

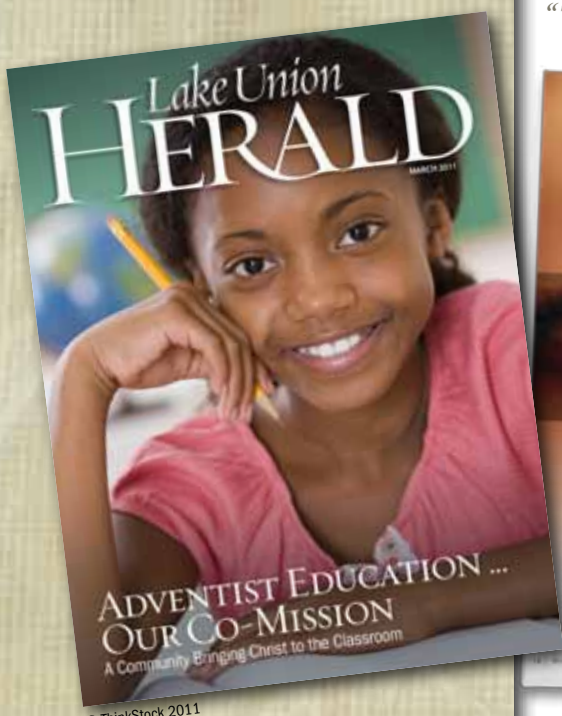
Lake Union HERALD

MARCH 2011

ADVENTIST EDUCATION ... OUR CO-MISSION

A Community Bringing Christ to the Classroom

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



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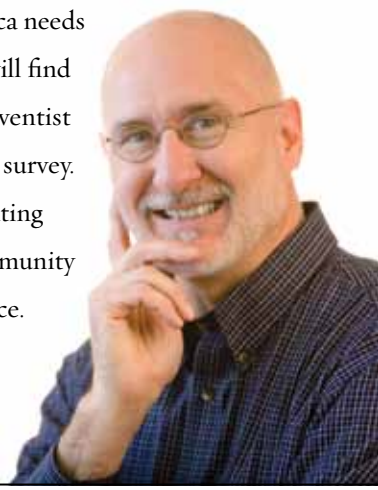
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In this issue...

The documentary, "Waiting for Superman," has precipitated quite a discussion of differing opinions about education in America; but bottom line, everyone seems to agree that education in America needs help. And Adventist education needs your help. You will find in this issue reasons to celebrate the advantages an Adventist education offers according to the data from a national survey. That advantage is centered in our world view of educating the whole person in the context of community. A community bringing Christ to the classroom does make a difference.


Gary Burns, Editor



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Lines of Distinction

I write this editorial from a whole new perspective. I'm actually in a bus on a very rough road about 9,000 miles from home. We are in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, with a team of volunteers from the Lake Union working with another group from the Oklahoma Conference. We have just finished a major initiative of constructing 40 One-Day Churches. If you are not acquainted with the One-Day Church, it is a steel frame and roof building kit that can be put together in one day. Add benches and it will seat approximately 150.

Adventist-laymen Services & Industries and Maranatha Volunteers International are taking on the challenge of providing a church home to the more than 100,000 congregations worldwide which have no place to worship other than a tree, tarp or a simple lean-to. With an average of 11 new congregations being established every day, this is a daunting goal.

My wife Barbara and I had the privilege of working with four other members from the Lake Union assembling the framing of the churches so a separate roofing team could top them off. One of the highlights of our experience was interacting with the local members at each of our 12 site locations. We found loving, dedicated, helpful, happy and friendly people who demonstrated a wonderful love for the Lord. Several members expressed very deep gratitude as they told how they had prayed for a church in which to worship for many years; one member had prayed for a church since 1960—they now have one. Yet, this is one of many places in the world where things are primitive, where the infrastructure is deteriorating and life is hard. Vast numbers of people are dying of AIDS, malaria and other causes.

It is so easy for us to drop in from comfortable and convenient America, do our good deed and go home feeling superior. After all, we have advanced technologies, complex infrastructure, access to a world of resources, and we know how to make things happen. Ours is the First World, theirs is the Third World.

But how do you think God views us? I have always been intellectually convinced that all of God's children are loved and valued equally in His sight. Now, as we prepare to leave this amazing continent, I am all the more convinced in my heart that we are, as Paul put it, "neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28 NIV).

Could it be possible there will be a much larger representation of people from undeveloped parts of the world in Heaven? Jesus was wonderfully clear in the "Sermon on the Mount" that those who know their need of God are blessed. Heaven belongs to them.

I invite you to again explore Matthew 5 and see how God speaks to you.



My High Calling

BY NICOLE MATTSON

My school year started typically. The books were all neatly lined up on the shelves, the desks had been scrubbed, the counters were shining. The crayons were new, not one broken or torn. And the bulletin boards—they were so inviting, all brightly colored and sparkling. Then, they arrived—the little people in my world.

They entered, somewhat one by one—all the same, yet all different. They seemed to have mostly the same school supplies, yet they represented such different homes, different backgrounds. All had a bubbling-over sense of anticipation, yet I knew each would react differently to the demands of the day, to me and to each person in their path. They'd all be on the same schedule, yet they would learn differently, act differently, challenge me differently. But none of that really mattered to me. You see, it may have been a different school year, but my goals were and still are consistently the same.

As a teacher, I want to feel confident each day that if Jesus was to come right then, right there—in my classroom—these students would know Him, embrace Him and be ready for Him to take them to Heaven.

We're living in a time when there are no more earthly guarantees. Even the extended, paid-for warranties don't warrant any proof that tomorrow will even be here, much less be comfortable, peaceful or even remotely enjoyable. The only thing that is for certain is that Jesus is returning soon, and I have a mere seven hours, five days per week, to reflect His love, His character, His mercy and His grace to these precious little lambs.

To make matters worse, I need to be consistent, fair, organized, knowledgeable and patient as I try to instill in them a love for learning and a desire to follow the plans Jesus has for them. Sounds insurmountable? It would be, if it wasn't for the fact I have an incredible role model—the Master Teacher. What have I really learned, and how will it help me to know that each day I serve Him, this school, these families and these “lambs” the way He desires?



Nicole Mattson

1. Make Jesus Christ the overarching theme that every aspect of learning and every subject area falls under.
2. Teach like there's no tomorrow, but be ready to come back the next day and do it all over again.
3. Lead by serving, and serve by leading.
4. Give more than you ever thought you could, and then figure out a way to give more.
5. Understand that we live in a constantly changing world, environment, climate, etc., and remember that healthy people adapt to those changes.

6. Remember that your plans may be original, great and entirely interesting, even biblical, and still not be God's will. Seek God's will continually.

7. Spend whatever time it takes to be absolutely in tune with the Master Teacher. You're always teaching—something.

8. Love the unlovely, praise every effort possible, and rejoice in even the smallest growth. Seeds do take time to grow, so don't plan on blossoms the next day.

9. Believe that God can do anything, because He truly can.

10. Make Christ so absolutely irresistible and unbelievably undeniable that if He is the only thing they remember that year, you will have done the most important thing a teacher could ever do.

I never feel worthy enough to teach up in front of my students—but it doesn't matter how I feel. Adventist education is about putting faith before feeling, believing what God can and will do in our lives for His name's sake. Thank you, Jesus, for my high calling!

Nicole Mattson teaches kindergarten and first grade at Battle Creek Academy in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Sacred Trust

BY DONNA-MAE SCOTT

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord. — Psalm 127:3 NKJV

Children are committed to their parents as a precious trust, which God will one day require at their hands—Ellen White

My commitment to Christian education is a result of strong emphasis on Christian education by our local church, then the Village SDA Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. It was during a Sabbath emphasis on Christian education that we heard a testimony by a single mother of four. She expressed how she was determined, by the grace of God, to have her children in church school. She had recently moved into town; and, by faith, she was registering her children for school. The Lord rewarded her faith by having her children sponsored by church members.

“It is in the home school that our boys and girls are to be prepared to attend the church school. Diligent, faithful instruction in the home is the best preparation that children can receive for school life” (*The Adventist Home*, p. 185).

Family worship started at the beginning of our marriage. Our family worship was focused on their Sabbath school lesson and weekly memory gems for school. At or around eight o'clock, our sons were in bed. As parents we tried to adopt a healthy diet by preparing wholesome meals for our sons and restricting their sugar intake. We also monitored and structured TV viewing. On Sabbaths, we spent a significant amount of time in nature, at the free zoo, arboretum and oceanfront walks. As a family we were committed to Christian education. In fulfilling this commitment, I was a stay-at-home mother.

“For He shall give His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11 NKJV).

At the beginning of every school year it was a practice of ours to pray like Daniel, three times a day for the first seven days. We lived about 25 miles from the closest church school. We never had a flat tire or the car break down during the course of nine years of their K–8 education. There were a couple of years our sons had perfect attendance.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1 NKJV).

“The life of the child, the acts, the words, continue to mold the child for good or evil. The teacher shares this responsibility and he needs constantly to realize its sacredness and to keep in view the purpose of his work” (*Education*, p. 280, 281).

One year our faith was really tested. We had pre-registered the children for school, but we had no money. The teacher called and asked why our sons had missed the first

day of school. After explaining that we had no money, she said, “Just bring them. We will find a way, we are not ready to let them go.”



Donna-Mae Scott

One Sabbath, we barely had enough gas in the tank to get us back and forth to church. We prayed and pressed on in faith. While driving home after church, there was money scattered along the road. Looking at each other and around to see if there were other cars, we stopped and collected the money. After taking tithe, there was enough for gas to get the children to school, and to buy food and new shoes for the children.

In appreciation for the blessings of having a Christian education, our sons have chosen healthcare professions. They both work for the church in “Extending the Healing Ministry of Jesus,” the mission statement of the Adventist Health System.

Donna-Mae Scott writes from Niles, Michigan.

Slicing Up Money for Missions

BY DIANE THURBER

When Merna Witzel was young, her mother taught her how to make whole wheat bread. At an early age, she never dreamed her bread-making skills would be used to bless others and to expand the mission of her church.

By the time Merna was 15 years old, she baked all the bread for her family during the summer when she was at home from the academy. Later, when she married her husband, Earl, she says the smell of her freshly baked bread caught the attention of others and soon she was making loaves to sell every Thursday—12 loaves of whole wheat and six loaves of white bread. She made more loaves for her family on another day of the week.

Merna continued making bread for her family through the years. Then, last year she and Earl received an invitation to go to a 30-year celebration of a school they helped start in Brazil. Merna turned to her bread-making talent to raise funds to help with ticket expenses, passports and visas. “The only thing I knew how to do was bake bread,” she says. She adapted her original recipe to now include barley and rye flours, raw oats and stone-ground whole wheat. And to make it healthier, she eliminated oil and now uses fresh, homemade applesauce instead. Merna says, “When it smells so good, it sells itself.” She went to stores in town and asked if anyone would like to buy bread. “It worked!” She exclaimed.

In October 2010, at a church business meeting, discussions turned to finances. A desire was expressed to end the year without a deficit in the church budget, and someone mentioned fundraisers. Merna was impressed she could



Merna Witzel makes bread to raise funds for a group going to Tanzania on a mission trip.

add to their regular donations by making more bread. So she placed a notice in the church bulletin, and a friend placed one in the school newsletter. News of her plans to donate \$2 of each loaf sold, until the end of 2010, also traveled by word of mouth. She baked “between washing loads on Thursdays” and while she took care of other household duties on other days, Merna says. And then she delivered her freshly baked loaves to the school and other places where people placed orders in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Beginning in January 2011, Merna decided to donate a percentage of each loaf of bread sold to help a group going to Tanzania on a mission trip. In addition to contributing to the mission of her church, through this ministry God gives Merna opportunities to talk with others about what God has done for her and her family, and “how He continues to care for us,” she says.

When asked if she has any regrets about committing her bread-making talent to the Lord, Merna says, “Never. It’s not something that could ever make us rich. I’m ‘too old’ to work at any regular job, but God has given me health and strength yet at 76. I’m glad there is something I can do to help out.”

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



EXTREME GRACE

“I Am Truly Sorry...”

BY DICK DUERKSEN

“I am truly sorry, but I have an appointment in downtown Lagos and must leave immediately.” Deputy vice chancellor Kayonde Makinde spent the morning preparing for a meeting with several bankers, hoping the numbers were arranged convincingly enough to bring a \$150,000 loan to help establish an Adventist university in West Africa.

