day.

This is an exciting time, and I appeal to each of us to join our hearts together in commitment to Jesus, praying for the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish our mission.

Don Livesay is the president of the Lake Union Conference.

Note: The full document, "God's Promised Gift," voted 10/11/2010 (General Conference Annual Fall Council) and 11/05/2010 (North American Division Year-End Meetings) is available online at: lakeunionherald.org and nadadventist.org.



An Appeal for Spiritual Renewal

PRAYING FOR THE GIFT

BY DAN JACKSON

I believe we are living in that segment of time that the Bible writers describe as “the end of the age.” For Seventh-day Adventists of all generations, the resounding message of the Scriptures is: Jesus is coming soon! However, as I consider the scope of the task God has given us, it is not difficult to see that the mission is far more extensive than can be accomplished through human energy and means.

As never before, you and I must have the power of God’s Spirit to take control of us personally and corporately. It is not acceptable for us to think that we can continue to carry out God’s work as we’re doing now, or have in the past.

We are in desperate need of spiritual renewal. As individuals and as a North American Division-wide family, we must appeal to God to gift us with His Spirit to such an extent that our hearts will continually focus on His will and His plan for us and for the world around us.

As president of the North American Division, I appeal to each layperson and to every

employee to take this matter personally and seriously. This kind of commitment alone will move the Church into the kind of future that God has in mind for our Division.

In preparation for the 2010 Year-End Meeting, the North American Division leadership team engaged in the process of strategic planning for the next five years. We resolve that by 2015 the church in North America will have become transformed by the Holy Spirit and moved to action in the following five ways:

REACH UP (Revival and Reformation)

Churches experience a revival and reformation that results in life-changing transformations.

Members enjoy a vibrant and joyful relationship with Christ.

REACH ACROSS (Unity in Diversity)

New members' love for Christ is a catalyst to reinvigorate their congregations. New members are oriented to and inspired by the life-affirming culture of Adventism and are integrated into the fabric of the church.

Each member is actively involved in church life and ministry. Discipleship training and compelling leadership opportunities are provided to children, youth, young adults, students in public education, seniors, and members with disabilities.

Adventists disengaged from church life are recognized as valued members of our family. Congregations implement ways to actively reconnect with them.

Congregations embrace and practice the concept of unity in diversity: in such matters as age, gender, race, and socioeconomic status; congregations are intentional in planning ways to educate members.

REACH OUT (Evangelism, Community, Discipleship)

North American Division organizations of every type combine their efforts in communicating Adventism's distinctive message of hope and wholeness to every person within the North American Division territory, with a focus on big cities.

REACH IN (Growing Disciples/Adventist Education)

Because Adventist education is a core value of the Church, the local church is an education center for members of all ages—combining with the school to serve and to evangelize children and youth within church and the community.

Through North American Division resources, the Church makes distinctively Adventist education available to every Adventist child.

The Church finds a way to help strengthen and build a system of Adventist higher education.

REACH FORWARD (A Focus on Leadership)

The North American Division, unions, local conferences and institutions collaborate to support mission and strategy through responsible stewardship and a culture of inclusive participation.

Organizations and institutions have in place a well-designed and active program to cultivate and develop leaders.

The North American Division significantly increases member donations.

The North American Division and at least four unions to implement Assessment for Excellence programs that promote and document levels of financial integrity, operational efficiency, program quality and staff effectiveness.

I challenge every pastor, lay-member, church administrator, departmental leader, institutional worker, health worker, literature evangelist, chaplain and educator to make revival, reformation, discipleship and evangelism the most important and urgent priorities of our personal lives and our areas of ministry. As we seek Him together, God will pour out His Holy Spirit in abundant measure, the work of God on Earth will be finished, and Jesus will come. Please join the North American Division family in experiencing God's blessing and direction in the final moments prior to His return.

The initiative, "REACH North America," was adopted as a guideline and measuring device both for personal revival and for corporate nurturing and outreach. The complete document is available at www.nadadventist.org.

Dan Jackson is the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

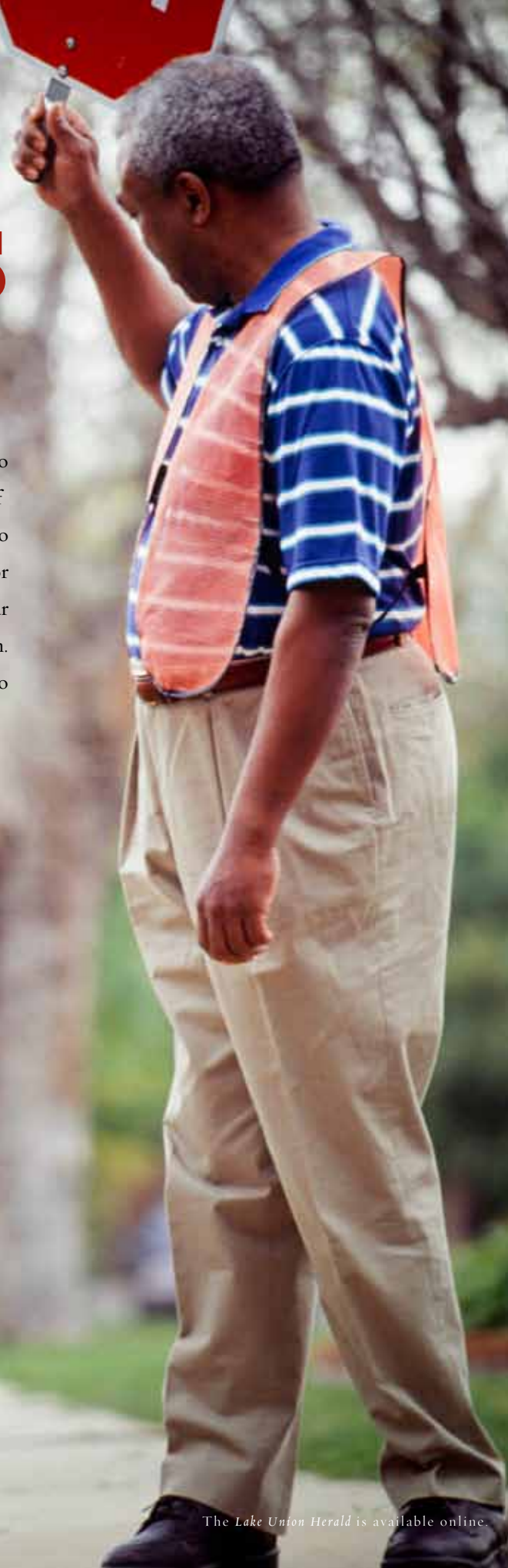
As we seek Him together, God will pour out His Holy Spirit in abundant measure, the work of God on earth will be finished, and Jesus will come.

Safety Reforms

PROVIDING SAFER PLACES
FOR OUR CHILDREN

BY BARBARA LIVESAY

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians we are called to protect and care for children. Our children are one of the most precious gifts God has given us. We want to honor Him by creating God-centered, loving environments for our children in both our schools and our churches. We want our community of adults to be committed to the safety of children. Children cannot protect themselves. It is our responsibility to protect our children.



STOP

“The local church should take reasonable steps to safeguard children engaged in church-sponsored activities by choosing individuals with high spiritual and moral backgrounds as leaders and participants in programs for children” (*Church Manual Revision—2000*, p. 120).

“It is essential that care should be taken when placing men and women in positions of trust. You should know something in regard to their past life, and the character that has been developed. You would better double your classes under God-fearing workers than to multiply teachers whose influence is not in accordance with the holy character of truth which we profess, for their influence will be demoralizing” (*Selections from the Testimonies Bearing on Sabbath School Work*, pp. 22–26).

Adventist Risk Management, our Church’s insurance company, has recognized we are very vulnerable to a number of risks because we are so child-centered and have such a strong focus on children’s ministries, such as our schools, Sabbath schools, summer camps and Pathfinders. Because the realities of child abuse are so distasteful and painful, it can be easy for us to miss an adequate understanding of this vulnerability.

We are vulnerable for several reasons:

- We tend to be a trusting community.
- We have numerous people working with children.
- We want to see the good and positive traits in people.

The North American Working Policy, under the section, “Volunteer Screening Guidelines for Children and Youth Ministries,” states: “The Seventh-day Adventist Church is committed to providing a safe environment to help children learn to love and follow Jesus Christ. All volunteers should be appropriately screened before they are allowed to supervise children.” It further states, “The church should adopt a practice that no adult will be considered for a volunteer leadership role in a church-sponsored ministry or activity until he/she has held membership in the congregation or has been known by the organization for a minimum of six (6) months.”

Adults are responsible for the safety and welfare of children. We are their voices. So stay alert. Learn the facts. Understand the risks. Put *potential* abusers on notice that you and your church and school are attentive to safety!

