



Lake Union
HERALD

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EQUIPPED FOR
SERVICE

ADVENTIST EDUCATION ON A MISSION

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



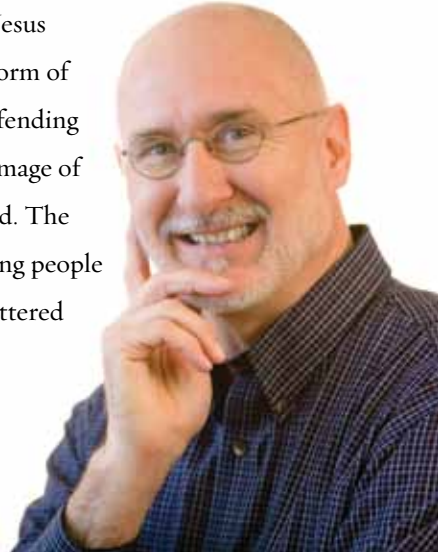
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In this issue...

No other theme is more evident in the life of Jesus than ministry or service — whether it be in the form of encouragement, healing, forgiveness, feeding, defending or releasing from bondage. Jesus, the expressed image of the Father, came to show us the very heart of God. The mission of Adventist education is to prepare young people for service with hearts like God's, ready to be scattered abroad like dandelion seeds in the wind.

Gary Burns, Editor



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God's Heart, My Passion

Through the years, we've all seen different approaches taken by various church leaders. We have seen intense and frequent promotions for one program and then another, each promising to be the initiative that will "finish the work." But are you really looking for someone to hand you a packaged program that promises success? You would be right if you were a bit skeptical. Although there are many excellent and successful plans, would it be safe to say that God's plans don't come in one-size-fits-all packages?

God calls and prepares individuals for His service. He takes each person as they are and then shapes their abilities and increases their effectiveness to fit exactly what He wants to accomplish through them. The style, scope and outcomes of the ministry may vary from person to person and from place to place.

We need to remember that God's principles do not change to meet the needs of a fickle society. We should not try to make God fit into our mold. Rather, we need to allow Him to lead us and teach us how to lovingly apply His unchanging principles to meet the desperate needs of a fickle society.

To better understand God's principles (and, by that, I mean to better understand His heart), we need to seek Him with every fiber of our being. That's where the leaders fell short at the first advent of Christ. They didn't recognize Jesus because they didn't know God's heart. To know God's heart requires that we first respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit to submit our will, our plans and our very lives to Him. "If we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 668).

Christ Himself will lead us to a deeper intimacy in prayer that will open up to us the ability to hear and discern His voice not only from Scripture, but His still, small voice that gives direction. "If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 668).

As I travel around the Lake Union and beyond, it is encouraging to learn that so many are experiencing a deeper relationship with God — a relationship that frees them to confess, to forgive and to embrace what God provides, both individually and collectively, for the sake of the church and their community.

I am fully convinced that when we are in a right relationship with God we will have God's heart to save not just some, but to seek salvation for everyone. We will view ourselves as God's appointed agents to bring salvation to every person on Earth (see *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9). Our lifestyle will give evidence that we are citizens of Heaven and our allegiance will be unmistakably to Christ's Kingdom. And though we recognize His Kingdom is not of this world, we will be making a difference in this world while we continue to pray, "Thy Kingdom come!"

As members of the church committees and boards spend time together in Bible study and prayer, they will naturally be driven to focus on mission. Introducing new members will become a regular part of the church service as a direct result of personal relationship-building outreach that includes praying for and with people in the community and ministering to their needs. God's passion will be discovered and His Kingdom will go forward.



I Want to Talk With Him

BY SYMONE COLE

Recently, I attended the Lake Union Leadership Conference for academy student leaders, held at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Michigan. On Sabbath evening, we had a special communion service that included testimonies. Normally, when people ask for testimonies, I gladly go up to talk; but, to be honest, this time, at first, I was content just being attentive, listening to the testimonies and hearing what other people had gone through.