The Nigerian government recently passed a law granting permission for private universities to operate, and Kayonde was in charge of turning the existing Adventist seminary into the first successful private university in the country. But, the school was basically broke and needed cash desperately!

“Why are you in such a hurry today?” the guests asked. “We have been waiting to see you for three hours.”

“I have an appointment to apply for a loan in Lagos,” Kayonde replied.

“How much money do you need?” the guests asked.

“One hundred fifty thousand U.S. dollars.”

“When do you need it?”

“Yesterday!”

Everyone laughed, and then the tallest of the guests frowned.

“I do not have the ability to care for yesterday,” he said, “but I can get the money to you tomorrow.”

In a few days the new university had signed a partnership agreement with a small bank that was to quickly become one of the largest banks on the continent. The partnership has been most successful, a relationship that funnels student fees through the bank and provides zero-interest loans for capital projects at the university.

“This is the work of God,” says Kayonde, who is now president of Babcock University. “Because this is God’s work, our school must provide the highest quality education available. Our classes must be affordable to church members, must attract the community’s finest students, and must always be clearly and joyfully Seventh-day Adventist.”



Kayonde Makinde

Dick Duerksen

“Also,” Kayonde adds, “the ground at a school like Babcock University must always be level. No one receives special treatment here. We’re not a welfare organization, and so we require every student to participate in the work-study program and learn how to become responsible, work hard, earn their own way and live successfully.”

The 6,000 students at Babcock University include children of legislators, governors, department ministers and thousands of other leaders from Nigeria and its surrounding countries. All live by the same dormitory and cafeteria expectations, and all participate in worship services with one of the university’s 18 on-campus church congregations.

Recently, at a meal for school presidents, Kayonde says many stopped by to greet him. They commented on his food. Since many had children attending his university that didn’t serve meat in the cafeteria, they wanted to see if he really ate that way, too.

The leaders of Babcock University believe Seventh-day Adventist schools must consistently show competence, character and commitment. Because that happens at Babcock, most graduates already have jobs waiting for them before they graduate.

“By the way,” Kayonde continued, “we do not use any church money to operate Babcock University. We are self-supporting, yet we are recognized as providing the best university-level education in Nigeria. We do not have to advertise. Our students and their parents do that for us.”

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



The Truth About Math

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

A survey of U.S. teens recently revealed that students actually “highly value” the subjects of math and science, and understand the important role these subjects play in their future. Unfortunately, many still suffer from the anxiety associated with math and test taking. And when they’re fighting with that anxiety and that distraction, even at an unconscious level, the worrying can actually lower their performance and test scores.

So is math anxiety real? Indeed it is! Math anxiety is an irrational fear that can range from a simple discomfort associated with everyday tasks to mental disorganization when asked to perform mathematical problems, which can lead to a total avoidance of mathematics and math classes. Unfortunately, for our children who are still in school, math anxiety can be debilitating, interfere with their math performance and inhibit subsequent learning.

Maybe you are one of those parents who say, “I understand, I never did well in math.” Or, “I’m really not a math person!” You, too, may experience those feelings of tension, physical sickness, faintness, dread and/or panic when asked to perform mathematical tasks. Think of dividing up the restaurant check! Did you choose a major in college or a career track in your own life because it did or did not “need math?” Experts say it is important to not address a child’s challenges with these types of statements, nor should we assume our child is suffering in the same way we did.

As Christian parents, we have the opportunity to teach our children from God’s perspective. We can learn more about math anxiety ourselves and share age-appropriate strategies for learning to use math and for relieving stress and anxiety associated with these tasks. More than just numbers on paper, math exemplifies God’s perfect creation and timing. Take multiplication for example.

Men, using the ability God gave them, developed various methods of making mathematical sense of their universe.



Back when arithmetic methods were first becoming popular in Europe, people experimented with different multiplication methods. Many people use different methods today, ones that are quite different from the typical way we learn in the United States. This teaches us that far from being man-made systems, multiplication methods describe a real-life

consistency. Each and every one of these methods ultimately rests on God’s faithfulness in holding all things together!

Katherine Loop asks, “Have you ever wondered how we know the distance light travels in a year? We cannot physically measure the distance light travels in a year—no measuring tape can extend far enough. We can, however, measure the distance light travels in a second. Using multiplication, we can then compute how far light travels in a year! Multiplication can be reduced to a method because of the amazing consistency in the way God causes objects to multiply. Because multiplication describes a real-life consistency, we use it to learn about and explore God’s creation, all the while seeing glimpses of God’s character. When used appropriately, multiplication serves as a useful tool in the work God has given us to do.”

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

Author’s Note: Consider two books written for Christian parents available at www.christianperspective.net: *Revealing Arithmetic: Math Concepts from a Biblical Worldview* and *Beyond Numbers: A Practical Guide to Teaching Math Biblically* by Katherine Loop.

Lack of a social support system can result in lower white blood cell count.

Physical and psychological stress can suppress immune function.

Stressing the Defenses

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

We are constantly confronted with hostile challenges. Foreign and harmful substances daily present themselves to us. In the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the environment that surrounds us we are confronted with bacteria, viruses, pollutants, toxins and other threats to our health. Our immune system recognizes these challenges and endeavors to protect the body from harm by responding to these threats.

To facilitate an immune system that functions optimally one must follow a healthy lifestyle. This would include eating a diet high in fruits, vegetables and whole grains, rich in natural antioxidants; exercising regularly; maintaining a healthy body weight; getting adequate sleep; taking steps to avoid infection, such as frequently washing your hands; drinking plenty of water; and effectively managing your stress level.

Different forms and levels of stress produce stress hormones that can adversely affect various aspects of immune function, such as suppression of antibody production and T-cell activity. Four months after Hurricane Andrew hit Florida, residents in the most heavily damaged neighborhoods showed reduced activity in several immune function measurements. Similar results were found after an earthquake hit Los Angeles.

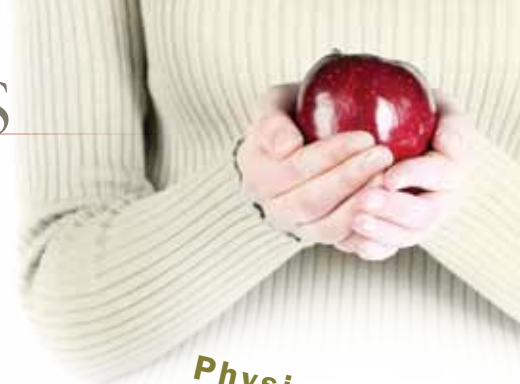
Psychological and social stress may be even more damaging than physical stress. For example, mice were put into a cage with a highly aggressive mouse two hours a day for six days and repeatedly threatened but not injured by the aggressive mouse, while other mice were kept in tiny cages without food and water for long periods. Both groups of mice were exposed to a toxin. The mice that were socially stressed by the aggressive mouse were twice as likely to die as those mice stressed by a lack of physical resources.

Isolation can also

suppress immune function. Infant monkeys that were located in cages by themselves generated fewer white blood cells and antibodies than those who were caged in groups, when the monkeys were challenged with viruses. In a year-long study of people acting as the caregiver for their spouse who had Alzheimer's disease, decreases in T-cell function were greatest in those who had the fewest friends and the least outside help. Some measures of T-cell activity have been found to be lower in depressed patients compared with those not depressed, and also in men who are separated or divorced compared with married men.

Prebiotics, which are added to many drinks, cereals and energy bars, have been promoted to bolster the immune system. We should be aware of many such claims that promote different products to boost our immunity. While many claims are made, little research data is available to support those claims. Actually, what we want is not so much an immune boost as for our complex immune system to respond in an optimal way when an assault or challenge comes to us. Exercise, laughter, listening to relaxing music, group support and prioritizing your life can reduce stress hormones, and enable the immune system to function more efficiently.

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



Physical and psychological stress can suppress immune function.



Necessity of a Clean Heart

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. — Psalm 66:18, 19

Sin hinders prayer. A person may pray and pray without receiving an answer, and then conclude that the problem is in God. In reality the problem may be in the person's heart. David understood that if he cherished sin in his heart, the Lord would not hear him.

One of the worst things about sin is that it obstructs prayer. We are shut out from God when we cherish sin, because God is holy and cannot tolerate sin in His presence.

When sin blocks prayer, the real problem is not that we have sinned but that, having sinned, we have not repented. It is only unconfessed sin, cherished in our hearts, that inhibits our prayers. Forgiven sin does not hinder prayer. Forgiven sinners are welcome in God's presence.

Always eager to have us come into His presence, God has provided a way for sin to be removed through Jesus' blood so we can come and not be hindered. John says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). When it's forgiven, our sin is gone and it no longer impedes.

The first requirement of prayer, then, is to confess anything in your heart that is not of God. When your sin is forgiven, you can be confident God will hear and answer your prayers.

Don't be afraid to take inventory and to deal with what you find. Recently, when I was confronted with a list of 20 sin-identifying Scripture texts, I at first thought, *My heart is clean before God. I don't have anything to confess.* But I went through the list anyway, and to my amazement I found five areas of sin that needed to be dealt with. So I clearly identified what was offensive to God, confessed those things, and claimed God's forgiving grace. Through that I again discovered complete freedom in prayer. We can't have the privilege of prayer without purity of heart.

Not only does sin hinder prayer; prayer hinders sin. The two are always opposed. The more careless we are

about sin, the less we will pray. The more we pray, the less careless we will be about sin. Both sin and prayer are powerful forces. Which one is moving you?

Reflect

Is there any area of your life about which you are uneasy before God? Risk taking a closer look at it. You may find a "cherished" sin.

Can you say to yourself with confidence what David said: "God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer"?

Pray

Praise God that "He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9).

Ask God to search your heart and life and to reveal to you any sin you may need to deal with.

Confess any sin that the Spirit brings to your attention.

Thank God for forgiving your sin and purifying you from all unrighteousness so you can go confidently into His presence.

Act

Read the list of do's and don'ts in Romans 12:9–21. Put a checkmark by any one of these commands you are failing to keep. Say a prayer of confession for specific sins you may discover in this way. Ask the Lord to clear your record and cleanse your heart. Make a fresh commitment.

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.



El poder de una vida consagrada

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Lutero era un hombre de oración. Trabajaba y oraba como si algo tenía que ser hecho de inmediato, y lo hacía. Después de orar se aventuraba a confiar en las promesas de Dios, y con la ayuda divina pudo sacudir el vasto poder de Roma de manera que el fundamento mismo del papado tembló.
—Review and Herald, April 22, 1884

En el mes de enero de este año mi esposa y yo tuvimos el privilegio de hacer una gira por Alemania con el propósito principal de visitar los lugares donde había vivido el gran reformador Martín Lutero. Este viaje se llevó a cabo gracias a que el pastor Ernesto Castillo, vicepresidente de la División Norteamericana, invitó a varios líderes de la obra hispana para que lo acompañasen en la gira que sería dirigida por el pastor Don Schneider y su esposa, Marti. Agradezco a Dios por la oportunidad que tuve de hacer ese viaje porque durante los siete días que estuvimos en la gira aprendí preciosas lecciones de la vida de este gran hombre de Dios.

En el libro *El conflicto de los siglos* Elena de White describe cómo Dios usó a Martín Lutero para combatir el error que la iglesia enseñaba con respecto a la salvación—que ésta se consigue por obras—mostrando que la Biblia enseña que la justificación es por la fe. Me maravilla la valentía de Lutero al hacer esto pues en aquel tiempo una persona que desafiaba las enseñanzas de la iglesia podía llegar a perder la vida por compartir lo que la iglesia consideraba una herejía. Sin embargo, a pesar de los muchos desafíos y del peligro que lo amenazaba Lutero no se desanimó, y como resultado se levantó un gran movimiento—la reforma protestante—que se esparció por el mundo entero. Lutero nunca se desanimó porque acostumbraba siempre hacer dos cosas:

1. Primero, estudiaba diligentemente la Palabra de Dios y compartía lo que aprendía. Elena de White relata cómo Lutero parecía tan diferente de los otros sacerdotes porque predicaba con claridad y poder.

2. Como dice la cita al comienzo de este artículo, Lutero era un hombre de oración. Por lo que sabemos él dedicaba varias horas al día a la oración. En esos momentos de



El pastor Mercado junto a la tumba de Martín Lutero en la ciudad de Wittenberg, Alemania

oración logró comprender la voluntad de Dios y predicarla con poder.