Barbara Livesay is associate director of risk management/human resources for the Lake Union Conference.

Information in this article includes content from the NAD Working Policy 2009-2010 Guidelines—Appendix / GL-35 and from Adventist Risk Management Inc. resources and policy.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

Prevention is always better than treatment. Here are 15 tips to help keep our places of worship and education safer.

- Never leave a child or group of children unattended.
- Any activity involving children must have at least two adults present at all times.
- Affirm children with appropriate touching, using “side-to-side” or “shoulder to shoulder” hugs.
- Encourage small children to sit next to you, not on your lap.
- Provide extra care when taking small children to the restroom. Take another adult along, or leave the door open.
- There should be glass in classroom and office doors, or leave the door open.
- The five-year rule—all leaders involved in directing program and activities for our children and youth should be at least five years older than the age group.
- Children should be released to the appropriate adult at the end of activities.
- Obtain a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian for activities that are off-site.
- Restrict access to keys (reduce opportunities to enter secluded areas of the building).
- Be sure minors and young people do not supervise younger children without an adult.
- All individuals should know that you have a zero-tolerance policy to protect children.
- Adults working with children and youth should be aware of the steps to mandatory reporting and take appropriate action when it is necessary to protect our children.
- Participate in orientation and training programs for children’s safety.
- Cooperate and require volunteer background screenings for everyone who works with children or youth.



God Won the Battle

Wisconsin—As a child, I (Joe Anderson) was raised in a denomination that never made sense to me. I asked questions, but didn't get the answers I needed. I attended church to please my parents, but eventually I left the church with a bad taste in my mouth and started down the wide path to destruction. If you mentioned God, church or religion, I would spit and walk away.

In 2001, I was in a serious accident. For a time, the doctor didn't expect me to live. Flat on my back, I had a lot of time to analyze my life and realize what dumb mistakes I had made. I realized Jesus Christ had kept me alive.

I tried a lot of religions after that. Each time I thought, *Nope, that's not it.* Then I met a guy from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and he made a lot of sense. We got to be friends, and I visited his church a few times. I saw a difference in him.



Juanita Edge

When Joe Anderson discovered the truth about God and the Bible, he says it made sense and softened his heart.

Things I was doing wrong started to bother me. One day, as I sat in the library in a very discouraged frame of mind, the words came into my head, "If you leave right now, you'll have time to get to church." I got up and went to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and have been going ever since. God and the devil were battling, and God won.

There has been a miraculous change! I'm a totally different person. What I used to think were the greatest things in the world don't even

interest me anymore. I think all my rebellion against religion was really rebellion against false theories about God and the Bible. When I heard the truth, it made sense and softened my heart.

Joe Anderson, member, Clear Lake Church, as shared with Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference

Couple Discovers Steps to Christ

Wisconsin—We (Walter and Janice Petz) received a flier about a Revelation Seminar being held at the Seventh-day Adventist church. Having just studied Revelation at our Sunday church and feeling there was something lacking, we decided to give it a try. After the first meeting we said, "We have to go back!" The 30-mile drive didn't matter. Every night we learned something new.

Everyone in our Sunday church received the Revelation flier, but we were the only ones who attended. We shared with others what we were learning. Everyone said we were making a big mistake, but we knew better.

Our minister told us we could pick whatever day we wanted for worship. He and his wife had picked Thursday, even though they had church on Sunday. Yet the Bible says, "Remember *the* Sabbath" not *a* Sabbath! We found this was a situation where we couldn't turn back. On November 14,



Juanita Edge

Walter and Janice Petz say they always knew there was more to the Bible, but just needed someone to walk through it with them.

2009, we were baptized in the Frederic Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Every Tuesday night at the Frederic Church we study the book *Steps to Christ* with the pastor, Curtis Denney. It is a wonderful book! Every Tuesday night is more exciting than the Tuesday night before!

There is so much to learn, and at our age we can't just sit idly by! Every Wednesday

afternoon Paul Hasman, an Adventist Bible worker, meets with us, along with my sister and her husband, Vern and Ellen White, to study the Bible. We are so grateful to know about what will happen at the end of time. I think we always knew there was more to the Bible, but just needed someone to walk through it with us. Every time we study the Bible we say, "What a blessing we have here!"

Walter and Janice Petz, members, Frederic Church, as shared with Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference

Studying the Bible Leads to Baptism

Michigan—About two years ago, while at Camp Au Sable, Nabeel Karapatsakis made a pledge for baptism. He recalls, “A while later, I started reading the Bible every day before I went to bed. I didn’t know why. I didn’t enjoy it either, but something in the back of my head pushed me to do it. Now, I know what that thing was; it was the Holy Spirit. In those two years I built a strong relationship with God, and I felt like God

wanted me to be baptized and give my life to Him. So about six months ago, I started to study with Joshua [Plohocky]*. He really helped me to understand the Bible. Now that I have finished my studies, I feel like I have an even better relationship with God and I’m ready to be baptized.”

On October 2, 2010, Nabeel was baptized. Looking on was his mother, Rula Karapatsakis, who said, “I am elated that Nabeel chose to be baptized. I am happier with his baptism than I was at my own.”



Jim Howard (left), pastor, and Joshua Plohocky (right), Bible worker, rejoice with Nabeel Karapatsakis (center) at his baptism.

Joy Hyde

Joshua said, “I am impressed with Nabeel’s sincerity. Before someone is baptized, I review the fundamental beliefs with them. We discussed the one about Christian behavior, and abstaining from things harmful to the body—particularly caffeine. Nabeel took that seriously, because when he came back later for his next study, he told me he had stopped drinking caffeinated drinks.

This by itself is a good thing, but then he told me his brothers made fun of him for doing it. But he didn’t care; he wanted to do the right thing.”

Nabeel continues to read his Bible every day, and he says Romans is his favorite book. “Romans really explains everything you need to know about a relationship with Jesus,” Nabeel remarked.

Joy Hyde, communication secretary, Metropolitan Church

*Joshua Plohocky is a Bible worker at Metropolitan Church.

Bible Promise Brings Encouragement

Wisconsin—In high school, I (Steve Theil) worked construction with an Adventist guy named Don Shebo. He asked questions and told me things about the Bible. I could see he lived a lot different from the way I was living.

I started partying and drinking. I was having fun, but in the back of my mind I remember thinking, *Isn’t there more to life than this?* I looked at the person I had become and I didn’t like what I saw.

Don told me about being ready for Jesus’ Coming and sent me *Signs of the Times*. Then one night I had a startling dream. I saw a bright light. People were blinded by the light, and the wicked were trying to hide their faces. Then I saw the face of Jesus. He said to me, “It’s too late for you.” I sat right up in bed. I did not feel afraid of God, but I felt afraid for the results of my life. I quit drinking.

When my brother was killed in a car accident, I wanted nothing to do with God and went back to drinking. One day,



Steve Theil claims Philippians 1:6 whenever he starts to struggle or gets a bit discouraged.

Juanita Edge

I looked around the bar and thought, *Man, is this all these people live for? Everybody is counting on tomorrow, and they don’t know if they have tomorrow!* Right then and there I said, “I quit!” By the grace of God I haven’t touched a drop since.

I decided to read my Bible from front to back. It took me more than a year, but I read it clear through. I also started praying regularly and keeping the Sabbath at home by myself.

When I finally got the courage to attend the Clear Lake Church, everyone just welcomed me in! It was amazing. We started Bible studies right away, and I have been involved ever since. In March 2009, I was baptized. Whenever I start to struggle or get a bit discouraged, I claim Philippians 1:6: “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (NIV).

Steve Theil, member, Clear Lake Church, as shared with Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference



Hospice founder Luci Svoboda, left, is recognized by hospice executive director Pam Mezyk.

Adventist St. Thomas Hospice celebrates 30 years of service

Mary Novotny so strongly believes in the mission of Adventist St. Thomas Hospice that she stayed with the organization on a volunteer basis after working there as a nurse for 11 years.

"When I retired, someone remarked, 'Now you can do something totally different,'" Novotny said. "I thought about my options, and I realized I really loved my work. I loved the patients, the families and the staff. I also knew how valuable volunteers are to hospice, so I decided to volunteer here."

Novotny is just one of the countless individuals who helped shape Adventist St. Thomas Hospice, which just celebrated its 30th anniversary. Since its founding in 1980, Adventist St. Thomas Hospice has grown from a volunteer program to a staffed, not-for-profit, full-service hospice. Hospice is a philosophy of care for dying individuals that emphasizes compassionate care, quality of life and choices. It recognizes

dying as a natural part of life.

Novotny believes one of the most important benefits of hospice is providing a safe, supportive environment where individuals and their families can talk about death.

"People find it difficult to talk about dying," Novotny said. "They don't understand how working with people at the end of their lives can be so meaningful."