After a while, I couldn't sit still. I didn't want to rush up there, because I didn't know what I would say, so I walked to the end of the row where my teacher, Miss Carson, was sitting. I said, "I don't know what to say."

She told me to, "Just go," so I got up and waited until they handed me the mic.

I began by sharing I had always been an Adventist, and I was waiting for God to talk to me (I'm still waiting). I continued, saying that no matter what happens in life, I know He's there, even though sometimes

it feels like He's not. He's moving in different ways. It's hard for me to say what's on my mind sometimes, so having Him there to talk to — even if He doesn't say anything back — helps.

Sometimes I write letters, asking Him to help me; I guess that's what all bubbled up inside me that night. Though I didn't know what to say, I thought maybe someone else needed to hear this. I don't know, but I'm pretty sure that it was God talking through me. The words that came out of my mouth were not prepared. I had prayed before, "God, give me the words to say, because I don't know what to say." I just started talking, and He gave me the words. Hopefully,



Albert Rodgers

someone was blessed by it. It got me thinking... I guess I got a blessing myself.

I want to believe that He talks to me through my close friends and family, but that can get a little confusing. Your family and friends are giving their opinions based on themselves and not always on God, but sometimes I know He sends the right people at the right time.

I was talking to Sari Butler, director of guidance and a supervising instructor at Andrews Academy, whom I had just met that morning, and she gave me some really

good advice. She said, "Just talk to God and tell Him about your problems, that you need and want His help. Wait for Him in the cool of the morning, or anytime; just wait for Him." So that's what I did. I didn't even have lunch.

I went outside and prayed, "Okay, God, I need your help. I need to be moved. Please help me." He hasn't answered me, yet. I'm still waiting, and I know He will, because He always shows up at the right time. That's one thing about God — He's never late!

I'm still waiting, and there's a lot of things going on in my life right now. But I know He will never turn His back on me. Even when He's not there ... He's there!



Daniel Wilson

I've done a lot of things I shouldn't have done, been places I shouldn't have been, and I'm still alive. I'm still walking, I'm still talking, because He has His eye on me. I guess there's a reason. I don't know what it is yet because, if I did, I'd probably be so much better off right now. But I know He's working with me, and I know that He has me here for some reason. I guess I'll just have to wait for Him to tell me what the reason is. I know He's here.

I see the wind in the trees, I hear the birds and the water. I know everybody says it, but I believe He moves through the wind. He made the trees. He's involved in every aspect of our lives. Even the persons the farthest away from Him, God manages to talk to them. Whether they listen or not, I don't know. I'm trying my best to listen and know His Word so, when He talks, I want to be able to know it's God and not be wondering, *Who's that?* I want to be like Moses and talk to Him; like Enoch, to be able to sit down and talk like a friend, because He is my Friend! He's the most important person in my life!

I realize He's taught me a lot of different things. God knows I have a temper, so He's taught me how to forgive and forget. And, I'm learning to keep my mouth quiet; I'm learning to walk away. I'm learning to love, even if the person never, ever, ever loves me — I'm learning to love. I'm learning to love properly, and not just selfishly, because I know, as teenagers, we say we like somebody or we lust after somebody, and we think it's great! But it's always about what you want. I'm learning that if it's true love you're not

thinking about yourself, you're thinking about the other person and what you can do for them. You think, *How can I help this person grow more, spiritually?*

That's one thing He's always teaching me — keep loving and never be selfish!

I find myself thinking at times, *I don't want to. They hurt me. I feel vengeful. I'm sitting here trying to love the person, and they don't love me back. What am I supposed to do?*

I guess it's a gradual process. He's telling me, "Keep at it. It's not about you; it's about Me. Whatever you do, you show Me through you, so don't ever stop loving them. Keep on keeping on is what I'm trying to say."

I'm letting God teach me right now. Someday, I may have it together. It's like, right now, I'm playing the game of life and I only have a few cards in my hand but, my partner, God, has the rest. He knows what I'm going to be dealt. He knows what's coming. I'm just waiting for Him to hand me the rest of the cards, and I'll be able to put things together and say, "Oh, that's what You were talking about."