Es mi convicción que Dios quiere que su pueblo siga el ejemplo de hombres consagrados como Lutero para iniciar otro gran movimiento espiritual—un movimiento de reavivamiento y reforma. Con esto en mente, en el mes de abril la Unión del Lago auspiciará talleres de entrenamiento en los cuales se enfatizará oración y evangelismo. El primer taller se llevará a cabo el fin de semana del **1 y 2 de abril** en el **Best Western hotel** en **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**. El segundo será el fin de semana del **8 y 9 de abril** en el **Renaissance Hotel** en **Carmel, Indiana**.

El costo será de sólo \$50.00 por participante. Esto incluye materiales impresos, un buen almuerzo, seminarios con énfasis en oración y evangelismo como también excelentes predicaciones y música.

Queremos invitar a los hermanos que viven en los estados de Wisconsin e Indiana a que asistan a estos eventos tan especiales y que el fruto de ellos sea vidas enteramente consagradas al Señor.

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

Mission-Driven Education

A Sacred Responsibility

BY GARRY SUDDS

The voices of enthusiastic children singing a song from yesteryear drifted down the hallway, “Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning...”! So simple, yet so profound—to be filled with the Holy Spirit so our lights will shine. “You are the light of the world,” Jesus said (see Matthew 5:14).

When filled with God’s Spirit, our very presence makes a difference.

The children continued with the second verse: “Make me a fisher of men, keep me seeking; seeking souls ‘till Jesus comes again.” These students expressed in song the love and compassion for lost and broken souls that spills out of the life of every believer. To be filled with the Holy Spirit to seek and serve the lost is Christ’s purpose for every one of us. To assist the home and church in giving every child an opportunity to fulfill this purpose is the reason God ordained Adventist education.

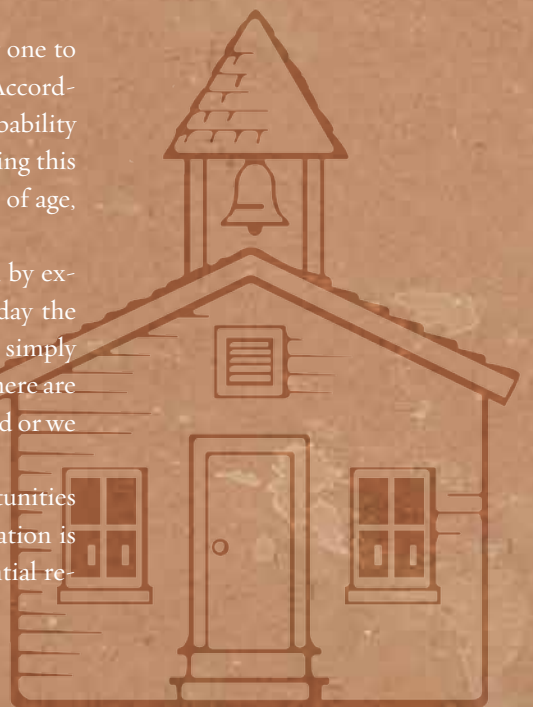
Adventist education is, itself, redemptive. “To restore in [us] the image of [our] Maker, to bring [us] back to the perfection in which [we were] created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in [our] creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life” (*Education*, p. 15).

This is obviously the work of a lifetime, but the best opportunity for one to make a commitment to this life work is between the ages of five and 13. According to the research of George Barna (1999), there is a 32 percent probability that children will make a decision to form a relationship with Jesus during this period of their lives. The rate drops to four percent from 14 to 19 years of age, and six percent beyond 19.

Consider this thought: Every believer has the responsibility to teach by example. “Teach your children that it is their privilege to receive every day the baptism of the Holy Spirit” (*Child Guidance*, p. 69). To teach by example simply means that every believer must receive the baptism of the Spirit daily. There are really only two options. “We must be daily controlled by the Spirit of God or we will be controlled by satan” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 102).

Spirit-filled and dedicated Adventist teachers provide daily opportunities for children to choose Jesus. The primary objective of Adventist education is to help each child know Christ and to continue growing in an experiential re-

Adventist
education
is redemptive.



relationship with Him. The second objective is to help each student to develop and use the gifts and talents God has given them to lead others to a relationship with Jesus by integrating faith with learning. Adventist education seeks to develop the whole person. “[Our Creator] wants us to make the very best and highest use that is possible of the talents that he has given us” (*Review and Herald*, April 2, 1889).

It was God’s purpose to bless all nations through the leadership and example of His chosen people. Today, He seeks to do that through His church. The Children of Israel failed to fulfill God’s purpose because they chose time and again to live outside His blessings. The Seventh-day Adventist Church faces the same challenge today.

That is why the Lake Union Office of Education seeks and strengthens teachers who understand the sacredness of their calling, develops students who see themselves as “champions for Christ” and partners with pastors who value Adventist education as a God-ordained part of His plan for salvation.

Focusing on our mission and seeking God’s direction led the Office of Education in the Lake Union to strengthen ten specific advantages of Adventist education:

- Daily opportunities to help students know God, their heavenly Father; Jesus, their Brother and Savior; and the Holy Spirit, their Companion and Guide
- An emphasis on helping students understand the role of the Holy Spirit and how they can receive the baptism of the Spirit each day
- An environment that is emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually safe
- An emphasis on developing a Christlike character
- An understanding that the Creator has a purpose for each student and an emphasis on seeking God’s agenda over one’s own
- Opportunities to discover the joy of serving Christ by helping others
- An emphasis on health and wholeness in lifestyle
- Opportunities to develop spiritual leadership skills
- Intentionality in creating a family atmosphere in each classroom
- Exposure to mentors who model the principles of Jesus’ life

The need for young people who demonstrate the faith and love of Jesus is greater now than ever before. Could it be that the need for Adventist education is greater now than ever before? Is that why God is calling teachers, pastors, church members and parents whose lives are filled with the Holy Spirit to strengthen Adventist schools in the

work of preparing students to live for Christ?

Each Seventh-day Adventist school in the Lake Union territory is a center for evangelism, not only for our own children, but for the community as well. One student came up to his teacher and said, “Teacher, I’m lucky to be here. In my other school I asked the teacher about Jesus, and she said that she did not know anyone named Jesus. Then I asked her about praying and she said, ‘That is not done here.’”

For some, our schools provide as sanctuary, a safe haven of love. One student asked his teacher if he could come to school on the days when there was no school. When the teacher asked him why, he said, “This is the only place I don’t get yelled at. Here I’m treated kind, and you love me.”

The need for young people who demonstrate the faith and love of Jesus is greater now than ever before. Could it be that the need for Adventist education is greater now than ever before?

Another student whose parents are not Christians told her teacher, “I’m so happy that I get to come to school here. I want to love Jesus, and learn more about Him. I want to give my heart and life to Him.”

Another student had such a problem with bad behavior and improper language that he had been kicked out of kindergarten. After being accepted in one of our schools, he gave his heart to Jesus and said, “I belong to Jesus now.”

Now is the time for God’s people to seek His face, to humble themselves and repent of their indifference, and recognize the value that God places on the life of each child. Now is the time for parents, church members, pastors and teachers to join together and strengthen Adventist education for the purpose of restoring in each child the image of Jesus.

We invite you to read the following stories of faith and love to discover anew the heart of Christ and the faith of Christ in the mission-driven schools in the Lake Union.

“As the Holy Spirit moves upon the hearts of the children, co-operate with His work. Teach them that the Saviour is calling them, that nothing can afford Him greater joy than for them to give themselves to Him in the bloom and freshness of their years” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 44).

Garry Sudds is the director of education for the Lake Union Conference.

1. Traditional



Partners in Education

BY JEREMY HALL

It is not uncommon to hear older adults talk disparagingly about this present generation of young people. And sadly, I must admit that I, too, have been a party to some of these conversations. And while there may be some legitimate concerns regarding the challenges in our present-day youth, I have a story of hope to tell you that gives me courage about what God is doing in the lives of our young people in preparation for His soon return.

On Wednesday following Thanksgiving break, I was finishing up our study of Romans with the junior class when I was interrupted by Brittany Ward, the senior class president. She urged me to come join the senior Bible class right away because there was something really important I needed to see. We were right in the middle of some important material, and I didn't particularly want to leave my class at that time—but Brittany's request also seemed rather important. I excused myself from class and followed Brittany down the hallway.

When I was joined in the hallway by Lyle Litzenberger, Indiana Academy's business manager, I knew something must be up. The two of us were led through the chaplain's office into the front of the classroom. Not able to contain herself any more, Brittany excitedly informed us that the senior class had decided to donate their entire senior trip money to our coach bus fund! Unbelievable!

As I glanced to my right I saw that the students had drawn a check on the dry erase board made out to Indiana Academy for the amount of \$9,000! They had decided to

give their entire fund! They held nothing back! Their generous gift represented four years of accumulated funds that the seniors had been working and saving toward since their freshman year.

There is a dimension to this story that is another indication of the spiritual depth of this class—the senior trip itself. It's not like the seniors were planning a trip to Disney World for Mickey Mouse entertainment and pool relaxation. They had planned a trip to the Holbrook Indian Mission where they would be paying for and reconstructing the inside of an older home to allow for additional staffing. They gave the gift knowing they would be starting their fundraising from scratch, and that may not be easy. By faith they committed every dollar of their senior trip money to meet our school's immediate need, believing that if God

expressed how much they had been blessed in giving—blessings that would have been missed had they kept the money. Deep spiritual applications flowed from these seniors that moved and inspired us.

In response, it was a privilege to share with this class how they had given so much more than the \$9,000. They have left a legacy at Indiana Academy that will continue until Jesus comes. They have set a powerful example for other students who will follow in their wake.

Yes, Indiana Academy has been trying to raise enough funds to secure a new coach bus. Our primary travel bus is a 13-year-old school bus. It is less than adequate for deploying our students some distance in ministry opportunities. Their donation, the largest single donation received for the bus to date, has put us in a significantly better position than

We all must seize the opportunity to build on this initiative! We cannot let it die. Let us affirm every unselfish act demonstrated by this generation of young people.

wants them to go to Holbrook, He will provide enough funds for that to happen.

It's interesting that during Secondary Leadership Camp in October 2010, each school was given the opportunity to meet in a break-out session to focus on specific things they could do as leaders in their own schools through discipleship or modeling some kind of personal sacrifice. Although always well-intentioned, plans that are laid during Leadership Camp are difficult to implement when students get back to the reality of their own campus. Even the best-laid plans often fizzle out, but this story is a powerful example of quite the opposite. The senior class turned a spark into a bonfire!

Soon after their act of sacrificial generosity, we surprised the senior class with a pizza feed as a way to celebrate our appreciation. During this time we were able to reflect on lessons learned individually and collectively as a class. This turned out to be a powerful experience as students freely

we were before. Yet, what these seniors have given Indiana Academy goes far, far beyond helping us obtain the much-needed bus. They have given us a stellar example of servant leadership—an example of personal sacrifice and the unselfish act of giving to a cause greater than themselves. They have embraced the cost of true discipleship by saying, "Lord, I am willing; use me in whatever way you need for Your kingdom and Your glory." Praise God!

These young people have demonstrated by their sacrifice that they recognize the times we are living in, and are willing to set aside personal agendas for the greater value of "service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (*Education*, p. 13). We all must seize the opportunity to build on this initiative! We cannot let it die. Let us affirm every unselfish act demonstrated by this generation of young people.

The faculty and staff at Indiana Academy purposefully seek to create opportunities for our young people to work

I invite you to partner alongside us with your prayers and support as we continue to provide an education where the greatest priority is living for Jesus.

for a cause that is greater than themselves. We have collectively embraced The Great Commission by our Lord and Savior recorded in Matthew 28. We believe as Jesus said that we are the light of the world and the salt of the Earth, and that we each have a specific purpose by His design in advancing His kingdom. We recognize that John was describing this great movement as he portrayed the Three Angels of Revelation 14 proclaiming the everlasting gospel throughout the world.

As educators it is our privilege to partner with our Creator by providing ministry opportunities for our students to equip them for a life of service. We believe that “with such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world” (*Education*, p. 271).

We recognize our accountability to parents and the church to “rightly train” our young people, guided by sound biblical principles and Spirit-led innovations to develop, challenge, inspire and equip our students for the task before us. By personally working to serve others, they will demonstrate the experiential faith we preach from the pulpit and teach from the lectern. The practical opportunities we provide in service and outreach initiatives actually produce the virtues we would urge upon them.