Novotny believes her work at Adventist St. Thomas Hospice has made her more compassionate.

"St. Thomas is grounded in Adventist Christian values," she added. "I'm a part of the team that provides that care. It's been a gift."

Adventist St. Thomas Hospice is named after Tom Svoboda, who died of cancer in 1979 at age 18. This hospice is one of the few Seventh-day Adventist hospices in North America and has a full-time Seventh-day Adventist chaplain, Branko Dedic.

"When Tom was dying, we had emotional support from our Christian community," recalled his mother, Luci Svoboda, who attended the hospice's 30th anniversary event with her hus-

band, Edward. "We wanted to carry on that kind of support. I believe that people are able to die more peacefully and families can be more whole because of hospice care. It gives patients and families courage and peace of mind because they know someone is there who cares. We're grateful and blessed to have our son's memory live on in such a beautiful way."

Pat Fellows started volunteering for the hospice in 1986 and trained under Luci Svoboda in the early 1990s.

"Luci was a wonderful mentor and teacher," Fellows said. "I learned about the spirit of St. Thomas through her and with her. When I work with patients today, I get the sense that Tom's spirit guides us, even though I never met him."

Fellows had a paid position as a bereavement coordinator with Adventist St. Thomas Hospice for three years. But when she decided to slow down, she stayed on as a volunteer. She provides respite for families and helps with a program for children who have lost a family member.

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health



Adventist St. Thomas Hospice chaplain, Branko Dedic, left, and volunteer chaplain, Ed Partyka, celebrate the hospice's anniversary.



Andrew von Maur, associate professor, Andrews University School of Architecture, and Jesse Hibler of Hibler Design Studio presented an award-winning design at the 2010 Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference Design Challenge.

Andrews professor, alum win Design Challenge

Andrew von Maur, associate professor at the Andrews University School of Architecture, and Jesse Hibler of Hibler Design Studio, Berrien Springs, Mich., are the winners of the 2010 Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference Design Challenge. The challenge took place at Chicago's Navy Pier during the biannual Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference held Oct. 20-23, 2010.

Architects come from around the world for the event and have the opportunity to receive 24 continuing education credits in just four days. This year's Design Challenge was a team competition consisting of two to three participants per group. Teams were composed of architectural or building design firms and groups from colleges, technical colleges and universities. The goal of the competition was to completely design and draw a new "old" house for the historic Jefferson Park neighborhood of south Chicago in just two days.

The Hibler Group/Andrews University was accepted for the competition after submitting three examples of work, including renderings, images and photos.

"Jesse Hibler (Andrews University Class of 2000, Master of Architecture) and I applied to enter the competi-

tion because we had observed the process during previous conferences and thought it would be a fun challenge to compete against some of the best professional talent in the business," said von Maur. The two have collaborated on professional projects in the past, and knew that they could work well with each other.

Going up against four of the top design firms in the United States, the team felt "honored to be selected" and worked very quickly when the process began.

"To all of our surprise, we were asked to design a much larger program than was typical of past competitions," said von Maur. "Our proposal included designs for approximately 75,000 square feet of mixed-use development, including a diversity of commercial spaces, four row houses, eleven different residential flats and live-work dwellings for artisans."

To add to the difficulty, the Hibler Group/Andrews University was facing off against very tough competitors, including the former first-place winning office from Grand Rapids, Mich., as well as a firm from New Orleans, La., and one from Birmingham, Mich.

Refusing to work during the Sabbath hours, von Maur and Hibler completed their design in just 12 hours, working four less than the opposing teams. The process was fun, but intense, says von Maur, especially with hundreds of conference visitors swarming around and looking over shoulders.

When finished, the group presented their final design (on 18" X 24" drawing vellum) to a distinguished jury that included Chicago community leaders, nationally-renowned architects and product industry representatives. The presentation was completely hand drawn and included floor plans showing "best location of house, patios, driveway and walks."

In the end, Hibler Group/Andrews University was chosen as the winner of the event, landing von Maur and Hibler publication in the nationally distributed *New House Journal* and a contract to sell the design through *New Old House* for one year.

"Professor Andrew von Maur and alum Jesse Hibler are both very gifted and dedicated professionals, and I am very pleased with their achievement," says Carey Carscallen, dean of the Andrews University School of Architecture. "... They represent our program well and continually strive to improve the quality of the education our students receive. It is a pleasure to work with professionals of this caliber."

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



Max Taylor of Phoenix, Ariz., an Andrews alum, donated two planes to the Department of Aeronautics.

Airplanes donated to Andrews

Two planes were recently donated to Andrews University by Max Taylor (BA '50) of Phoenix, Ariz. Taylor is a medical doctor and is also a member of the President's Council.

One is a 1976 Cessna 150 M (commonly known as a "trainer") and the other is a 1971 Cessna T 210 L. The 210 is a six-passenger turbo-charged airplane. Both planes are currently at the Andrews Airpark being overhauled by Department of Aeronautics students and faculty.

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

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Action and Honors team up on service project

Michigan—The morning of Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010, was cold and drizzly, but that did not stop a group of Action members and J.N. Andrews Honors students from boarding a bus headed to volunteer at Harbor Habitat for Humanity in Benton Harbor, Mich. Arriving at the job site, they were undeterred to discover some would work outdoors all morning.

Monique Pittman, professor of English and chair of the J.N. Andrews Honors Program, described the students' work as "enthusiastic landscaping under the rainclouds." Dividing the 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. day in two, the morning crew focused on laying sod and planting trees while the afternoon crew worked inside, cleaning the house. Despite the weather and strenuous work, the crews enjoyed themselves and were impressed with the impact they could make on the project in such a short time.

Sophomore Carly Mitzelfelt, commented on the day: "Volunteering for Habitat for Humanity was a worthwhile experience. It involves lots of hard work, sweat and lots of dirt, but at the end of the day it was a great feeling of accomplishment!"

This service project, which was a joint venture between the J.N. Andrews Honors Program and the Action Club, was the result of planning by Jason Lemon, current Action president, and Pittman. Both organizations have similar goals of service and making a difference.

The J.N. Andrews Honors Program requires all Honors students take part in at least 12 hours of service per academic year in order to remain in the program. Action is a student club focused on humanitarian work and raising awareness about global and local issues.



A busload of students from Andrews, comprised of Action Club members and J.N. Andrews Honors students, collaborated with Harbor Habitat for Humanity at a job site in Benton Harbor. Some worked outdoors all morning laying sod and planting trees.

The home Action and Honors students worked on is one of a couple homes Harbor Habitat for Humanity is currently finishing up. Speaking of the family who will be moving into the home, Lori Csintyan, director of volunteer services for Harbor Habitat for Humanity, stated, "On November 20th, [they] will be handed the keys of their brand-new home, an occasion made possible by the hundreds of volunteers that lent their time and talents to making this dream become reality."

Harbor Habitat for Humanity has helped 100 families move into new homes during its 15-year history in the Benton Harbor community. They are a non-profit ministry with the goal of building affordable homes for people who are willing to work 300 hours on their own home in conjunction with the help of volunteers. Csintyan says the goal is, "To give a hand up, not a hand out."

Pittman as well as Action hopes to do more work with Harbor Habitat for Humanity in the future.

Action plans to organize groups of its members on a more regular basis to help with Harbor Habitat projects. Pittman also hopes to be able to bring Honors students out a couple times a

year. Both organizations see significant value in providing these kinds of service opportunities and helping out with such a worthwhile cause.

The Andrews University motto concludes with the words, "Change the World." That is exactly what service projects like this one endeavor to do.

Jason Lemon, president, Action Club



Andrews students cleaned inside the new Habitat for Humanity home in Benton Harbor. The students were impressed with the impact they could make on the project in such a short time.

Record enrollment noted at Hinsdale Adventist Academy

Illinois—The Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) hallways are definitely a little more crowded this year. In fact, the HAA family has significantly expanded with more than 80 new students enrolling for the 2010–2011 school year!

The enrollment numbers are record-breaking across the board: Elementary enrollment is at 185 students, which is the highest number of elementary students in the school since the 1991–1992 school year. The high school boasts the highest number of high school students *ever* at 88 (the record was 83 in 1999–2000). Even the Little Lambs Early Learning Center reached a new record for opening enrollment with 29 precious little ones! These numbers



The Jackson siblings are ready for the first day of school at Hinsdale Adventist Academy. From left: Tobias Jackson, Lily Jackson and Lachian Jackson.

add up to a record enrollment of 302 students at HAA! And for that, many are truly thankful!

The increased enrollment in elementary school created the need for

additional personnel. Three instructional aides were hired to assist in the kindergarten, third grade and sixth grade classrooms. The increased enrollment can be attributed to four things: retention of students from last year; increased commitment from area pastors and church members; the efforts of a three-year dedicated marketing effort; and, of course, George Babcock, administrative principal, and the vision he has presented for creating a “model school” for the North American Division.