A pastor told me recently that Jesus said, in John 10, that His sheep know His voice. I want to be one of His sheep. I am one! And He is leading me out to pasture. "God is working in [me], giving [me] the desire and the power to do what pleases him" (Philippians 2:13 NLT).

Symone Cole, 17, attends Petterson-Warren Academy in Inkster, Michigan, where she is a senior. She is a member of the Conant Gardens Church and lives in Eastpointe, Michigan.



Transitional Characters

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. —Jeremiah 29:11 NAS

Logic tells me that the family should be the safest place on Earth for its members. Reality tells me that isn't necessarily so. Too many of us grew up in families where we didn't feel safe — emotionally, physically or spiritually. However, just because we grew up in an environment that was difficult doesn't mean we have to bleed that into the future. We can choose to be a transitional character.

I first heard of this concept from Carlfred Broderick, a renowned marriage and family scholar at the University of Southern California. We were in Australia, presenting at the same conference. His story provided an "Aha!" moment for me. Carlfred was a transitional character. My husband's father was a transitional character. I began to identify with being a transitional character myself and became more committed to my own personal journey, knowing I had reason to celebrate where the Lord was leading me. Jeremiah's picture of God took on added meaning.

Carlfred defined a transitional character as "one who, in a single generation, changes the entire course of a lineage. The changes might be for good or ill, but the most noteworthy examples are those individuals who grow up in an abusive, emotionally destructive environment and who somehow find a way to metabolize the poison and refuse to pass it on to their children. They break the mold. Their contribution to humanity is to filter the destructiveness out of their own lineage so that the generations downstream will have a supportive foundation upon which to build productive lives."¹

How can one be a transitional character?

Acknowledge and accept how ongoing, negative family interactions have impacted your life.

Develop a vision of yourself as a transitional character. Seeing yourself successfully changing these patterns can help you keep focused on your goal.

Build supportive relationships with other healthy adults. Life-altering changes are difficult to make alone. For example, one dad found he tended to react with

anger to the demanding cries of his toddler son. He also found himself being too physically harsh. In talking with his wife, he realized he was treating his son as his older brothers had treated him. This awareness, through a supportive relationship, was crucial to his becoming more patient and gentle with his son, reversing the pattern modeled in his family of origin.

Develop a plan of what you want to change and how you will go about it. You don't have to do this all on your own; seek out a mentor or counselor.

Celebrate the good and positive things you learned in your family. You would not have survived if it had been all bad.

Create a healthy emotional distance from those who continue to perpetuate unhealthy interactions in your family.

Allow yourself time to practice and establish healthy behavior patterns before marriage. If already married, work together to learn and grow in this area.

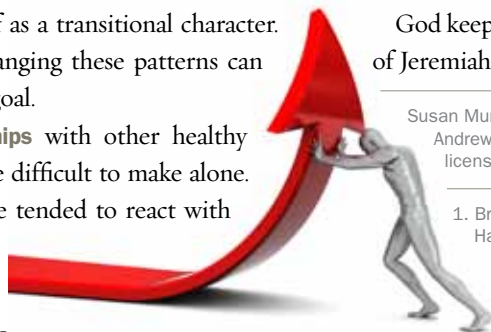
Establish and celebrate family rituals that provide a sense of unity and constancy to your current family unit. To be most effective, these rituals need to be observed even when family times are tough.

See yourself as a life-long learner. A good education teaches you to think clearly and make wise choices. The more you know about what makes a healthy family the better.

God keeps His promises. You, too, can claim the promise of Jeremiah 29:11!

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

1. Broderick, Carlfred B., *Marriage and the Family*, Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, N. Jersey. (1988), p. 14.



Appropriate sunlight exposure protects against a number of diseases.



Sunshine improves your mental and physical health.

Sunlight Therapy

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Adequate sunlight provides many healthful benefits. Sunshine can lift the human spirit and help fight off depression, especially during the short days of winter. A lack of sunlight is considered a major cause of seasonal affective disorder. For recovering surgical patients, sunlight is also therapeutic. Less pain medication is required by those exposed to plenty of sunlight.