If we provide opportunities for them to “go to work as Christ designs that His disciples shall, and win souls for Him, [they] will feel the need of a deeper experience and a greater knowledge in divine things, and will hunger and thirst after righteousness. [They] will plead with God,

and [their] faith will be strengthened, and [their souls] will drink deeper drafts at the well of salvation. Encountering opposition and trials will drive [them] to the Bible and prayer. [They] will grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ, and will develop a rich experience” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 80).



Indiana Academy is taking steps to move more directly in line with these principles. By God’s grace, we are planning to initiate a ministry called “Project 58” this next year. Modeled after Isaiah 58, outreach opportunities are incorporated into the culture and curriculum at Indiana Academy. The goal is to reach out to our local communities through acts of kindness and service. It is an attempt to build relationships with our community to spread the love of Christ, as well as an effort to create venues where young people have the chance to think outside of themselves and see the love of Christ flow through them to others. It will demonstrate that Christianity is more than a theory; it is a living, breathing experience that is fun, exciting and rewarding. Every student who attends Indiana Academy will have the opportunity to know the joy of giving and the privilege of sacrifice.

The pathway has been laid out before us—a pathway that leads to the everlasting kingdom. Our seniors have done that. We must take the next step. Won’t you join us? I invite you to partner alongside us with your prayers and support as we continue to provide an education where the greatest priority is living for Jesus.

Jeremy Hall is the principal of Indiana Academy.

Wednesday Prayers

BY MATTHEW LUKENS

Last year, students at North Shore Adventist Academy studied through a series of Bible-centered topics. Divided into small groups from all different grade levels, students met weekly to read about and discuss the different topics. The experience was so beneficial, North Shore's principal, Helen Bacchus, wanted to continue having students and teachers from different grades mix regularly to develop their relationships with God and with each other.



This is why just before one o'clock on Wednesdays, North Shore's hallways buzz with students scurrying in and out of the different classrooms. The big and the small, all jumbled into one eager stream of young people, hurry to get to their assigned room on time. Once inside, students greet each other before dividing up into individual groups for prayer. One of the students, Eljasz Perez, explains, "I like Wednesday prayer time because I get to socialize with my prayer partners."

Before beginning, however, those who feel comfortable share their concerns and blessings with the whole room. Most of the sharing deals with homework, grades and getting over colds. Sometimes prayer for a major illness in a family is requested or gratitude for God's care through very difficult circumstances. Bianca Gonzalez says she loves to pray with her partners, Temabor "Timmy" Duado, grade 7, and Allison Hohl, kindergarten, because they pray so well for guidance and protection. And after we are done, says Bianca, we have a group hug. "I am so happy that we started doing this prayer group," she concludes.

Once prayer in the different groups starts, it is particularly

heartwarming to see the way older students will often prompt and encourage the younger ones. "Prayer time makes me feel like I have the opportunity to encourage young kids to pray, and teach them how they can pray and what it feels like. Not only that, I make friends with some of the little ones, and they look up to me and love having me as a friend," says Brent Nequin, one of the older students.

To wrap up the session the teacher often offers a closing prayer and shares a Bible verse or two. Students are then encouraged to think about the verse throughout the rest of the day and to get into the habit of praying. Nathanael Velez pretty much sums up what Wednesday prayer time means for the school when he says, "It only takes five to 10 minutes, but it has an impact on how we go about our daily life. What we learn and share helps us understand ourselves and God a lot more."

Matthew Lukens is the ninth and tenth grade teacher at North Shore Adventist Academy in Chicago.

Photos (from left): Nathanael Velez, Elizabeth Gomez

A Miracle in Hudson

BY MIKE MARTLING

On the morning of October 9, 2010, I set off with nine students from Wisconsin Academy for Hudson, Wisconsin, near the Minnesota border. It was my first opportunity to be involved with Wisconsin Academy Youth (WAY) teams outreach program. WAY teams give students the opportunity to share their testimonies, musical talents and love for Jesus in Wisconsin churches. Accompanied by a staff member, students present the church service—sometimes even preaching the sermon—and help in afternoon outreach activities.

We had been invited by the Hudson company, a church plant of about 30 members, to conduct the Sabbath service and distribute a community needs questionnaire in the afternoon. I had several talented students with me: Melody Romero, Adele Marsh, Erica Gillen, Vanessa Aguilar, Naomi Ferral, Samsoni “Soni” Tulikihakau,



Lance Gates, Kimberly Rodriguez and Jessica McDowell. As we sped past illuminated barns where Wisconsin’s famous cows were being milked, I couldn’t help but wonder what the day might bring. What I didn’t realize were the amazing events the Holy Spirit had in store for us that day!

When we arrived in Hudson, our reception was warm and friendly as we were ushered into the private home used for the small company’s services. I knew the quality and talent of the students I had brought with me, and was very proud of the church service they provided. Their songs, prayers and personal testimonies seemed to touch the local congregation very deeply.

After a delicious potluck, we headed into Hudson’s neighborhoods to distribute a community survey designed to target specific local spiritual and physical needs. The “miracle” began at our second home. As Lance and Soni visited with the elderly lady who lived there, I introduced myself to her son. To my surprise he began to vent his frustrations about the “moral corruption of American society.” Then he stunned me! He shared his former affiliation with another faith group. “Do you know that they changed the Sabbath?” I told him we were Seventh-day Adventists, and from that point on he was more than willing to complete

the survey. After praying with him, we moved on to the next home.

A young college-age woman named Shannon greeted us at the door. When we introduced ourselves, her face lit up and immediately she began to testify to us about her love of the Lord. For the next 45 minutes we talked, laughed and sang with Shannon. She

even let us “autograph” her guitar. We could all sense we were in the presence of the Holy Spirit, and that He had dramatically brought us together. Soni says, “My trip to Hudson was an experience I will never forget! Shannon was going through a hard time in life and was praying for God to give her help. She believed we were an answer to prayer. What connected me to her was that we were reading the same book, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*. She asked if she could contact me to discuss the book and ask questions about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She and I are still in contact today.”

When we headed home to Wisconsin Academy later that evening, we knew something special had happened. We had been in the presence of the Lord—literally—and were changed by experience. It was very gratifying to see the glow of the Holy Spirit on the faces of my students, and none of us will ever forget our miracle in Hudson.

Mike Martling is the history teacher at Wisconsin Academy. Portions of this story contributed by Jeannie Buchholtz, an English teacher at Wisconsin Academy.

Photo: Wisconsin Academy students felt the presence of the Lord in Hudson, Wis., and were changed by the experience. From left (back): Jessica McDowell, Melody Romero, Adele Marsh, Erica Gillen, Soni Tulikihakau; (front): Kimberly Rodriguez, Vanessa Aguilar; not pictured: Lance Gates and Naomi Ferral



Small School Connection

BY ROBIN TUCKER

“When are we going to get together with the other schools again?” was the statement heard from several students after a Small School Connection activity.

The event was a Small School Connection event held in a central location, Springfield, Illinois. The students, representing four small Adventist schools in Illinois, had just completed another successful two-day bonding that would not be possible without the efforts of their teachers.

The Small School Connection is meant to integrate small schools in the Illinois Conference for various learning activities. Other past events have included Bible fairs, Lego Robotics, Challenger Space Center Program, a field trip to the Illinois State Capitol, a trip to the Adventist Heritage Museum and outdoor education.

This year students from the North Aurora School went to the Thompsonville School for a day of fellowship, a bike ride and a tour of Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). Then the Gurnee Christian School visited the North Aurora School and presented a bell choir workshop. Future events include an art fair hosted by the Crest Hill School.

Year in and year out, the Small School Connection event most attended and enjoyed is outdoor education. In Illinois, outdoor education is centrally located near Peoria at Camp Akita, offering students more than 600 acres of outdoor learning opportunities. Students love seeing their new friends for the several days that outdoor education lasts.

Other participants of Small School Connection include teachers, parents and church members. Additional Illinois small schools that participated in the past five years include Thompsonville, Marion, Rockford, Peoria and Richland Bridge.

The goal of the Small School Connection is to expand one’s environment, experience, academic knowledge and spiritual growth. And it does. This program has initiated many new friendships that may not have formed otherwise. It affords opportunities for interaction not only by other students, but also for teachers and parents of other small schools. In turn, the participants recognize and solidify their friendships at other events, including Pathfinders, camp meeting, bike-a-thon, academy and other church activities.

Beyond the social value, this program also gives teachers the opportunity to interact with each other professionally by utilizing cooperative teaching and learning strategies. They build on their strengths by pooling resources, implementing parental gifts and talents, and encouraging the students to fulfill their potential.

Students enjoy the socialization, fellowship and interaction with peers who have the same belief system. It is important to have friends who believe in the same things, and this is one of the key reasons parents send their children to an Adventist school. In short, the program also fosters a sense of belonging not only for the students, but also for parents and teachers alike.

It can be said that this innovative approach of connecting one- and two-teacher schools is leading the way in education.

Robin Tucker is the principal and a teacher at North Aurora School in Illinois.

Photo: Students from three Illinois Conference schools visit the cemetery in Battle Creek, Mich., where Ellen and James White lay at rest.





Good Adventist, Good Christian?

After 15 years, my friend talked about going back to church. I tried not to push too hard, but brought it up at every opportunity. One day, I mentioned something about a special children's Christmas program. He said he would maybe go with me that weekend. I could hardly contain myself!

Saturday morning came. My boots were shiny and my dress was pressed. I parked my car and walked toward him as he pulled into the parking lot. He jumped out of his car, big smile on his face. I froze. My smile turned into astonishment. I could not conceal the distress I felt. Standing before me was my friend in a hiking coat and a pair of baggy blue jeans.

It must have been only a few seconds, but I stood with my mouth open for what seemed an eternity. His smile faded as he stood there breathing puffs of cold air, hands in his pockets. Petrified, thoughts swirled in my head. *Do I go into church with him dressed like that despite my embarrassment? Was I ready to deal with the quizzical looks from church goers? Could I ignore the fact that I was walking into church with someone that looked like he just walked in off the street? Why hadn't I said something to him about church dress code?*

I couldn't do it. I couldn't walk into church with him that day. Through tears I explained that we don't usually dress like that for church. He apologized for not having realized it and said he would meet up with me for lunch later. I could feel his disappointment. He got in his car and drove away,

and I stood frozen with a heavy heart. What kind of a Christian was I? Following tradition, I let an opportunity pass for us to receive a blessing. In order to be a "good" Adventist, I took away an opportunity for God to touch our lives.

I didn't go to church that day. My heavy feet shuffled back to my car. I drove around aimlessly for an hour. I vowed to focus more on learning to be a real Christian. God would have been happy to see my friend in church. Jesus would have walked right into that church with him. My insecurities got the best of me. I pray that God will make me not only a good Adventist to share my faith, but more importantly a better Christian to spread the love Christ has for all of us, no matter how we look.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV).

Denisse Santos is a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

My Steps to Jesus

Finding my way to Jesus was a beautiful, wonderful struggle. At least I can say that now. When my journey first started, I didn't see it that way. I saw it as a constant battle, one I might never win.

My life hasn't always followed a Christian lifestyle. I married my first husband at 19. By 21, I had two children and was divorced. And, at the same time, I wasn't handling my problems very well. I was drinking, partying, smoking and even doing recreational drugs. I didn't think God cared what

happened to me. I thought this was the only way to relieve the pain I was in—pain from losing my father, from my marriage failing, and from feeling like a failure as a mom and as a person. I know my marriage failed partially due to me.

I fell in love with another man—Chris, who is now my

husband and my best friend. But I still felt guilty from leaving my first husband, even though our marriage was over before I fell in love with Chris.

In 2004, Chris and I had our daughter, Starlyn. I thought my life was finally on the right track. I thought all the pieces of my puzzle were coming together, but I was wrong. I still hadn't let Jesus into my life and into my heart yet.

Life was hard. Chris and I struggled to pay the bills, so I went to work. I worked the evening shift while Chris worked days. We never saw each other, and the kids didn't see me much at all. I truly felt lost, but I continued to work for three years. By the time I quit, I was falling apart. My blood pressure was up. I was sick all the time. I was depressed and stressed out. The doctors had me on 22 prescription pills a day. I honestly thought I was going to die.