In the past three years, more than 180 new students have enrolled at HAA. The school is certainly on an upward trajectory, and we couldn’t be more delighted. We anticipate this growth to continue as we continue to incorporate Babcock’s initiatives into our program.

Rebecca Garrett, marketing director,
Hinsdale Adventist Academy

Village Adventist Elementary adopts local police and fire departments

Michigan—The pre-k, kindergarten and first-grade classes at Village Adventist Elementary School in Berrien Springs got a personal visit from the local police and fire departments on Monday, Nov. 1, 2010.

In the spirit of the school’s theme, “We Are His Hands,” Village School adopted the Berrien Springs Oronoko Township Police and Fire Departments. Each classroom is assigned a month to pray for and show appreciation to the service and sacrifice of local police and fire personnel.

When they arrived at the school, the officers were greeted by pre-k/ kindergarten teacher, Cheryl Finkbeiner, and first grade teacher, Beth Stevenson, along with 36 very eager and excited children! The students presented Bruce Stover, fire chief; Milt Agay, chief of



From left (standing): Bruce Stover, fire chief; Milt Agay, chief of police; and Rick Smiendendorf, deputy officer, hold the banner created by the pre-k, kindergarten and first-grade classes at Village Adventist Elementary School. Pictured are students from the pre-k and kindergarten classes.

police; and Rick Smiendendorf, deputy officer, with a banner for display at the station. The banner included painted hand prints, pictures and words of thanks.

Students expressed their thanks in words also. They said “thank-you” to the officers for putting out fires, keeping

them safe, getting the bad guys and even for giving speeding tickets! The students sang a song for the officers and then prayed with them for their continued safety.

Keri Suarez, leader, Village Adventist
Elementary School Home &
School Association



The "Fuel Up to Play 60" program was kicked off with a visit from Mark Inkrott, former NFL player and director of NFL Relations for Dairy Management Inc., who paid a visit to the students during a recent Pee Wee soccer game.

Students team up with 'Fuel Up to Play 60'

Illinois—Hinsdale Adventist Academy students are excited about nutrition and exercise and have joined the "Fuel Up to Play 60" program, a partnership by the National Dairy Council and the National Football League. The "Fuel Up to Play 60" program empowers youth to take actions to improve nutrition and physical activity at their school and for their own health.

The ultimate goal is to ensure changes made at school are sustainable, making it possible for children to

have more opportunities to be physically active and to eat tastier options of nutrient-rich foods like low-fat and fat-free milk, fruit, whole grains and vegetables. This program is a perfect fit for Hinsdale Adventist Academy as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian School. Seventh-day Adventists believe in and promote a healthy lifestyle, which includes a diet of whole, natural foods (which includes a vegetarian diet for many) and vegetables, fruits, legumes, and whole wheat breads and pastas.

The program is needed now, more than ever. It is possible that today's children could become the first American generation with a shorter life

expectancy than their parents! According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics and Journal of the American Medical Association, one-third of American children are overweight or obese.

Hinsdale Adventist Academy students are determined to live the lifestyle promoted by their church and are encouraged by the "Fuel Up to Play 60" program. The school is helping their students live a more active life by increasing physical education classes, recesses, and intramural and interscholastic sports activities, beginning in preschool. Students in grades preschool–2 can participate in Pee Wee Sports, led by the school's associate principal, Robert Jackson. This fall, Pee Wee Soccer was introduced to the school's youngest students. In addition, students in grades 3–5 can play intramural sports, such as flag football. Middle school students participate in intramural sports and interscholastic basketball, for both boys and girls. In high school, students may play intramural sports or be part of the interscholastic sports program, which includes boys varsity soccer, girls varsity volleyball, girls varsity basketball, and boys junior varsity and varsity basketball. The school's sports and physical education program is under the direction of Alex Adams, physical education instructor and athletic director.

Rebecca Garrett, marketing director,
Hinsdale Adventist Academy



Doug Batchelor speaks to GLAA students during the opening night of their Fall Week of Prayer.

Teens learn most important questions to ask about their faith

Michigan—"Going live in 3 ... 2 ... 1." For one week these words became a ritual for the students of Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA). They just finished participating in "Most Important Ques-

tions (MIQ): Amazing Facts for Teens,” a nine-day presentation by Doug Batchelor, speaker/director of Amazing Facts. The series was designed to answer some of Christian teens most important questions about their faith, and was broadcast live on the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). GLAA was privileged to be the host site, and students and staff alike enjoyed the presentations as their Fall Week of Prayer. Topics ranged from creation to video games, sex and the need for church.

“The ultimate goal,” said Batchelor, “is to present the gospel in a context where young people can relate, give them real answers to their questions, encourage them to accept Christ, and tell them that ‘this is the abundant life. Don’t fall for the lie that the world is the fun place.’”

Students enjoyed a change of pace thanks to a new schedule designed especially for the week of prayer, which took place Oct. 9–16, 2010. Classes began 25 minutes later, and were ten minutes shorter. Each meeting was preceded by a 15-minute song service. After that, the show went live at 7 p.m. sharp. Students sang the theme song, after which Batchelor dedicated about ten minutes to answering questions submitted by teenagers from around the world via the web, e-mail, text message or video. Questions came in from as far away as Australia, Korea, Bermuda and



Alex Leonor (GLAA '13), Mariangi Macey (GLAA '13) and Jacob LeBlanc (GLAA '11) lead out in the song service and theme song for the MIQ Teens program.

the Philippines. Questions not answered by Batchelor at the beginning of each meeting during the Q & A time are answered on the MIQ website, www.MIQteens.com.

The remaining 45 minutes were dedicated to the lesson. During one of these lessons, Batchelor shared his testimony. He mentioned that he had only completed ninth grade, and later received a GED. In a symbolic gesture of appreciation at the end of the last presentation on Saturday night, Raymond Davis, GLAA principal, presented Batchelor with an honorary

diploma from GLAA. “I’m speechless,” said Batchelor, “which doesn’t happen very often.”

The meetings are over, the lights are out, the stage is empty, the regular schedule has resumed and students are left to decide what they are going to do with the information they received. The most important question for them to think about, said Batchelor, is “Why would you ever tell Jesus, ‘No?’”

Andrew Ranzinger, staff writer, ACADIA (Great Lakes Adventist Academy newspaper)/Story adapted by LUH Staff

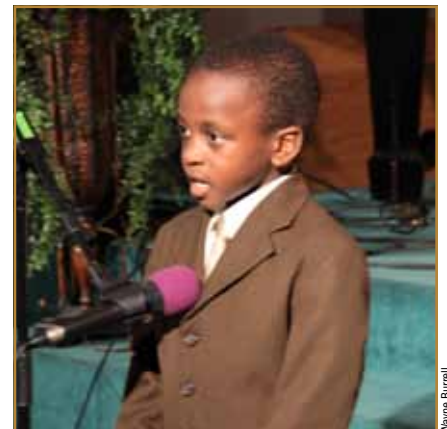
Young orators display talent

Lake Region—One has to actually attend the Annual Speech Contest at Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church in Indianapolis to fully understand the excitement that goes with the preparation for the grand day. Seventeen junior and senior youth participated in the 2010 Annual Speech Contest, which was held July 28 and August 4.

Taona Chigudu brought out a very interesting point about tigers and spirituality when he mentioned that

tigers were different colors and from all over the world. Just like tigers, we as Christians are different colors and nationalities, yet we are all God’s children. If tigers can co-exist, so can we. He left the audience with a memory verse found in Acts 10:9–15, 35.

Uche Onogu, a Ph.D. candidate in Informatic Systems and a contest judge, said, “Thank you so much for inviting us to the youth contest last Saturday. My wife and I were blessed and humbled beyond words to see those children get up in front of adults and speak convincingly. I was particularly touched to see the winner of the



Taona Chigudu recites his speech about tigers before taking home the first place prize.

4–6 [age] group speak verbatim from memory with his mom being close by to help.”

Madysen Khrysten Peters placed first in the 8–12 year age group with her presentation on the Philippines. Madysen came to us in the form of a Filipino girl by the name of Marissa Reynaldo whose parents were studying at Andrews University. She captured the audience when she pointed out that Imelda Marcos, who was the wife

of their tenth president, Ferdinand Marcos, was rumored to have had a closet full of more than 3,000 pairs of shoes! This was just one of many facts of interest in her presentation.

Culo Robin Ncube presented on China, the fourth largest country in the world, with the only countries larger than China being Russia, Canada and the United States, she said. Culo also pointed out that China is the oldest major world civilization.

It is our hope that the youth’s involvement in this program will not only enhance their spiritual walk but help them academically as well when required to do research and presentations at school.