For many people, sun exposure is a major source of vitamin D. It is estimated that about 50 percent of Americans are vitamin D deficient. Very few foods contain the sunshine vitamin, and foods that are fortified with vitamin D are typically inadequate to fully satisfy our vitamin D requirement. Vitamin D deficiency increases the risk of bone fractures and has other negative health consequences.



Adequate vitamin D levels are important for the prevention of cancer, especially breast, prostate and colorectal. Studies in Australia, the UK and USA revealed that decreased sun exposure correlated with higher rates of prostate cancer. Improvement of vitamin D status through sun exposure and an increased intake of a vitamin D-fortified diet led subjects to an improved cardio-metabolic profile with an improvement of HDL cholesterol levels, triglycerides and blood pressure levels. Low vitamin D status also has been linked to higher risk of hypertension, and to cardiovascular, cancer and all-cause mortality.

Vitamin D modulates the activity of T and B lymphocytes. Vitamin D-deficient persons are more likely to suffer autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. Vitamin D deficiency is a predictor of childhood asthma and the development of Type 1 diabetes. A study in postmenopausal women who took 2,000 IU (International Unit) of vitamin D a day had a 90 percent

reduction in upper respiratory tract infections compared to women who took 400 IU a day.

Modest amounts of vitamin D are found in sun-dried mushrooms and in fortified foods, such as milk, soy milk, rice and almond milk, breakfast cereals, and orange juice. Fifteen minutes of bright sunlight on the arms and legs two to three times per week, between the hours of about 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the late spring, summer and early fall, are normally sufficient for

the body to make adequate vitamin D to meet one's needs. However, from November to March, people living in the Great Lakes area are unable to manufacture vitamin D from sunlight, and a daily supplement of 1,000 IU may be needed. Higher levels of vitamin D supplements (5,000 to 10,000 IU per day for months) may be toxic.

Excessive sun exposure can accelerate aging of the skin, and produce skin cancer; however, sunscreen with an SPF of 15 will decrease your ability to make vitamin D by 99 percent. Sun protection should be worn on your face because it is easily sun-damaged. The elderly are at increased risk of D deficiency since vitamin D production by age 70 is only 30 percent of what it was at age 25. Vitamin D promotes better muscle function and stronger muscles, which reduce the risk of falls in the elderly.

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



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

God Speaks

BY THE EDITORS

In Ray Holmes' new book, *The Road I Travel*, he suggests that each of us can recall specific evidences of God's presence, guidance and, at times, divine intervention in our lives, and that it would be good for us to be aware of His personal work. He specifically points out how God often uses "sensitive responses from Spirit-led people whom God used as His 'voice,' and that we recognize, sometimes instantaneously, as such. This 'voice' moves us at critical moments in the direction He wants us to go, sometimes in a direction we may not have chosen otherwise."¹

Some of us may be reluctant to identify this phenomenon as the "voice of God." We may feel more comfortable referring to it as an "impression." You've probably heard someone say, maybe even yourself, "I felt impressed..." to indicate that you recognized God's voice speaking to you.

Ray shares a specific example when he was just beginning his faith-walk with God and nearly dropped out of school, feeling like a failure. "Lonely, confused and depressed, I was making secret plans to pack my things and sneak away during the night. I went to the chapel to think and pray. ... The sky was as dark and forbidding as it can be in January in the Upper Peninsula, and I felt the same way inside. Then, I heard a voice — a real human voice, not a figment of my imagination. The voice said, 'Isn't it wonderful to know that above those clouds the sun is shining?'... That's all he said. I said nothing."²

The voice was actually that voice of the local Lutheran pastor who had been scheduled to conduct the service that morning, and he knew nothing of Ray's circumstances. Yet, Ray heard God speaking to him, personally. "I know what those words did inwardly. I know the effect they had on my mood. I know the long-term consequences of those words. They snapped me right out of my fear and depression. They took away my doubts about whether God was actually leading in my life."³

So what happened? Ray stayed in school and, by the end of the year, he made the Dean's List. He graduated from college and went on to earn two master's degrees and a



doctorate, becoming a professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. There is no doubt in Ray's mind that "God's voice" changed the course of his life.