I was ready to give up. I would have accepted death, but my mom, who has an abundance of faith, was there. I went to my mom's house one afternoon when I was feeling awful. She prayed with me. That night I slept all night long for the first time in a long time. My mom's faith and constant believing gave me a little peace. This is when I began to believe that there really is something to prayer and faith.

It wasn't too long after this that my little sister Jenny wanted to start Bible studies. She wanted to get closer to Jesus. After some thought, I asked Jenny if she would mind if I joined her. I was curious to learn more about our Lord and Savior and about the Bible. She thought it was great that I wanted to join. My son Linden joined, too, and so did our other sister, Patricia, and her daughter, Sammy. But the studies weren't going to start until after Jenny had her baby; so, until then, I started going to church and I really found myself enjoying it.

Shortly after Jenny's baby was born, we all started our Bible studies. During this time, I was still very sick and troubled. I was also still smoking. Our first Bible study was on truth. Although I was intrigued with what I was learning, I was still fighting with the truth of letting Jesus into my heart. I was angry that I felt so torn. I wasn't letting God deal with all my problems.

Mom was worried because I was still very ill. She told me I should ask the pastor for an anointing for healing. I did, and he showed me a verse in the book of John and told me

to pray about it. It seemed like God kept telling me "yes," so arrangements were made for my anointing after church services the next week.

Steve Nelson, my pastor, put me at ease by asking me what members of the church I wanted in the room with me, him and his wife, Samantha. I asked my mom, my step-dad Bill and my Uncle Brian.

They all asked God to heal me. During the anointing, I cried. Maybe it was all their faith and their desire to have Jesus heal me. Within a few weeks, I was feeling better. One day I woke up and no longer had the desire to smoke.

I realized God loves me, and He hadn't forsaken me. I had forsaken Him. I asked God for His forgiveness and to let the Holy Spirit in my heart.

When our Bible studies began, I had told my mom not

to get too excited about me doing these studies. I just wasn't sure where I would end up when we started.

Within the first couple of months of Bible studies, I felt a huge difference in me. I surrendered my life daily to my Lord and Savior. I also let go of anger and regrets I had been holding on to. I started smiling more. I was truly happy. I took myself off

most of the medications prescribed for me. God was working miracles in my life and my faith kept growing. I started reading everything I could about God and the Seventh-day Adventists.

The more my faith grew, the more things changed. My family became more harmonious. I wanted to be a better Christian, a better mom and wife. And, I wanted to be a better witness for Jesus Christ.

In July 2010, I decided I wanted to be baptized. I couldn't wait to start my life anew as part of Jesus' family. I wanted my sins washed away. My son Linden wanted to be baptized with me. After some thought, Jenny decided to be baptized with us. We were baptized September 11, 2010. Our baptism day was one of the greatest days of my life. As I stepped into the water, I cried tears of joy. I was grateful that our Savior died on that cross, so my sins could be washed away.

When I first started this journey, I didn't know where I would end up. Thanks to the faith of my mom who has stood beside me, and her love and the love of Jesus, I have found a new life—a life with Jesus at the helm.



Amanda Byam

Amanda Byam is a member of the Noble Church in Illinois.



Couple lives their faith at work, in the community

Church, family and work are intertwined in the lives of Tony and Michelle Castelbuono. The young couple serves on the board of the Naperville Seventh-day Adventist Church, looks forward to celebrating their sixth wedding anniversary and holds leadership positions at Adventist Midwest Health. Both feel blessed to be able to honor God in their community, their marriage and their careers.

“God is Number One in our lives,” Michelle said. “We’ve always planned to serve Him in some kind of business capacity; working at Adventist Midwest Health allows us to do that every day.”

Tony, 30, is regional compensation and human resources manager for the region. Michelle, 27, is finance manager for Adventist GlenOaks Hospital in Glendale Heights. Working for the same corporation continues the theme

of their young lives. Together and separately, Tony and Michelle spent years preparing to live out their faith. Both were raised in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and baptized during their pre-teen years. Both went to Adventist academies (Tony in Maryland and Michelle in Tennessee) where they went on mission trips to help build churches and conduct vacation Bible school.

They met in accounting class at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn. Tony graduated in 2004 and started working as an accountant at Tennessee Christian Medical Center, which was then part of Adventist Health System. Michelle graduated in 2005, and they were married in July of that year.

When Tennessee Christian Medical Center was sold in 2006, Tony accepted a human resources residency at the Adventist Health System corporate office in Winter Park, Fla. Soon after, Michelle got a job there as an internal auditor. When Tony completed his residency, he accepted the position

at Adventist Midwest Health in the spring of 2008. Michelle began her job in July of that year. The couple lives in Naperville and began attending the Naperville Seventh-day Adventist Church shortly after it formed.

“The first Sabbath we attended was when they were signing the charter to become an official church,” Michelle said. “We joined an energetic, enthusiastic group that was passionate about local evangelism, which was just what we were looking for.”

Tony heads the church’s evangelism efforts and Michelle is the head deaconess, facilitating the women’s ministry and social functions, “making sure those who come in our doors feel welcomed and comfortable,” she explained.

The couple supported outreach efforts into the Naperville community from September 2009 through September 2010. They held evangelistic meetings, and Tony led a Bible study on the books of Daniel and Revelation. Tony’s leadership in matters of faith is not confined to his congregation; he also leads a lunchtime Bible study group twice a month at his office.

The couple has strong family ties stretching throughout Adventist Health System and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Tony’s father is a pastor—as was his late grandfather—and serves two Seventh-day Adventist churches in Michigan. Michelle’s mother is a certified registered nurse anesthetist in Crossville, Tenn., and her father is a hospital pharmacy director there.

Their extended families are connected through yet another marriage: Michelle’s younger sister married Tony’s younger brother. The younger couple also works in healthcare; both are pursuing careers as physicians.

“It’s been a privilege,” Tony says of their life and work together. “We pray that God will continue to guide us.”

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health



Austin Ho

Happy undergraduate students show off their new Andrews Study Bible shortly after receiving the gift on Thursday, Jan. 20.

University students receive gift of the Andrews Study Bible

The Andrews University Board of Trustees is promoting spiritual growth on campus like never before. Thanks to generous donations given by board members, E. Edward and Ann Zinke of the Foundation for Adventist Education, Andrews faculty and staff, along with a host of other donors, all current University students were able to receive an *Andrews Study Bible* free-of-charge. Distributions took place in January just in time to get the Word of God into the hands of every student prior to Weeks of Spiritual Emphasis.

Before the beginning of fall semester, Andrews faculty and staff donated funds to the Bibles for Freshmen project. It provided an *Andrews Study Bible* for each incoming freshman. That project took on a new life at the October Board of Trustees meeting. Engineering student Sandra Prieto opened the board meeting with a word of prayer. Prieto, who had previously donated toward the Bibles for Fresh-

men project by sponsoring a Bible for an incoming Andrews freshman, then shared the impact the *Andrews Study Bible* gift had on her. That launched the Board of Trustees into a conversation of how they could also support the project. In a matter of minutes, the Board collectively pledged \$18,000 of their personal funds to expand the Bibles for Freshmen project to provide Bibles for all current students. In the end, those gifts combined with funds from the Foundation for Adventist Education and other donations totaled nearly \$64,000.

Graduate students received their *Andrews Study Bible* at the first distribution event on Thursday, Jan. 13, in the Howard Performing Arts Center. Students were asked to sit with classmates from their respective schools/college while deans, department chairs and faculty distributed the books.

During the graduate convocation service, Niels-Erik Andreasen, University president, engaged in conversation with Edwin Hernandez, an Andrews alum and a trustee who supported the *Andrews Study Bible* distribution project.

Hernandez recalled the October board meeting and said the decision to sponsor Bibles for all Andrews students was "Spirit-led." "We wanted to ensure all students had access to this extraordinary resource," Hernandez said.

"These study Bibles will not only help students grow spiritually but also scholastically," said graduate student Elkin Beltré. "I think that it was very generous and thoughtful of the board members to give this gift to us." Beltré is just one of many students who plan to use this gift for both personal devotions and academic study.

The distribution event for undergraduates came just one week later. Following chapel at Pioneer Memorial Church, Ron Whitehead, assistant to the president for spiritual life, shared with the students the story behind this gift.

"Most Christian universities give Bibles to students when they reach graduation," he explained, "...but 20 to 30 percent of students who start as freshmen won't make it to graduation! So we thought, 'Why not give one to them at the beginning?'"

A host of Office of Campus Ministries leaders and faculty/staff from across campus helped pass out the Bibles. Bookmarks highlighting a list of Sabbath school and small group opportunities to utilize the study Bible were also given out.

"It tells a lot about a person where they put their money. It's really nice to know the University cares that much about us to give out of their own pockets," said Kali Jardine, biology major. "I feel like the study Bible will be a tool I can use to refresh my devotional life and give me a new perspective on what I read. I'm excited for this opportunity and the blessings it will bring."

Ashleigh Jardine, student news writer, with additional reporting by Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

[EDUCATION NEWS]



Joy Ngugi and Talisa Gonzalez, RMES junior high students, assist another Benton Harbor Salvation volunteer during the holiday season.

Service reigns at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School

Michigan—Ruth Murdoch Elementary School (RMES) students let God use them in a special way to positively impact the lives of many individuals this year. One recent opportunity occurred when they hosted their annual “Family Christmas Party.”

Finding a new family to invite each year seems like it would be a struggle, but God had a plan. A family was easily found, and plans for the party began to move forward. Then one day something unexpected happened. “I felt impressed to visit the trailer park,” said junior high teacher, Phil Giddings. “I got to the business office and asked if there was a family in need this Christmas.” This is how he met another family in need, a single mother and her six young children. They were delighted to be a part of the event. Two families were blessed this year, and our students felt the satisfaction of serving others in a big way.

The Salvation Army is grateful for a little extra help this year, too. Chris Davisson and his junior high students have spent long days volunteering there. Filling baskets full of food, helping parents “shop” for gifts for their children, and carrying heavy loads to vehicles are just some of the ways the students were able to help out.

Raj Prabhu, RMES eighth grader, put in many volunteer hours with this group. When asked if he enjoyed working there, he said, “Yeah, it was fun! My favorite part was carrying the toys that were going to be given to the children, and saying

‘hello’ to the people as they came in.”

Our students also participated in “The Stay Warm Project,” which collects blankets for those in need. RMES was a designated drop-off point for blanket donations, and these were collected in a junior high classroom.

The junior high students, along with teachers Giddings and Arlene Bailey, were among the many RMES groups to spread Christmas cheer and news of Jesus’ birth by caroling at Apple Valley market. The sounds of brass, winds, strings and voices filled the market as guests stopped by to take it all in. Many blessings were gained by what our students shared.

Two outreach projects that our junior high students participate in all year are volunteering at Neighbor to Neighbor, our community services center, and working at Apple Valley market. These opportunities are part of a course appropriately named “Outreach.”

James 2:14–16 (NLT) reads, “What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, ‘Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well’—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?” Our students are learning, through practice, to have that faith and to give to others as well.

God has truly blessed Ruth Murdoch Elementary School with amazing teachers and enthusiastic students who support tremendous service efforts.

Wendy Keough, principal’s assistant, Ruth Murdoch Elementary School, Berrien Springs, Mich.



Jasmine Davison, 14, put her life in God’s hands and realized her dream of Adventist education.

Student trusts God to help her attend Indiana Academy

Indiana—Jasmine Davison, 14 years old and a freshman at Indiana Academy, shared her powerful testimony during Friday evening vespers shortly after school began.

Jasmine was born in Pontiac, Mich., and lived there about five years. Her family then moved to Indianapolis, Ind., where she was able to attend Indianapolis Junior Academy for kindergarten through fourth grade. After this, due to family needs, Jasmine attended public school until the end of her eighth-grade year.

Jasmine always wanted to attend an Adventist school again; and as the years advanced, joining the ranks at Indiana Academy (IA) became a strong desire. She said, “I wanted to get closer to God and be a witness for Him, as well as being at a Christian school where others could witness to me, too. I knew I would have more opportunities at IA for this.” Even though she would leave behind many of her public school friends, Jasmine felt convicted IA was the best place for her. So, she and her family and friends started praying.

At this time, both of Jasmine’s

parents were out of work, and the family budget was very tight for Jasmine and her siblings and step-siblings. Her father kept promising to do his best to make a way for Jasmine to attend IA, but nothing seemed to be happening. In fact, one-and-a-half weeks before school started, Jasmine's dad said he would look into a charter school for her to attend. Jasmine felt very low.