Sibhekia Washington, correspondent, Capital City Church/adapted by Lake Union Herald staff

[YOUTH NEWS]

CYE hosts annual Youth Leadership Summit

Michigan—The Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE) provided training for youth leaders, pastors, children’s ministry leaders and Pathfinders during the annual Youth Leadership Summit held Oct. 22–24, 2010. The Center celebrated its 30th anniversary weekend during the event while hosting some 250 participants from across the country.

This year’s summit began Friday with hour-long seminars taking place all day in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Leaders from the CYE, Seventh-day Adventist conferences and Andrews University led out in a series of meetings directed toward youth ministry leaders and specialists. The sessions covered a wide range of topics and continued all day Saturday and Sunday morning.

Nicholas Zork, director of the Andrews University Music & Worship Conference, was one such leader who presented during the event. He led several worship ministry sessions and described worship as a time where “we tell God’s story through Scripture.” Zork offered practical advice for planning worship services and identified specific ways “to interweave God’s



Keren Toms, Andrews University chaplain for outreach, presented two seminars: “Evangelism Outreach Ministry” and “Leadership Skills 101.”

story with young people in worship.”

The information was especially helpful to Luvisca Payne, an Andrews graduate and current ministry leader from Naples, Fla. Payne explained, “I teach my young people on Sabbath mornings and they bring their pens and notebooks, and they think [Sabbath school] is boring. I was really interested in what Mr. Zork said about the disconnection between the speaker and the youth.”

Tim Nixon, Andrews University chaplain for inreach, also led out in several meetings and presented the topic, “Mentoring 101.”

“One thing I really appreciated about that [Mentoring 101] session was how much the training is actually needed. It’s not a topic we talk about a

lot,” said Andy Arends, student at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. “We learned about biblical contexts mentoring and effective principles of mentoring, and how to actually train people. This is something we really need in our churches. It’s nice to get a fresh perspective on some of it and hear new ideas.”

Other topics, such as “Child Development,” “Leadership Skills,” “Conflict Management” and “Outdoor Education,” were also addressed during the weekend meetings. In total, more than 50 hours of training seminars were offered during the event, including a new Spanish track, which was introduced for the first time this year.

“I hope that the people who came

for the seminars left not only having a better understanding of what they're doing and why they're here but also [with] practical ways to put them to use," said Keren Toms, Andrews University chaplain for outreach. "Hopefully, through the seminars, that spirit can be revived in people and they can be refreshed, educated and full of new ideas."

This summit was organized by Craig Harris, associate youth director for the Michigan Conference; Massiel Davila, assistant director for Youth Leadership Development; and Japhet De Oliveira, director of the Center for Youth Evangelism. The Lake Union

Conference Youth and Young Adult Department also partnered in the event.

Organized for the first time in 1981, various youth ministry training seminars were among the first programs offered at the Youth Resource Center. Under the leadership of former Youth Resource Center director Des Cummings Jr. (1979–1985), the meetings have expanded to reach hundreds of ministry leaders each year, teaching them the "how-to's" of youth ministry through practical training sessions. It was renamed the Center for Youth Evangelism in 1996, and today Youth Leadership Development is just one of

several training and outreach opportunities offered at the CYE. To learn more about the CYE or CYE events, visit www.adventistyouth.org.

The Center for Youth Evangelism is a training and resource center for claiming, training, and reclaiming youth and young adults for Jesus Christ. It is located on the campus of Andrews University as part of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

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

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Marion Church hosts Family Health Fair

Indiana—For the past four years, members of the Marion Adventist Church have looked forward to an opportunity to reach out to their community through a family health fair each summer.

Last year it was held on Sunday, Aug. 8, with close to 200 attending from the community of Marion and other surrounding areas. It was a fun, family-oriented event where people learned how to have better health—physically, mentally and spiritually. While the kids made crafts that taught them about Jesus at the Vacation Bible School tent, the adults went to the health-age test table and learned how their health habits add or subtract years to their life. There was a vision screening for preschoolers provided by a local university, a petting zoo, pony rides, clowns, hot wheels races and great vegetarian food.

"I enjoyed the health fair immensely, even though it kept me really busy," shared Charles Mosley, a new member of the Marion Church. "I was helping in the refreshment tent, and there were so many kids and adults attending from



Perla Arroyo was one of the many children who enjoyed a pony ride at the health fair.

the community that we ran out of snow cones."

"It was so nice to see everyone working together and going the extra miles to make all the people from the community feel welcome," reflected Javier Quiles, pastor, Marion Church. "The church members have a heart for

the Lord and a trust that He will grow the seeds that they planted in the community. What a privilege it is to be part of the Great Commission by letting people know that our great God is interested in every aspect of their lives!"

Luz Quiles, member, Marion Church



The HHWC question-and-answer panel included (from left): George Guthrie, Hans Diehl and Gwen Foster.

Third Annual Heartland Health & Wellness Conference is successful

Indiana—It was evident that this very successful outreach ministry is reaching deep into many segments of our society at the third annual Heartland Health & Wellness Conference (HHWC) held Sept. 17, 2010, in the Reardon Auditorium of Anderson University in Indiana.

“Ninety percent of the 175 attendees at this year’s HHWC were from communities all across our state,” exclaimed Susan Landess, director, Indiana Healthy Choices (IHC). IHC was created five years ago through grant funding by Adventist Health Systems.

Antonia Demas, childhood and adolescent nutrition specialist, and founder and president of The Food

Studies Institute, demonstrated that when children actually participate in preparing food, they will eat things that their parents swore they would hate. On becoming a vegetarian at age 14, during a time when societal support was lacking, Demas was motivated to do extensive reading on food, nutrition and cooking. She has collaborated with diverse child-centered organizations in the United States and abroad, and has introduced the curriculum, *Food Is Elementary*, into hundreds of schools across our nation.

Another guest speaker at this year’s HHWC was Hans Diehl, chairman of Lifestyle Medicine Institute and founder of the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP). Diehl shared some fantastic testimonies of those who’ve been resurrected to good health by simplifying their customary lethal American diet. “I’ve been liberated from a life of obesity and disease,” shared one CHIP graduate from the



Mark Anthony, probably best known as a guest chef and speaker on Three Angels Broadcasting Network, served a delicious breakfast and lunch infused with art, health tips and money-saving techniques.

community. “Everyone should know about CHIP!”

Other speakers included George E. Guthrie who offered an excellent presentation on the importance of Vitamin D. For several years, Guthrie has served on the faculty of Loma Linda University in the School of Public Health Nutrition Department as well as in the School of Medicine.

Gwen Foster shared some exciting stories from her experience as Philadelphia’s health and fitness czar, and explained how to walk away from obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. Mark Anthony, a chef, pleased the crowd with appetizing meals and tips on serving tasty healthful foods at home.

You won’t want to miss the opportunity to hear more health-inspiring speakers at the next HHWC scheduled for Sept. 16.

Judith Yeoman, correspondent, Indiana Conference

Hinsdale Men’s Chorus raises awareness of Project Hope Indonesia

Illinois—“Did you see me standing and singing between two of your men?” a middle school student asked me, shortly after the Hinsdale Men’s Chorus

(HMC) sang “This Little Light of Mine” to hearty applause in the food court on the lower level of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. Indeed, I had noticed him. “My friends were laughing at me, but it is a catchy song and I liked it!” Of course, while mocking him for standing with HMC, his school group, too, had joined in song!

Last summer, HMC elected to partner with Hope Channel on Project Hope Indonesia to raise funds for Indonesian programming needs. HMC completed a fundraiser at the North Shore Seventh-day Adventist Church on Oct. 2, 2010, and were in Maryland and Washington, D.C., from Oct. 13 to 17, participating in a number of benefit concerts. The Chorus also performed at their home

church, the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, on Nov. 20, 2010. The tour to the Washington, D.C., area included a presentation at the Pasadena Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Hinsdale former associate pastor, David Glass, is now pastor.

With almost 90 percent of the population identifying themselves as Muslim, Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world. As an ethnic Indonesian, naturally Project Hope Indonesia's focus on fundraising to support the programming needs for Hope Channel Indonesia caught my attention, while we were in Atlanta for the 59th Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists earlier last summer. Reaching 240 million-plus Indonesians who live on one of more than 17,500 islands spread out over an area of almost 2 million square miles will be significantly eased by making contact with them in their own homes, via television. God has further opened additional avenues for reaching His people in Indonesia when He provided Hope Channel with the license and opportunity to broadcast, not only from satellite, but also on national television at no charge—Hope Channel has been offered free air-time, but needs to develop culture/country specific programs to air.