This column is designed to promote searching the Scriptures on current topics — in community, through prayer. Invite others to join you in responding to these questions:

Can you recall a time when God spoke a word to you through the voice of another?

- How did that "word from the Lord" shape the course of your life?
- Where do you find examples in Scripture of God speaking through others to change the course of a life?
- Not every voice of counsel or encouragement is from the Lord. Consider the story of Nehemiah and how he responded to the voice of Sanballat in Nehemiah 6. How did Nehemiah respond to Sanballat's suggestion that they counsel together?
- Can you recall a situation when someone suggested they had "a word from the Lord" for you, and you knew it was not from God?

Next month, the subject is spiritual discernment. How do you know?

You can help guide us in our choices for this column by emailing your comments and questions to: familyforum@luc.adventist.org. — *The editors*

1. Holmes, Raymond C., *The Road I Travel*, Review & Herald Publishing Association: Hagerstown, Md. (2011), p.24.
 2. *Ibid.*, p.25.
 3. *Ibid.*

Praying with Persistence

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. —Luke 18:1 (Read Luke 18:1–8 for the setting of Jesus' parable.)

Prayer is not always easy. Sometimes it requires serious persistence in the face of great difficulty and delayed answers. God wants us to rise above weakness and become mighty in prayer. The parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18:2–8 strikingly illustrates this principle.

To pray persistently is to press our requests upon God with urgency and perseverance. It means praying boldly and with determination until the answer comes.

When God delays His answers to prayer, it is always with good reason. Sometimes He does it to deepen our faith and develop our character. Sometimes He does it to test our faith and put it on display. Sometimes He is simply operating according to a divine timetable that seems slow to us. When answers seem slow in coming, it's important to keep trusting and keep asking.

God has called us to persistent prayer so His will may be done on Earth, and His name may be glorified. We may never use prayer for selfish reasons. Prayer is the means by which God accomplishes His purposes and defeats Satan. Through prayer, we are involved with God in a grand enterprise. And the going is not always easy.

George Müller, a Christian evangelist, is a good example of persistence in prayer. He prayed daily for five unsaved friends. One of them came to Christ after five years; two more were converted after 15 years. The fourth was saved after 35 years of prayer, and the fifth became a child of God just after Müller's death.

Passion in prayer is usually tied closely to perseverance in prayer. Passion does not spring simply from human emotion or earnestness of soul. It's an urgency derived from God who, through His Spirit within us, gives us both the content and the passion of our prayers.

Weak and feeble praying does not have the power to overcome difficulties and gain the victory. E.M. Bounds, a clergyman and Civil War chaplain who authored nine books on prayer, asserted, "Heaven pays little attention to casual requests. God is not moved by feeble desires, listless prayers, and spiritual laziness."

There is great need today for powerful, persistent prayer. Much is accomplished through persistent prayer that is not accomplished by timid, halting prayers. God has much to accomplish through you — in your world, in your church, in your family and in your neighborhood. I urge you to partner with God through passionate, persistent prayer.

Reflect

Which comes closer to describing your intercessory prayer life: bold, passionate and persevering or casual, weak and fainthearted?

What things in your life do you think God wants you to pray about persistently?

Pray

Praise God, who hears prayer and "brings about justice for his chosen ones, who cry to him day and night" (Luke 18:7).

Confess whatever casualness, weakness, feebleness, superficiality, laxity, faintheartedness or impatience you may discover as you examine your prayer life.

Ask the Holy Spirit for boldness, power, devotion, persistence and a sense of urgency in your prayer life.

Thank God for the privilege of partnering with Him through prayer in accomplishing His will on earth.

Act

Is there something that you used to pray for, something you *know* God wants to see happen (like the conversion of a loved one), that you have stopped praying for? If so, start praying again, and be persistent. Try to imagine as you pray that each prayer brings the matter a little closer to the answer.

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.