With a not-giving-up attitude, Jasmine said, "At some time in my life, I remembered hearing about fasting and how it helped to clear your mind so you could get an answer from the Lord." So Jasmine talked and prayed with her mother about it, and started fasting. She didn't have to wait long for an answer. It came the very next day when Jasmine's mother got a call from Allan Smith, recruiter at Indiana Academy. He told her mother there had been an anonymous donation on Jasmine's behalf, which would allow her to attend Indiana Academy. "When my mom picked me up from work that day, she said, 'You are going!' I was so excited and thankful," said Jasmine. "And," she added, "my dad was offered a job the very next day, which will also help me to stay at IA."

Jasmine is enjoying her life at Indiana Academy. "I really like it here," says Jasmine. "I have so many new friends. ... I think it is really cool that people can share the same beliefs here and offer support to one another."

In addition, Jasmine works as the receptionist and phone attendant at Indiana Academy. She is the freshman class president, parliamentarian of the Tinegas Girl's Club, and is in Choralanas, Acrobatics, and taking voice lessons. This experience may likely impact Jasmine the rest of her life. She is a great witness for Jesus, and has a sweet smile as she goes about her day. God does care about the lives of everyone and wants the very best for His children. One teenager's faith, one financial obstacle and one answer to prayer. What a lesson to us all.

Kathy Brewer Griffin, development director,
Indiana Academy



North Shore Adventist Academy K-12 choir under the direction of Juvy Loriezo presents "Glory in the Highest."

North Shore Adventist Academy blesses community with Christmas music

Illinois—Music is a universal language, sometimes reaching people who could not be witnessed to in other ways. Jesus values children, so what better way for a church to witness to its community than through its school? Hundreds of members of the community on Chicago's north side were blessed by the many holiday musical events presented by North Shore Adventist Academy (NSAA). The students' performances were received with joy, gratitude and even a few tears. Interest in the school and church were sparked when the audiences could hear what a superior music program NSAA has.

The Christmas season was welcomed by the jazz band, a 20-member group of students under the direction of Steve Martin. Students presented a concert at Gold Mill Mall, a shopping center in nearby Niles. It was standing room only as the jazz band drew in the crowds with their jazzy renditions of some carols that could rouse the Christmas spirit in anyone.

The 32-member NSAA concert band, again under Martin's direction, wowed a crowd of hundreds when they performed at the Lincolnwood Town Center, a neighborhood shopping center close to NSAA. The beautiful music floated to the second floor where many

more leaned over the railing listening to the students from grades four through 12 perform on their various instruments. A few parents and others even requested information about the school. What a wonderful way to present our school!

The Christmas Cantata, "Glory in the Highest," was presented on a Sabbath afternoon at North Shore Church, under the direction of Juvy Loriezo. The entire school population, including teachers, took part in this touching choral performance detailing the birth of Christ. The church was packed as the children sang about the miracle of Jesus' birth.

The final performance of the season was when the concert band performed their annual Christmas concert, "Hallelujah," in the school gym. Parents, relatives, friends and members of the community attended this exciting event that always provides a time of fun, great music and fellowship for not only those listening, but also for those who participate.

The Bible tells us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and praise Him with instrument and voice. NSAA proved to be a wonderful outreach to its community this holiday season. With a music program that has been in place for more than 25 years, I believe it will continue to spread God's love and His message of salvation for many years to come.

Amy Maranan, parent of a student, North
Shore Adventist Academy

Zariya Suggs wins 8th Continent Art Contest

Michigan—Berrien Springs third grader, Zariya Suggs, was recognized as a winner in a national art contest sponsored by Stremicks Heritage Foods, manufacturer of the 8th Continent Soymilk brand. Zariya's school, Ruth Murdoch Elementary School, along with the schools of 99 other contest winners were awarded a \$1,000 gift card from Blick Art Materials for a total of \$100,000 for their school art programs.

Zariya entered the contest last summer. Her mother was very supportive of her efforts in this art contest, and that's part of what makes Zariya's win so special. Ruth Murdoch Elementary School faculty and staff are so proud of Zariya and pleased to have such supportive families in their school."

It is very fitting that Zariya would choose to draw a sun," says Katherine Hickerson, Zariya's third grade teacher. "Her picture reflects the happiness that dwells within her on a daily basis. Her class is very proud of her and will enjoy the benefits of her win." Hickerson plans to buy construction paper and



Zariya Suggs (right) was a winner in the Stremicks Heritage Foods' 8th Continent Art Contest. Her school received a \$1,000 gift card for its school art program from Blick Art Materials. Also pictured: Kathryn Hickerson, RMES third grade teacher

markers for her class with a portion of the prize money awarded to the school.

"As a family owned and operated company, we believe in the importance of education and of self-expression. As many schools across the U.S. and in our home state of California face fewer resources for art education programs,

we're excited to support our schools and promote creativity among our youth by awarding \$100,000 to winners' schools as part of the 8th Continent Art Contest," said Lou Stremick, owner, Stremicks Heritage Foods.

The 8th Continent Art Contest invited children and families across the U.S. to submit their sun-inspired artwork on www.8thcontinent.com/sun. During the contest, more than 7,200 sun designs were submitted. Design submissions were featured in an online gallery at www.8thcontinent.com/sun where members of the public rated the artwork from one to five stars. Ratings by the public determined half of the 100 winners, with the remaining 50 selected by the team at Stremicks Heritage Foods. The 100 winning designs can now be viewed on www.8thcontinent.com/sun.

The contest coincided with the debut of new 8th Continent Soymilk packaging featuring bright sun graphics, with a unique sun on each carton. A selection of winning designs will appear on 8th Continent Soymilk cartons.

Wendy Keough, principal's assistant, Ruth Murdoch Elementary School

Sutton's Bay trip offers opportunity to see wisdom of the Creator

Michigan—Designed to provide a field experience that stimulates learning and interest in the areas of math and science, Battle Creek Academy high school students traveled to Sutton's Bay on the west arm of Grand Traverse Bay in Michigan, Sept. 13 and 14, 2010.

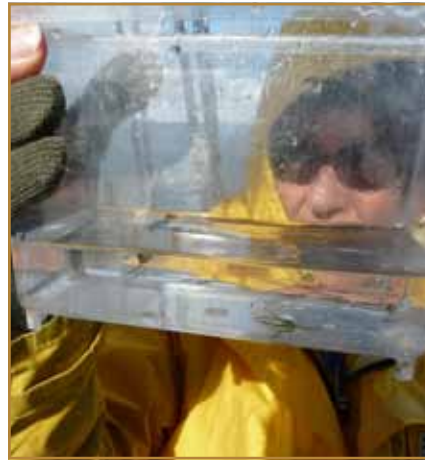
In a program titled, "School Ship," students hoisted sails and navigated a schooner that was patterned after a 19th century boat. They experienced hands-on learning as they rotated



A field trip to Sutton's Bay on the west arm of Grand Traverse Bay in Michigan provided Battle Creek Academy students with an opportunity for hands-on learning.

through six stations that included fish trawling, plankton tow sampling, dredge (or bottom) sampling, identifying benthos (or bottom critter), navigating, and learning about and practicing seamanship. The samples they collected were recorded to become part of a Department of Natural Resources study that is ongoing in the bay.

Remarks from students included: "I liked the fishing part and learning about the fish population in the lake"; "Learned a lot of lake species. Lake Michigan was awesome"; and "I really liked the sailing songs and the swimming. The coolest thing that I learned



Water samples collected by the students were recorded to become part of an ongoing Department of Natural Resources study of the bay.

is that erosion is caused by small steps in the small grass on the dune."

The young scholars learned much about the ecology and biology of Lake Michigan and aquatic biology in general. They have also investigated the ecology of Sleeping Bear Dunes, with a tour sponsored by a Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park Ranger, to learn about exotic and rare species peculiar to the dunes, contemplated ecological relationships and witnessed erosion. It was an awesome opportunity to see the wisdom of the Creator, and we know they will remember it forever.

Elvis Agard, principal, Battle Creek Academy

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



On January 5, Philip Willis Jr. (right), U.S. Army deputy brigade chaplain, was presented the Order of Titus award by Douglas Carver, U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains.

Philip Willis Jr. receives U.S. Army Order of Titus award

Lake Region—Lake Region Conference pastor Philip Willis Jr. is a recent recipient of the U.S. Army's Order of Titus award. In addition to pastoring

two churches in the Lake Region Conference, Willis is a chaplain with the rank of major in the National Guard. He was presented with the Order of Titus award by Douglas Carver, U.S. Army chief of chaplains, on January 5, at Ft. Jackson, S.C.

According to a Nov. 3, 2010, memorandum from the Department of the Army, the "Order of Titus award is the only award presented by the Chief of Chaplains to recognize outstanding performance of ministry by chaplains and chaplain assistants. The Order of Titus is awarded for meritorious contributions to the unique and highly visible Unit Ministry Team Observer Controller Program. The award recognizes the great importance of realistic, doctrinally guided combat ministry training in ensuring the delivery of prevailing religious support to the American Soldier."

The name Titus was chosen for the award because of the "objective content of the verse encouraging 'setting things in order and being of sound doctrine.'" See Titus 1:5, 9, 10-12.

In the past two years, Willis mentored and trained 20 Unit Ministry Teams deploying to various parts of the world. He also taught classes (Ethics, Resiliency, Suicide Awareness, Mild

Traumatic Brain Injury, Battle Mind and Combat Stress) to 1,990 soldiers deploying overseas. He says, "I developed a unique and aggressive style of situational training exercises that prepared chaplains and assistants for the worst case scenario in contingency operations." Willis' techniques and procedures were implemented with other observer controllers division-wide.

Reflecting on the award, Willis shared, "This honor is especially valuable to me because I didn't anticipate the award. I volunteered for the position, because I simply wanted to give young men and women as well as deploying chaplains a realistic truth that would transcend the hardships that they would encounter in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Kuwait and the Horn of Africa. This award confirms that I continued the charge of Titus 'to set in order the things that are lacking,' and to 'speak the things which become sound doctrine' (see Titus 1:5; 2:1). I am grateful for this because it validates my passion for teaching, training and mentoring these past two years."

Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference



Eddye Benedict led out in the cooking school attended by 52 community guests.

Holiday cooking school a success

Michigan—The holiday cooking school held the first of December 2010 by the Jackson Church was a great success. Fifty-two community guests attended the event coordinated by Eddye Benedict who was assisted by many volunteers. The goal of the event was to teach how to make simple entrees using items any person could find in a community grocery store. There were vegan and non-vegan recipes available.

Approximately 26 recipes were available for tasting, and many rave reviews were heard from those who attended.

“Thank you for sending me an invitation,” one lady commented.

Another said, “I love your food! I am really thankful to learn how to prepare vegetarian entrees that really taste good.”

Another lady wrote: “Thank you for the recipes. My sister and I were told about the cooking class by my friend. We are all so glad we attended. I have marked my cookbook in order to try many of the dishes you had prepared. Although not strictly vegetarian, I agree our society eats way too much red meat, and I am always looking for meat substitute dishes. You

have given me several options. If anyone walked away from the class hungry, it was their own fault. The samples were great and a generous sampling. They were served quickly by a great staff of volunteers. I don’t think I would change anything about the class. Am looking forward to the next one. ... Do you do just the one a year at holiday time?”

The Jackson Church shares a couple of recipes from the cooking school with *Lake Union Herald* readers. See the online version of this article at www.lakeunionherald.org.

The Jackson Church always follows up their outreach activities. They put all the names of people who attend the events on a master mail list. Then when the church has activities, invitations are sent to everyone on the list. The Hamblin Company places ads in newspapers also. Currently, there are approximately 800 names on the mail list.

A follow-up event is planned for the those who attended the cooking school. The church will host LifeStyle Matters, a four-night lecture series, March 15, 17, 22 and 24. The event will be held in the local hospital auditorium. Topics to be shared include: “Simple Solutions: Diabetes and Weight Control”; “Diet and Stress: Tam-



Dan Henning, Jackson Church member, loved his job as a “server.”

ing Chronic Stress and Depression”; “Living Free: Finding Freedom from Habits that Hurt”; and “Mind Set Matters: Achieving and Maintaining Long-term Goals.” Each night a full meal (tasting only) will be served as guests arrive. The samples are delicious and beautifully laid out and served. People love this! LifeStyle Matters seminars are the way to go for outreach to the community. They are very affordable. For information about LifeStyle Matters, call Sheri Christie at 517-316-1527 or e-mail schristie@misda.org.