Petras Bahadur, Adventist-Muslim Relations coordinator for the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, strongly believes the Adventist Church has a special connection and a unique message to share with, and thus an extraordinary responsibility, our Muslim brothers and sisters. To Muslims, Adventists can be identified as being a "People of the Book who keep the commandments of God and understand the prophecy." Further, Adventists "don't eat that which is unclean (haram) nor do we intoxicate ourselves with wine, which none of the true believers engage in. We are the end-time believers of God who worship on the Day of the Lord (Sabbath) and are waiting for the Day of the Lord (Judgment)." This common ground provides Adventists



The Hinsdale Men's Chorus paused for a group photo after a leisurely stroll in Brookside Park Nature Center gardens in Wheaton, Md. Shortly afterward, the group broke out in song, drawing a small crowd and appreciative applause.

Christian Prohaska

with a special entering wedge to reach Muslims and specifically Muslim Indonesians.

But Adventists do have to be able to reach, communicate and share this gospel with them. HMC believes Hope Channel Indonesia is one of the arms God would have Adventists use to reach this goal. Hope Channel has already received positive reports/results of baptisms and conversions from this ministry, and inroads are being made in predominantly Muslim areas of Indonesia.

On Sabbath afternoon of the tour, following a delicious Asian vegetarian meal at the Capital SDA Chinese Church in Silver Spring, Md., HMC members strolled leisurely through the beautiful Brookside Park Nature Center gardens in Wheaton, Md. They stopped in a particularly scenic area to shoot some photographs. In another attempt at street ministry, the group broke out in song, drawing a small crowd and appreciative applause. I had an interesting conversation about music styles and the musical ranges of the chorus members with a gentlemen who stopped to hear us. When our conversation started drift-

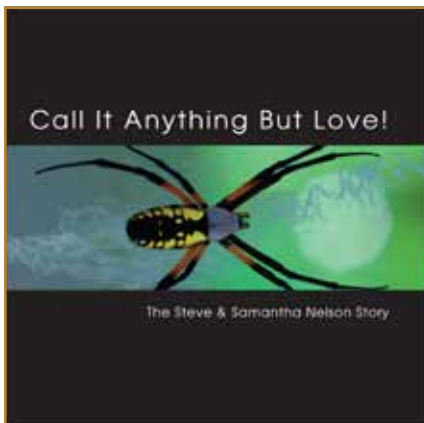
ing to talk about Wayne Hooper's music, his eyes lit up as both of us realized we were members of the same world church with the same hope that Wayne Hooper wrote about in his songs!

Certainly, the chorus got involved in Project Hope Indonesia because it does fit into the overall goal of its ministry to "spread the message of our God's truth and love through spoken word and music." HMC does have this hope that they want to share with others, whether it be to a middle school student in Washington, D.C., or a Sekolah Menengah Pertama student from an Indonesian madrasah. They do this in anticipation that the question "Did you see me standing and singing..." will continue into a conversation in an out-of-this-world garden where nothing dies ... surrounded by shouts and songs—"Hallelujah, Christ is King!"

Arnold Htabarat, director, Hinsdale Men's Chorus

To learn more about supporting Project Hope China/Indonesia, contact Ivy Ng, project coordinator, at ngi@gc.adventist.org.

[UNION NEWS]



The Hope of Survivors releases new DVD

Illinois—The Hope of Survivors is pleased to announce the release of a

new documentary DVD. *Call It Anything But Love!* is a true story of a couple's struggles and challenges as they overcome their painful pasts to find themselves in a spider's web of lies, deceit, adultery and abuse—at the hands of their pastor.

"I was deeply touched by the video," says one victim from Hawaii. "So many like us will be able to connect and relate. My heart ached deeply with yours in hearing the darkest and most painful periods of your life when you were faced with so much doubt and feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness."

Clergy sexual abuse is not new, though it is becoming more and more prevalent in the news as of late. This documentary is for victims who are searching for hope and answers, as well as for the populace at large who wish to

gain a greater understanding of the issue or simply be inspired by a heartwarming testimony.

"It's an uplifting story of overcoming abuse and learning how to trust God and draw from His strength," remarks another victim from Illinois. "It makes you realize that God is bigger than any situation we have to endure."

To obtain further information about the DVD, visit The Hope of Survivors Web site at: <http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/products.asp> or call 866-260-8958. The organization also offers educational and information materials and sermons to pastors and churches worldwide.

Samantha Nelson, co-founder, The Hope of Survivors

[WORLD CHURCH NEWS]

ASAP celebrates 15 years of service

On Oct. 23, 2010, Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP), a non-profit ministry based in Berrien Springs, Mich., celebrated the lives of those who gave their hearts to Jesus during the past 15 years of ASAP's existence. ASAP invited its board of directors, representatives from the Seventh-day Adventist World Church Headquarters, Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) partners, volunteers, prayer supporters, donors and friends in the community to join in the celebration. The evening was filled with inspiring mission reports, beautiful music by the Ong family and an authentic Asian dinner. The celebration concluded with a prayer session for the people of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar, the five countries of ASAP's focus.

Judy Aitken, ASAP's founder and director, shared how the passion to bring Jesus to the suffering in Southeast Asia began years before there was ever a building or official non-profit status.

It began when she first responded to a desperate call for nurses to volunteer in the Thailand refugee camps in the early 1980s. She recounted how step by step God miraculously brought thousands to accept Jesus as their Savior.

In his speech, Benjamin Schoun, vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church, affirmed the way ASAP partners closely with the official SDA Church entities to accomplish its mission. Schoun said, "AWR is like the flight artillery, bringing God's messages via the airwaves, and ASAP national missionaries are like the ground troops, following up the interests. Both are crucial in accomplishing the work before Jesus' soon coming." Bruce Bauer, ASAP board chairman, interviewed the Lo family, a dedicated Hmong couple who are ready and willing to bring the gospel to their people. Hmong ministry is one of the many great opportunities ahead of ASAP; there are 14 million Hmong, and many have yet to hear the gospel.

ASAP praises God, their Provider, for not only sustaining them the past 15 years but for expanding their mission. Two years ago, ASAP began training and supporting national missionaries

in the country of Myanmar. The way in which the details for ASAP's 15-Year Anniversary Celebration came together so beautifully on a small budget and limited staff is yet one more indication of God's providence. The staff, their spouses and friends in the community cooked the food. Michael Tan, a professional photographer volunteered to take pictures. More than \$40,000 was given that evening to support evangelism in Vietnam, the translation of the Bible into the Hmong language and for a number of other great ministry needs. To learn more about ASAP and the exciting projects it supports, visit www.asapministries.org.

Julia O'Carey, organizer, Adventist Southeast Asia Projects 15-Year Anniversary Celebration



The celebration was filled with inspiring mission reports, beautiful music and an authentic Asian dinner.

Marin Kim

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

Andrews University

The following events will be held at the Howard Performing Arts Center on the campus of Andrews University. For more information on the events, call HPAC at 269-471-3560.

- Jan. 9:** Second Sunday Concert:
Penny Kohns, flute, 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 4:** Departments of English and Music Vespers, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 5:** Sinfonietta Winter Concert, 8:00 p.m.
- Feb. 12:** Wind Symphony Pops Concert, 8:00 p.m.
- Feb. 13:** Second Sunday Concert: Chi Yong Yun, piano, 4:00 p.m.
- Mar. 3:** A.U. Music Festival Showcase Recital, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 4:** Wind Symphony Vesper Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 5:** A.U. Music Festival Concert, 4:00 p.m.
- Mar. 5:** Faculty Recital: C. Trynchuk, violin, and T. Thompson, piano, 8:00 p.m.
- Mar. 6:** Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Concert, 6:00 p.m.

Quinquennial Meeting of the Members: Please take notice that a quinquennial meeting of the members of the Andrews University Corporation (commonly known as a "constituency meeting") will take place on **Tues., Mar. 1, 2011**, beginning at 1:00 p.m., in the Seminary Chapel of Tan Hall on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. At the meeting, the members will receive reports from Andrews University administration, elect a portion of the Andrews University Board of Trustees and consider minor amendments to the bylaws.

Brent G.T. Geraty
Secretary of the Corporation

Andrews University Music and Worship

Conference: Hosted on the campus of Andrews University, **Mar. 24-26**, this conference is a training event for pastors, worship leaders, church musicians and lay leaders involved in worship ministry. Come and be inspired to honor God more fully in your worship. Be equipped to minister more effectively through worship and worship music. Connect with others who share your passion for God and your desire to serve Him. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to grow in your ministry! To register or to find out more, please visit auworshipconference.org or call 269-471-8352.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Jan. 1** Local Church Budget
Jan. 8 Local Conference Advance
Jan. 15 Local Church Budget
Jan. 22 Religious Liberty
Jan. 29 Conference Designated
IL: Illinois Evangelism;
IN: Indiana Advance;
LR: Conference Development and Campground Improvement;
MI: Good News Farm/Greenhouse;
WI: Wisconsin Budget

Special Days

- Jan. 1** Day of Prayer
Jan. 16-22 Religious Liberty Week

Indiana

All-Night Prayer Meeting will take place **Jan. 8** at the Indiana Conference office

beginning at 10:00 p.m. If you would like to gather together for prayer as did the early Christians in the book of Acts, please pre-register by calling Van G. Hurst's office at 317-844-6201, or by e-mailing prescorner@yahoo.com. The conference can accommodate about 21 persons for this special event, so pre-registration is important. If you have a prayer request but cannot attend the prayer meeting, the phone lines (317-844-6201) will be open for one hour, beginning at 11:00 p.m.