The Miracle Next Door

BY KORTNYE V. HURST

Louisa Townsend was raised in an Adventist home, but her restless heart took her on a journey far from God. Joining the army, Louisa became a gunner on an artillery vehicle in the war on terrorism. Returning from her tour of duty in the Middle East, she began to train for a career as a dental assistant in Fort Wayne, Indiana. As the Holy Spirit gently spoke to her heart, a longing for spiritual fulfillment began moving her to seek God once again.

Jennifer Marcum, a former paramedic, was studying to be a nurse in the same city. Jennifer had no spiritual background to guide her, yet she realized there was a void in her heart which she was not able to fill. As Jennifer shared this longing with one of her friends, she discovered he was an Adventist Christian who no longer attended church.



Jennifer Marcum (left) and Louisa Townsend (right) are neighbors today, and plan to be throughout eternity.

Ramon Ulangca

One Sabbath morning, Louisa showed up at the Fort Wayne Church. She wanted to reconnect with God. Louisa was directed to the pastor's discipleship class where Jennifer and other spiritual seekers introduced themselves and made her feel welcome. They invited her to come back the following Sabbath, and Louisa promised she would.

He was stunned as Jennifer asked, "I know you don't go so often anymore, but could I check out your church?"

Searching the Internet, Jennifer found the website of the Fort Wayne Seventh-day Adventist Church. She filled out the contact form, requesting more information. Ramon Ulangca, senior pastor, responded and invited her to visit.

The next Sabbath, Jennifer visited the Fort Wayne Church. After the service, she said to the pastor, "I think I have found my church." She joined the pastor's discipleship class and began to grow in Christ. Jennifer faithfully attended church, and her Adventist friend slowly began to attend with her.

In April of 2011, Jennifer was baptized into the family of God. Though happy in her new church family, Jennifer still desired one thing in her heart — she wanted to have a friend nearby with whom she could grow in her newfound faith. As a reborn child of God, Jennifer felt strangely alone in her neighborhood.

Later that same Sabbath afternoon, as Jennifer and her Adventist friend were conversing in her driveway, he looked across to the neighbor's yard in surprise. Turning toward Jennifer, he asked, "Isn't that the lady who was in class today?"

Now it was Jennifer's turn to be surprised! Because of her busy school and work schedules, she had never gotten to know her neighbors, but God answered her need for a nearby spiritual friend in a most amazing way — Louisa and Jennifer were next-door neighbors!

Today, Louisa is preparing to be rebaptized into the Adventist faith. Thanks to the amazing providence of God, she and Jennifer are the best of friends; they are neighbors, not just for this life, but for eternity.

Kortnye V. Hurst is the Indiana Conference correspondent. This story was shared with her by Ramon Ulangca, senior pastor, Fort Wayne (Indiana) Seventh-day Adventist Church.



La adoración en la iglesia

POR CARMELO MERCADO

El alma puede elevarse hasta el cielo en las alas de la alabanza. Dios es adorado con cánticos y música en las mansiones celestiales, y al expresarle nuestra gratitud, nos aproximamos al culto de los habitantes del cielo... 'El que ofrece sacrificio de alabanza me glorificará' (Salmo 50: 23). Presentémonos, pues, con gozo reverente delante de nuestro Creador con "acciones de gracias y voz de melodía" (Isaías 51: 3) — El camino a Cristo, p. 105, 106.

Recuerdo que cuando llegué por primera vez a la Universidad Andrews en el año 1971 para estudiar, decidí unirme a un grupo de jóvenes que se había organizado con el propósito de dar testimonios y cantar alabanzas a Jesús. El grupo se llamaba Collegiate Action for Christ (Acción Colegial para Cristo). Los participantes íbamos a diferentes iglesias en la Unión y como un coro cantábamos alabanzas al Señor en el tiempo del culto divino. Algunas personas del grupo daban también su testimonio de cómo habían llegado a conocer a Jesús. En la tarde visitábamos a los vecinos de la iglesia, repartíamos literatura y compartíamos nuestros testimonios. Los dos años que formé parte de este grupo fue una experiencia de mucha bendición para mi vida espiritual. Recuerdo que con regularidad nos reuníamos cada semana para orar, leer la Biblia y practicar los cantos. Ya han pasado muchos años, pero aún hoy me acuerdo y canto esos cantos que en mi juventud me daban y siguen dándome mucho ánimo.