Other outreach programs include a depression seminar planned for later in the spring, a family seminar and vacation Bible school. For information about other upcoming events at the Jackson Church, call 517-914-1847.

In addition, Jackson Church members are sharing recipes to compile a cookbook. For additional information about the cookbook, contact Madlyn Hamblin at 517-423-7491, or e-mail madlynh@hamblincompany.com.

Madlyn Hamblin, member, Jackson Church

Portions reprinted from the Jackson Church newsletter, January 2011. Used with permission.

House-to-house labor yields Bible study contacts

Michigan—With a bone-numbing wind chill of 6°F and six inches of snow on the ground, 26 brave, snugly-dressed individuals from the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plymouth, went knocking on doors of residents in Livonia, on Jan. 15. Led by their pastor, Jim Howard, and Bible worker, Joshua Plohocky, the intent of these brave characters was to corral Bible study interests.

Holding clipboards in their frigid fingers, Metropolitan members conducted a “Community Religious Survey” of any occupants who were willing to answer their doors. It was so cold pens would not write, but still these laborers for Christ trudged forward. Included in the group were six of the church’s youth.



In bone-chilling temperatures, Metropolitan Church members in Plymouth, Mich., ventured out to find individuals who desired to study the Word of God.

They, along with the others, excitedly questioned any who would respond about their religious background and noted if they desired to learn more about the Bible. All in all, it is estimated that 200 homes were contacted that afternoon. Even if no one answered the door, these workers left a Bible study interest card which homeowners could mail back to receive Bible studies.

When all returned to the church to thaw out and report on the outcome

of their effort, there were eight searching persons who had signed up to learn more about the holy Word of God. All went home that day knowing they followed the guidance given, “This house-to-house labor, searching for souls, hunting for the lost sheep, is the most essential work that can be done” (*Evangelism*, p. 431).

Joy Hyde, communications secretary,
Metropolitan Church



Angela Coppock proudly displays “Snow Queen” and her first place ribbon.

Sunset Speedsters ministry offers food, faith, fellowship

Indiana—“Ready, set, go!” All eyes are on the track as the three cars are released. Men, women and children of all ages have come to see who will win. Some watch their creations compete, others are spectators. This season’s children’s trophy winner Angela Coppock,

age eight, races “Snow Queen” and tells us what she likes best about racing, “I like seeing my friends win, and especially myself.”

These races are part of a pinewood derby ministry that began at South Bend First SDA Church, two years ago. Dave Langwell came to Don Hales to discuss the need for a derby club where people could rub shoulders and minister to each other. Today it is an opportunity for food, faith and fellowship. The meetings are monthly on Saturday nights for a couple of hours. They start around sunset with worship and prayer followed by racing, hence the name “Sunset Speedsters.”

Derby racing has become a ministry within the church and hopefully will lead to outreach opportunities in the community. An inactive church member who enjoys building and racing cars attends competitions regularly. Participants often find it’s something they can put themselves into, a niche. It’s a chance to build their “dream car” and race it on neutral ground. Dan Mills, a newly baptized member says, “It’s fun to have Chris-

tian fellowship and spending time with brothers and sisters in Christ.” For the men of the church it has been an opportunity to get to know each other. Hales reports, “I have gotten to know the men of the church so much better, some I barely knew before, and now we are like best friends.” For church members with young children, it’s a chance to build cars together.

Sunset Speedsters would love to see the racing circuit grow and see more outside participation. They have been to the La Porte Church to race, and have supporters in Elkhart, South Bend Berean and Niles Westside Churches. Nearby churches and schools are great opportunities for fellowship and growth. Advertisements are often posted in newspapers, at Andrews University and on radio Web sites.

Please feel free to contact Don Hales if you would like to join in, or if you have more questions. His e-mail address is chairpilot@embarqmail.com.

Sandi Lee, member, South Bend First
Seventh-day Adventist Church

Announcements

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

Andrews University

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

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.

Mar. 23: Wind Symphony and Middle School Concert, 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 26: Guest Faculty Violin Recital, 8:30 p.m.

Registration Open for Adventist Engaged Encounter. Adventist Engaged Encounter (AEE) is an enrichment weekend for engaged and recently married couples. The next AEE weekend is **Mar. 4-6**. To register, contact the Undergraduate Leadership Program at aee@andrews.edu or call 269-471-6636.

Illinois

Broadview Academy Alumni Association encourages all alumni to attend Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend on **Apr. 29 and 30**. Honor classes are: 1951, '61, '71, '81, '86, '91 and 2001. The weekend includes Fri. night Vespers, Sabbath school and church. For communication purposes send your e-mail address to Ed Gutierrez at ed.julie1@att.net, or call 630-232-9034.

Indiana

Music Festival offers Indiana students in grades 5-10 a very special opportunity to participate in choir, band and/or hand chimes. This year's clinicians are: Michael Sandvik (choir) and Terry Koch (band). For additional information about this **Mar. 31-Apr. 2** event,

go to <https://sites.google.com/site/indianamusicfest2011/>.

Sabbath Celebration is an annual event for every Adventist in Indiana and beyond, and for those interested in the Adventist message. On Sabbath, **Apr. 2**, join friends and fellow-believers for this very special occasion. Sabbath school begins at 9:20 a.m. Gene Hall, Holland (Mich.) Church pastor, will speak for the 11:00 o'clock service in the Indiana Academy gymnasium in Cicero. At 2:30 p.m., music festival participants will join together in a mass choir. There will be band and hand chime performances as well.

Lake Region

Women's Retreat: "Women of Strength" is the theme of this **Oct. 27-30** event at the Grand Geneva Retreat & Spa in Lake Geneva, Wis. Registration online at PlusLine at <http://www.plusline.org/eventdetail.php?id=1066791>. Reserve a room online at <http://booking.ihotelier.com/istay/istay.jsp?groupID=534852&hotelID=73001> or by calling 1-800-558-3417. Ask for Lake Region Women's Retreat to get the special rate. Spouses welcome. Visit www.LRCWM.org for more retreat details. Encourage others to come!

Lake Union

Offerings

Mar. 5 Local Church Budget

Mar. 12 Adventist World Radio

Mar. 19 Local Church Budget

Mar. 26 Local Conference Advance

Special Days

Mar. 5 Women's Day of Prayer

Mar. 6-12 Adventist Youth Week of Prayer

Mar. 19 Disabilities Awareness Sabbath

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

Mar. 2 Southern Asia Division

Legal Notice: The 21st business session of the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, on **May 15, 2011**. The first meeting of the session will convene at 9:00 a.m. on May 15. This session is being held for the purpose of receiving reports for the five-year period ending December 31, 2010; the election of officers, assistant treasurers, departmental directors and associate directors, an executive committee for the ensuing five years; to consider proposed constitutional changes; and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Don Livesay, president

Rodney A. Grove, secretary

Michigan

Marriage Commitment Retreat, Mar. 11-13: Commit to do something great for your marriage at beautiful Camp Au Sable. There are seminars designed to strengthen your marriage, time for fun and fellowship, and lots of other special activities planned. Speakers this year will be Dwight and Karen Nelson from the Berrien Springs area. For more information, call Alyce at 517-316-1543 or e-mail ablackmer@misda.org. Download an application at www.misda.org.

Great Lakes Adventist Academy invites all students in grades 8-11 to come to Academy Days, **Apr. 17-18**. Visit classes, make new friends, enjoy current students and experience boarding academy life. Registration is from 4-5 p.m. on Sun. To register, visit our Web site at www.glaa.net, call Hilda Reichert at 989-427-5181, or e-mail glaa@misda.org.

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion will take place **June 9-12** for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1961 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1931, '41, '51 and '61. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or visit www.GLAA.net for further information.

North American Division

Los Angeles Adventist Academy will honor the alumni from the classes of 1941, '51, '61, '71, '81, '91 and 2011 at its 3rd Annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend on **Mar. 11-13**. This event will take place on the campus of LAAA located at 846 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90059. For more information, call us at 323-321-2585, ext. 229, e-mail us at alumnilaaa@gmail.com, or visit our Web site at www.alumnilaaa.com.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend will be held **Apr. 29-May 1**. Honor classes are: 1951, '61, '71, '81, '86, '91, '96, 2001 and 50+ years. Many exciting weekend activities are planned. For more information, contact the LSA Alumni office at 951-351-1445, ext. 244, or e-mail ltaalumni@lsak12.com.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Mar 4	Mar 11	Mar 18	Mar 25	Apr 1	Apr 8
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:40	6:47	7:55	8:03	8:10	8:17
Chicago, Ill.	5:45	5:53	7:01	7:08	7:16	7:23
Detroit, Mich.	6:26	6:34	7:43	7:50	7:58	8:05
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:40	6:47	7:55	8:02	8:08	8:16
La Crosse, Wis.	5:58	6:07	7:15	7:24	7:31	7:40
Lansing, Mich.	6:32	6:40	7:49	7:56	8:04	8:12
Madison, Wis.	5:51	5:59	7:08	7:16	7:23	7:32
Springfield, Ill.	5:54	6:02	7:09	7:16	7:22	7:29

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

Birthdays



Violet (Kowitz) Tebelius celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 6, 2010, by a meal at Old Country Buffet Restaurant with members from Kenosha, Racine and Emmanuel (Wis.) Churches. She has been a member of the Kenosha Church for 44 years.

Violet was married to the late Eugene Tebelius.

Violet was an elementary school teacher for 41 years. She began teaching in North Dakota and then continued in Kenosha until her retirement in 1975. She has spent many years serving as church clerk, pianist and children's Sabbath school teacher. Still living in her own home, she attributes her successful aging and reliable memory to doing crossword puzzles, traveling and her Christian lifestyle.

Violet has one child: Marlon and Linda Tebelius of Kenosha; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Weddings

Shelli K. Johnson and Justin F. Okimi were married Sept. 5, 2010, in Clear Lake, Wis. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Rich Carlson.

Shelli is the daughter of Sheldon and Sally Johnson of Clear Lake, and Justin is the son of Gerald and Rosemary Okimi of Hagersville, Ontario, Canada.

The Okimis are making their home in Smyrna, Ga.

Anniversaries

Arthur and Mary Covell celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Sept. 1, 2010, by a dinner with family and friends

at the Olive Garden restaurant in Traverse City, Mich. They have been members of the Traverse City Church for 26 years.

Arthur Covell and Mary Fink were married Sept. 1, 1940, in Trenton, N.J. Arthur has been a pastor in N.J. and Mich., and was Community Services director for a number of years before retirement. After retirement, he continued to serve as interim pastor in various Mich. churches. Mary has been a receptionist in the Michigan Conference office.

The Covell family includes Douglas Covell of Bradenton, Fla.; Dennis and Ann Covell of Kingsley, Mich.; Deborah and Ernie Poston of Tenn.; and eight grandchildren.

Obituaries

ARTMAN, Irene G. (Wentz), age 94; born Nov. 14, 1915, in New Ulm, Minn.; died Oct. 11, 2010, in Terre Haute, Ind. She was a member of the Terre Haute Church.

Survivors include her sister-in-law, Margaret Artman.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ernest Peckham, and interment was in Valhalla Memory Gardens Cemetery, Bloomington, Ind. An additional graveside service was conducted by Elder Art Blankenship.

BAKER, Norman, age 83; born Aug. 22, 1927, in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; died Sept. 17, 2010, in Hinsdale, Ill. He was a member of the La Grange-Brookfield Church, La Grange, Ill.

Survivors include his wife, Norma (Thomas); daughters, Pam Mikos, Barbara Girten and Susan Dillon; brothers, Oliver and Francis; and 15 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Stanley Hagen, and interment was in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Stickney, Ill.

BANDEL, Lynne M. (Nudd), age 58; born Jan. 10, 1952, in Rochester, N.Y.; died July 1, 2010, in Arcadia, Ind. She was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Kurt; sons, Aaron D. and Matthew C.; daughters,

Amy J. Robinson and Rebecca M. Vaupel; father, Floyd E. Nudd; mother, Edith M. (Richardson) Nudd; brothers, Garry and Randy Nudd; sister, Diane E. Nudd; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ron Kelly, and interment was in Perkinsville Cemetery, Anderson, Ind.