Winter Ski Fest, Jan. 20-23, provides two days of great skiing at Paoli Peaks, plus a special Sabbath at Timber Ridge Camp filled with spiritual activities, good food and praise music. Go to www.trcamp.org to see the complete schedule and to download your registration and consent forms. Or, call Trisha Thompson at the Indiana Conference youth department at 317-844-6201.

Youth Rally: On **Feb. 18, 19**, hundreds of young people from all across Indiana will converge for this annual event, beginning Fri. evening at 7:30 p.m. at Indiana Academy in Cicero. This year's guest speaker is Manny Cruz, associate youth director for the North American Division. To reserve a Fri. night dorm room and Sabbath morning breakfast, call Indiana Academy at 317-984-3575. The Sabbath program begins at 10:00 a.m. at Indianapolis Junior Academy. Following lunch, there will be afternoon activities until 6:30 p.m. For additional information, go to www.trcamp.org and click on youth events. Or, call Trisha Thompson at the Indiana Conference youth department at 317-844-6201.

Bible Summit: See the WORD come alive through study and sharing at Bible Summit to be held **Mar. 25-26** at Indiana Academy. For more information, visit www.BIBLESUMMIT.org.

North American Division

Valley Grande Adventist Academy Alumni Association (Weslaco, Texas) invites all former faculty, staff and students to our annual Alumni Weekend to be held **Mar. 25-27**. All honor class years end in 6 or 1 (2006, 2001, etc.). For more information, visit our Web site at www.vgaa.org, or contact Suzanna Facundo at sfacundo@hotmail.com.

Union College Homecoming: Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming **Apr. 7-10**. Honor classes are: 1941, '51, '56, '61, '71, '81, '86, '91 and 2001. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or alumni@ucollege.edu.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend will be held **Apr. 29-May 1**. Honor classes are: 2001, 1996, '91, '86, '81, '71, '61, '51 and 50+ years. Weekend includes: Fri. morning golf tournament, CrossCreek, Temecula; Fri. evening meet-and-greet, LSA campus library; Sabbath morning Alumni Homecoming, LSA gym, 9 a.m. check-in; Delta Mu reunion—contact alumni office; Sabbath potluck, please bring food to share; Sabbath reunions; Sat. evening alumni/varsity basketball, LSA gym; Sun. morning Ladies Charity Tea. For more information, contact the LSA Alumni office at 951-351-1445, ext. 244, or e-mail Isaalumni@lsak12.com.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28	Feb 4	Feb 11
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:29	5:37	5:45	5:53	6:02	6:11
Chicago, Ill.	4:35	4:42	4:50	4:59	5:07	5:16
Detroit, Mich.	5:15	5:22	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:56
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:35	5:42	5:50	5:58	6:05	6:14
La Crosse, Wis.	4:43	4:50	4:59	5:08	5:17	5:26
Lansing, Mich.	5:19	5:27	5:35	5:44	5:53	6:02
Madison, Wis.	4:38	4:45	4:53	5:03	5:11	5:20
Springfield, Ill.	4:49	4:56	5:04	5:11	5:19	5:28

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

Weddings

Carla Nelsen and Ronald Belyea II were married July 11, 2010, in Battle Creek, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor John Howard.

Carla is the daughter of Doris and the late Frederick Nelsen of Pittsville, Wis., and Ronald is the son of Ronald and Helen Belyea of Havelock, Ontario, Canada.

The Belyeas are making their home in Battle Creek.

Jessica J. Pflugrad and Justin J. Preston were married Oct. 10, 2010, in Traverse City, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Mickey Mallory.

Jessica is the daughter of Chester Pflugrad of Traverse City, and Sharlene Pflugrad of Dayton, Ohio, and Justin is the son of Irving and Kimberlee Preston of Blanchard, Mich.

The Prestons are making their home in Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

Anniversaries



Don and Vera Antisdal celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 7, 2010, by a potluck meal, followed by a special praise service, at the Oxford (Wis.) Church. They have been members of the Oxford Church for 23 years.

Don Antisdal and Vera Jaeschke were married Aug. 6, 1950, in Tomahawk, Wis., by Pastor George Elstrom. Don has been a maintenance man at Andrews University, Cedar Lake Academy and Minneapolis Junior Academy. From 1987 until he retired in 1994, he served as camp ranger at Camp Wakonda for the Wisconsin Conference. Vera has been an elementary school teacher for the church and public school system, then

became "Mrs. Caretaker" during the years her husband worked for Camp Wakonda.

The Antisdal family includes Greg and Beatrix Antisdal of Mt. Pleasant, Mich.; Londa and Lloyd Buell of Allegan, Mich.; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

BLOOM, Marian A. (Peters), age 78; born Apr. 13, 1931, in Ingersol Twp., Mich.; died Apr. 13, 2009, in Saginaw, Mich. She was a member of the Saginaw Church.

Survivors include her husband, Herbert H.; sons, John H., Richard H. and James W.; daughter, Diane K. Kobor; brothers, Clayton W., Donald L., Marvin A., Daniel M. and Roy C. Peters; sisters, Lois E. Wilson, Freda L. Iverson, Ruth A. Troyer and Linda M. Mineo; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Robert Quillin and Bela Kobor, and interment was in Eastlawn Memorial Garden Cemetery, Saginaw.

BUCHNAM, Marion E. (Hosford), age 90; born July 19, 1920, in St. Johns, Fla.; died Aug. 25, 2010, in Mayville, Wis. She was a member of the Beaver Dam (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Georgis Giese, Dawn Dethardt and Tina Hose; brothers, Gerald and Richard Hosford; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Steve Aust and Adam Case, and interment was in Langlade (Wis.) Memorial Cemetery.

ELLISON, Ginger (Beres), age 67; born Feb. 15, 1943, in Cleveland, Ohio; died Sept. 7, 2010, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Eric; daughter, Autumn Roberts; sister, Bonnie Beres; and one grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Michael Harris, with private inurnment, Berrien Center, Mich.

FRANKE, Barbara B. (Kissinger), age 76; born Jan. 30, 1934, in Furstenfeld, Ger-

many; died Sept. 23, 2010, in Fenton, Mich. She was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Michael S.; daughter, Corinne R. Withey; brothers, Phillip and Willie Kissinger; sisters, Alwine Tscherny (her twin) and Hanna Betat; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by David Salazar, and inurnment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly.

GROSBOLL, George A., age 71; born July 13, 1939, in Council Bluffs, Iowa; died Oct. 1, 2010, in LaGrange, Ill. He was a member of the LaGrange Church.

Survivors include his wife, Sonja J. (Smith); daughters, Tammy Norton and Debbie Shadel; sister, Rosemarie Humphrey; three grandchildren; and one step-grandchild.

Private inurnment will take place in Rome, Wis.

HALEY, Violet (Knepel), age 88; born Sept. 29, 1921, in Milwaukee, Wis.; died Aug. 30, 2010, in Milwaukee. She was a member of the Milwaukee Northwest Church.

Survivors include her husband, James; son, Dennis; daughters, Diane Maitland and Chris Haley; brother, Don Knepel; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Stephen Aust, and interment was in Wisconsin Memorial Park Cemetery, Milwaukee.

HAMMONS, Robert H., age 76; born Oct. 28, 1933, in Oklahoma City, Okla.; died July 5, 2010, in Lakeview, Mich. He was a member of the Lakeview Church.

Survivors include his sister, Jean Ramsdale.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor David Gotshall, with private inurnment, Cheyenne, Wyo.

HARDY, Jane (Butler), age 79; born Oct. 2, 1930, in Detroit, Mich.; died Sept. 16, 2010, in Detroit. She was a member of the Mizpah Church, Gary, Ind.

Survivors include her son, Fred Williams; brother, Arnold Talley; and sisters, Valaida Benson and Florence Watkins.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Wayne Duncombe, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Hobart, Ind.

HARVEY, Mable R. (Jones), age 105; born Mar. 16, 1905, in Memphis, Tenn.; died July 25, 2010, in Dowagiac, Mich. She was a member of the Calvin Center Church, Cassopolis, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Kenneth Jones; daughter Gail Ellis; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Farrai Nhiwatiwa, and interment was in Mission Hills Cemetery, Niles, Mich.

JONES, Mildred M., age 94; born Aug. 2, 1916, in Detroit, Mich.; died Sept. 18, 2010, in Kalamazoo, Mich. She was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church.

Inurnment was in Rose Land Park Cemetery, Berkley, Mich.

SCHROEDER, Ewald "Chuck" O., age 84; born Oct. 4, 1925, in Detroit, Mich.; died Apr. 9, 2010, in Greenfield, Ind. He was a member of the Greenfield Church.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn (Davis); sons, Chuck, James and Timothy Schroeder; stepson, Mark Boone; stepdaughters, Debra Boone and Jeanne Meadows; two grandchildren; 11 step-grandchildren; and eight step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Gary Case, and interment was in Park Cemetery, Greenfield.

SMALL, Bob R., age 84; born June 20, 1926, in Cadillac, Mich.; died July 3, 2010, in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was a member of the Cadillac Church.

Survivors include his wife, Arlene A. (Sluiter); son, Kevin L.; daughter, Judith Y. Lau; brother, Donald D.; sister, Doris J. Vande Vlugt; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder George Corliss, and interment was in Maple Hill Cemetery, Cadillac.

WINT, Mary L. (Wolfe), age 95; born Mar. 30, 1915, in Oxford, Mich.; died Aug. 10, 2010, in Grand Blanc, Mich. She was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Robert A. Danforth; brother, Lewis K. Wolfe; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by David Salazar, and interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Holly.

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

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Travel/Vacation

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Miscellaneous

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Employment

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks

Nurse Practitioner faculty member to join our progressive, mission-focused, graduate team. Candidate must hold current family or adult NP certification, and have current clinical experience. Successful candidate must be an Adventist Church member in good standing. Educational requirements include earned doctorate; M.S.N. may be considered. Immediate opening (winter 2011). Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Holly Gadd, Graduate Program Coordinator, at hgadd@southern.edu or SAU School of Nursing, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

UNION COLLEGE seeks Academic Director for its Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program. Responsibilities include curricular analysis, teaching and evaluation. Graduate degree, NC-

CPA certification and 3 years' clinical experience required. For more information, contact Michael Huckabee, Ph.D., PA-C, Program Director, at paprog@ucollege.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks chair/director of B.S. Nursing program. Responsibilities include strategic planning, curricular assessment, faculty development and support of college activities. Nebraska state licensure, teaching experience, and doctoral degree or ongoing study required. For more information, contact Charlotte Schober, interim chair, at chschober@ucollege.edu.

ANDREWS ACADEMY is searching for a Principal. Some of the position's opportunities include: administering the operations of the academy, grades 9-12, and establishing a learning environment which is spiritually fo-

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cused and in concert with Adventist beliefs. Required qualifications: master's degree and denominational and state secondary school credentials. Interested candidates apply online at http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a Professor of Hebrew Bible. Job opportunity includes teaching general education religion courses, teaching Hebrew Bible and language courses, and advising students. Interested candidates please apply at http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

WANTED: Produce Grower with responsibility for greenhouse, high-tunnel and open field production at The Good News Market and Farm, Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Salary and benefits pack-

age provided. For more information, please e-mail jmurphy@misda.org or call 517-316-1581.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is searching for two qualified individuals to join the faculty in our Social Work department. Candidates are required to have a doctoral degree, an M.S.W. degree from a CSWE accredited program and at least two years of post-master's social work practice experience. Candidates from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply at http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Yet Will I Trust Him

BY GARY BURNS



In the July 2005 issue of the *Lake Union Herald*, I shared a story of how my local gas station owner kept wanting to sell me new tires, but they never seemed to wear out. I told him it was because I was in partnership with God and He blessed me. I subconsciously equated that to the experience of the children of Israel whose sandals never wore out. I believed that my returning a double tithe to God was a factor.

What I didn't share is that some years before, at another location, it seemed everything that could go wrong with my dad's and my cars did go wrong. I think he had about four or five starters go out, and I had an alternator go out and later an entire engine.

So why did so many things go wrong

one time and everything seem to go right another? Well, when you are really in partnership with God, you have to remember that God's agenda does not necessarily include your comfort or ease. It just so happened that God was working in the life of our mechanic, and God just kept using opportunities to put us together. During that period of a couple of years of mechanical problems, God brought our mechanic to the point in his life where he wanted the experience he saw in us. He asked Jesus to come into his life and was baptized.

As I figure it, his baptism only cost my dad and me about \$6,000 in auto repairs. What a privilege to be in partnership with such a benevolent God.

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

Why I Haven't Left the Church

BY RICHARD A. PARKE

I hear a lot of people saying these days, “Why are our young people leaving the church?” We form committees to discuss the *why* for days, weeks and sometimes longer. At the conclusion, we often end up with some kind of “revival” event targeted at retaining the youth in our congregations, but I don’t see a lot of results.

What we fail to realize is something noted by John R.W. Stott in his book, *Basic Christianity*. John says young people have “rejected the contemporary church, not Jesus Christ himself.” John’s belief is that young people “see a contradiction between the founder of Christianity and the current state of the church he founded.”

We’re specifically talking about those who may have grown up in the church, or at least believe the teachings of Christ, but are rejecting the church as an organization for one reason or another. Paul writes in I Corinthians 12 that the church represents the “body of Christ,” so we can’t really have one without the other. If we believe we are members of that body and Christ is love, then shouldn’t Christ be our primary focus and love be the rule? It is Christ’s love that constrains us and His kindness that leads us to repentance.

If young people are attracted by the love of Christ but don’t see it represented in our churches, it’s no wonder we question the relevance of the church. I hear time and time again of people who don’t go to church anymore not because of the style of worship service or the songs sung, but because of some situation they experienced that left a bad taste in their mouth.

So, why haven’t I left the church yet? Yes, I, too, have been through situations that others may have considered



Bradley Austin

reason enough to completely reject the church. I realize though, the church is made up of sinners just like me but created in the image of our Father, which gives me hope. Though we make mistakes as the body of Christ, I know there’s no place better than where I am now and I am actively engaged in the church’s mission.

I am suggesting, however, that we take another look at the guidance of Galatians 6:1–10 where we are encouraged to bear one another’s burdens in an atmosphere of transparency and accountability with a passion for doing good—to encourage one another. Remember, we are all fighting a common enemy here, and the enemy is not flesh and blood. I think sometimes we forget we win this war when we love—myself included.

So may I suggest that the question should not be, “Why are our young people leaving the church?” but rather, “How can I better show the love of Jesus Christ in my daily life to those I meet?” (I John 3:11–24; 4:7–21 is a good place to start; it has helped me.)

So let our “revivals” be daily, personal revivals as we strive to show those around us, young or old, the love of Jesus Christ! They will know we are Christians by our love!

Richard A. Parke has provided leadership for a number of religious activities on the campus of Andrews University, including the annual Easter Passion Play. He currently serves as the radio station manager for Campus Ministries.

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Warming Up a Community

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Dragos Prahoveanu is making a difference in some Benton Harbor, Michigan, families. Dragos, a senior studying international business at Andrews University, created the Stay Warm Project in November 2010, and hopes to distribute 250 blankets by January 2011.



With his Stay Warm Project, Dragos Prahoveanu plans to provide blankets to needy families in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Dragos realized his Sabbath afternoons weren't being used to God's glory. "The traditional nap after church is not helping to spread God's Word," says Dragos. "Actions are stronger than words. That's why, by giving these blankets, you replace a lazy Sabbath afternoon with something productive and rewarding." He wanted to get fellow students and friends involved in a community service activity of distributing blankets to people in need, so he created a Facebook page announcing his intentions. His Facebook message reads, "I personally hate being cold and I felt the need to make a difference. I am collecting blankets for those that need to stay warm this cold

season. These blankets will be distributed to different shelters: Niles, Benton Harbor, etc. Make a difference!"

In less than a week, the Facebook page had nearly 200 friends showing interest in the project. Realizing the huge impact the Stay Warm Project could have, Dragos began looking at area homeless shelters. He contacted Sherry Gopp, deputy director of Emergency Shelter Services Inc., and decided to donate the blankets to an ESS homeless shelter in Benton Harbor. Sherry told Dragos about people who don't have heat and some who have even frozen to death. For Dragos, this sounded unacceptable for the 21st century.

The Stay Warm Project donations are expected to cover nearly all blanket needs for an upcoming drive, giving Sherry and shelter volunteers one less thing to worry about. ESS will allow him to hand-deliver several blankets—an experience Dragos claims will bring true happiness and a warm-fuzzy feeling.

"It's reassuring to meet people who are willing to donate and help," Dragos says.

To learn more about the project, contact Dragos at 248-974-5887 or e-mail staywarmnow@gmail.com.

Ashleigh Jardine is a student news writer in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University. Originally from Romania, Dragos Prahoveanu is a member of the Metropolitan Adventist Church.

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