BASCOM, June (Flowers), age 71; born Sept. 15, 1938; died May 29, 2010, in Keene, Texas. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Merle; son, Kevin; daughters, Teresa Bascom and Lydia Calhoun; mother, Frances Flowers; sisters, Billie Cross and Daphne Best; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dwight K. Nelson, and interment was in Keene Memorial Park Cemetery.

BRANDT, Jean M. (Bement), age 76; born Jan. 28, 1933, in Holland, Mich.; died Nov. 30, 2009, in White Cloud, Mich. She was a member of the Fremont (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, La Vern W.; sons, James L., Dennis L. and Scott A.; father, Earl Bement; mother, Beulah (Brown) Bement; brother, Milton E. Bement; sister, Edith J. Thompson; 10 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ron Mills, and James and Dennis Brandt, and interment was in Lincoln Twp. Cemetery, Lincoln, Mich.

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

Survivors include his wife, Sonja (Smith); daughters, Tammy Norton and Debbie Shadel; sister, Rosemarie Humphrey; and four grandchildren.

Private inurement has taken place.

HERWICK, Hazel G. (FitzGerald), age 83; born Sept. 5, 1925, in West De Pere, Wis.; died June 13, 2009, in Centuria, Wis. She was a member of the Frederic (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Danny; daughters, Linda Rosen, Sally Johnson and Nancy Schultz; brothers, Raymond and Stephen FitzGerald; sister, Matie Crawford; 11

grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Don Corkum, and interment was in Milltown (Wis.) Cemetery.

SEHY, Thomas M., age 50; born Nov. 18, 1959, in Vicksburg, Mich.; died Aug. 17, 2010, in Harrison, Mich. He was a member of the Clare (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Cheryl A. (Bailey); sons, Thomas J. Sehy and Adam Lee Carlton; daughter, Jennifer J. Cosgrove; brothers, David, Edward and Terry; sister, Marilyn Allen; and nine grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Russell Thomas, and interment was in Summerfield Twp. Cemetery, Leota, Mich.

SNOW, Norm J., age 74; born Dec. 10, 1935, in Belding, Mich.; died Oct. 28, 2010, in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his son, Dean; daughter, Lois Nicholas; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

No funeral services were held, with private inurement.

TAYLOR, Donald, age 97; born Dec. 15, 1912, in Northern Wis.; died Sept. 15, 2010, in Berwyn, Ill. He was a member of the La Grange-Brookfield Church, La Grange, Ill.

Survivors include his son, Donald Jr.; daughters, Carol Thomas and Marjorie Steven; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Stanley Hagen, and interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery Mausoleum, Forest Park, Ill.

ZIMMERMAN, Ailene R. (Demerest), age 85; born July 5, 1924, in Stanton, Mich.; died Mar. 16, 2010, in Okemos, Mich. She was a member of the East Lansing (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Kirt; brother, Marvin Demerest; sisters, Maxine Sorensen and Evelyn Schumacher; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Roy Castelbuono and David Shin, and interment was in Summit Cemetery, Williamston, Mich.

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ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking a law student for an 8-week summer clerkship in 2011. Limited to students who have finished only one year of law school. Must be in top 25% of class. Duties include legal research and other projects. Please send résumé and transcript to david.gordon@ahss.org.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time Chemistry professor beginning July 2011. Candidates must have an earned master's degree in chemistry. Preference will be given to candidates with secondary teaching certification. Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing and hold a short-term interpretation of creation. Please send vitae, statement of teaching philosophy and three letters of reference to Dr. Rhonda Scott, Chair, Chemistry Department, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370; phone 423-236-2932; or e-mail rjscott@southern.edu.



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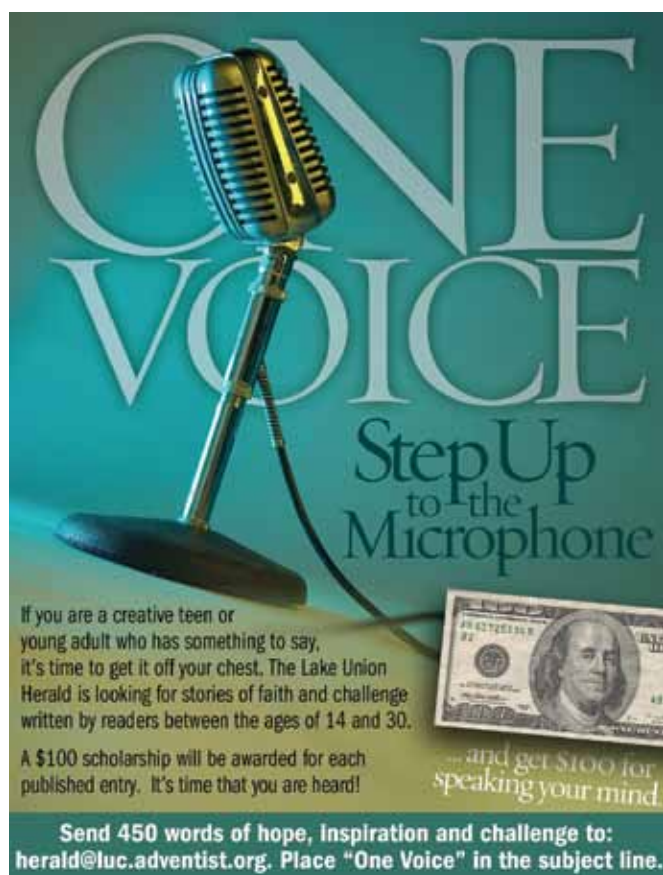


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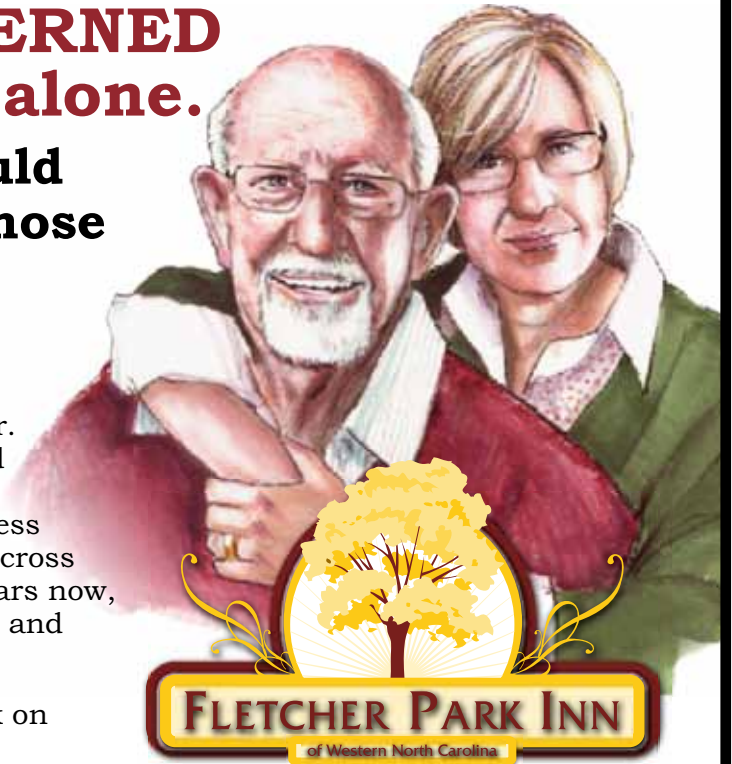
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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Cookie-Cutter

Kids

BY GARY BURNS



Recently, a former student requested I dedicate their new baby. I must say this privilege is one of the greatest joys and honors—to celebrate the miracle of life with parents committed to raising their child in partnership with God.

I have been amazed at the unique and diverse “knitting” the Creator accomplishes for His grand purpose. If He is a “cookie-cutter” Creator, then He must have an infinite number of used-one-time-only cookie-cutters. Each of us is as unique as snowflakes. When it comes to parenting and teaching our children, we must remember that one size does not fit all. Our responsibility is to partner with the Creator in prayer to help our children discover their unique calling and purpose—to help them realize they are gifted by special design—

that their true fulfillment and happiness will only come when they discover what they were created to love and enjoy. That means sacrificing our own ambitions, goals and dreams in deference to the ones God inspires them to have. My heart aches when I hear of parents who try to live out their own unattained ambitions of being a beauty queen or sports hero through their four-year-old, when God may have designed a writer, artist, teacher or public servant.

By listening in prayer, by observing and encouraging their gifts, talents and abilities in response to the Holy Spirit's prompting, we can partner with the One who knew them before they were born. They, and we, can experience the joy of a life fulfilled for His glory.

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

Faith Is Like High School

BY HEATHER MARIE THOMPSON

At eight years old, I thought my mother was the most beautiful woman in my world. She had perfect blonde hair and sharp green eyes. I found a picture of her sometime that year of when she was a teenager. It was the end of the 70s, and she was wearing black leather pants and a white blouse. I hid that picture in my room as if it were a buried secret treasure.

I loved watching her get ready in the mornings. My mother, still the woman in my hidden picture, only now she had traded her leather pants for dress skirts. I wondered if she hid those black leather pants somewhere just as I had hidden that photo. Perhaps, if I held my breath long enough, I'd one day sprout into that girl whose sparkling smile was trapped in the image.

At 14, I entered high school. I was terrified to be seen and equally as scared to go unnoticed. It seemed the other girls became women over the summer. Their bodies suddenly flawless, and they exuded this aura that spoke through the silence that they had grown up. I was still as shapeless and skinny as I was in middle school, and the only thing my aura exuded was invisibility. I was madly in love with Rocky Boswell, my class's star athlete. He was kind enough to share about all the girls he was madly in love with, none of which ever happened to be me.

Sometimes I still feel as though I am eight or 14 years old, watching from the sidelines, invisible, as life happens for everyone else. There's a sick and twisted monster living inside me, making me believe that no matter what I do, I'll never be good enough.



Christians spend a lot of time and effort trying to convince ourselves to have faith in God. I feel as though we have it all backwards. Faith in God is easy. He's that star athlete in every small town high school, or woman in the picture you know you'll never be. He's perfect. It's hard to feel anything but invisible to someone so far out of our league. "Surely He isn't looking at me," I think to myself.

In a way, it's kind of like all of life is like your freshmen year of high school. When the most popular kid in school tells you they saved a seat for you at lunch, you

don't point out to them that you're a loser and that the seat should go to someone cooler. You seize the chance, and jump on your opportunity to reverse your invisibility.

God, the Bright and Morning Star of the universe, thinks you're someone pretty special. He's got a seat saved just for you at His table, so put some faith into yourself and get out there and seize your moment to be someone. Trust me; He's looking right at you. So how are you going to use this incredible opportunity?

Heather Marie Thompson is a M.A. student at Andrews University, and the author of *Hook, Line and Sink*, a Christian dating book for teens released in February.

The Voice of Youth

BY GARY BURNS

Those who are unable to attend regular worship services depend on WAUS (the Andrews University radio station) to provide a Sabbath worship experience. They are familiar with the voice of Chelsey Cameron, the radio announcer for the Pioneer Memorial Church 11:30 a.m. worship service. This broadcast is also an outreach to the community. A number of loyal WAUS listeners appreciate the music, preaching and worship experience of Pioneer.



Bryan Fellows

Chelsey Cameron

Chelsey, a junior at Andrews Academy, is one of six students who work at the John and Dede Howard Studios at Andrews University. The students receive professional coaching and evaluation on a regular basis to ensure the right "voice" for the thousands of loyal community listeners throughout southwest Michigan and northwest Indiana.

Being where faith meets action, to bring the presence of Christ where the people are, is a big part of who Chelsey is. In addition to serving as a counselor for Pioneer's Fun Learning About God (FLAG) summer camp program, Chelsey has served in Chile with Maranatha, on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in northeast Montana, and just recently on the Service Outreach Witness (SOW) Safari to Mexico with Andrews Academy. She says working with the children brings her great joy and a real appreciation for the blessings many of us take for granted. Chelsey sees herself being involved with mission projects throughout her lifetime.

God has provided many opportunities for Chelsey to work with children who are often the objects of abuse, poverty and neglect. In addition, Chelsey has seen a great need even among her own peers and is often sought as a source of help and comfort.

Chelsey's heart of compassion motivated her to choose the training to work hand in hand with Jesus to bring hope to a hurting world. She plans to continue her education at Andrews University to study psychology and Spanish, which will include one year in Spain. Chelsey then plans to go on to graduate school to become a school counselor who will no doubt see that many more students get the opportunity to serve others.

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

Address Correction

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