No hay duda que la alabanza es una disciplina espiritual de mucha importancia que nos ayuda a acercarnos a Dios. Con esto en mente la Universidad Andrews ofrecerá para las iglesias una convención de música y adoración del 29 al 31 de marzo. Además de las reuniones plenarias y de los seminarios que se ofrecerán en inglés, para ayudar a las iglesias hispanas a que mejoren sus servicios de adoración se ofrecerán tres seminarios diseñados para ellas. Dos de los seminarios serán presentados en español. El primero se titula *Celebremos en el exilio: Un modelo práctico de adoración hispana adventista*, y el segundo se titula *Seleccionando música de adoración apropiada en contextos latinos adventistas*. Se ofrecerá un tercer seminario para jóvenes hispanos en inglés titulado *Planning and Leading Worship with 2nd and 3rd-*



Durante la conferencia de música y adoración los participantes reciben entrenamiento para el ministerio de alabanza. Aquí el grupo Calls of Worship dirige cantos de adoración durante la convención de Comunicadores de la División Norte Americana.

Generation Latinos: Challenges and Opportunities.

La alabanza, en mi experiencia, ha sido un estímulo para acercarme a Dios. Pero sé que el tema de la música trae, a veces, discusión y controversias. Creo que una razón por la cual existen estos problemas es porque no hemos ofrecido el entrenamiento profesional necesario para mejorar el espíritu de adoración. Ahora que se ofrecerá este

entrenamiento quiero animar a las iglesias a que aprovechen esta oportunidad y que inscriban a sus directores de música y alabanza lo más pronto posible. Para inscribirse vaya al sitio web www.cye.org/mwc o para contestar sus preguntas pueden escribirle un correo electrónico al pastor Andrés Flores a j_andresflores@msn.com.

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



The Blessings of Project 58

BY JEREMY HALL

I was sitting in my living room reading *Christian Service*, a book by Ellen White. Arrested by what I read, I called out to my wife: “Donna, we’re not doing this! We need to be doing this!” As I continued to read, the Lord put a burden on my heart to balance the theory we provide in Adventist education with practice.

Motivated to do more research, I came across an 1881 article in the *Review & Herald*. In it, Ellen emphasized the importance of the message of Isaiah 58 to Seventh-day Adventists, and urged that we read it again and again. “Read Isaiah 58, you who claim to be children of the light. Especially do you read it again and again who have felt so fearful to inconvenience yourselves by favoring the needy; you whose hearts and houses are too narrow to make a home for the homeless, read it. You who can see orphans and widows oppressed by the iron hand of poverty, and bowed down by the hard-hearted worldlings, read it.”¹

So, I opened up my Bible and read Isaiah 58, again and again; and it hit me! The fast to which God calls us is not so

much the outward show of what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist, it’s the internal experience! And it’s the internal experience that then brings forth the outward action. That’s the fast to which God calls us.

All the things God says in Isaiah 58 — feed the hungry and clothe the naked, spending ourselves on behalf of the poor, Jesus reemphasizes in Matthew 25 when He describes the judgment at the time of the end with the parable of the sheep and the goats — those who enter Heaven and those who do not.

At Indiana Academy this year, Project 58 started as a multi-faceted, acts-of-kindness ministry that seeks to impact people in our local community with the love of God.

Photos by Alan Smith



It has a two-pronged evangelistic thrust: First and foremost, it is an opportunity for our young people to be in a position to experience the love of Jesus flowing through them, and to realize the impact their care and kindness has on someone in need. This practical opportunity takes the theory we teach them about Christianity and gives it traction and authenticity that is visible and tangible. It better equips our young people to make a meaningful and well-rounded decision to accept Christ into their lives. Second, it is a direct response to the Gospel Commission of Matthew 28, and fulfills Christ's description of how His people will respond to those in need as seen in Matthew 25. Our theme text for this ministry is Matthew 25:40: "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (NIV).

It is important for the soil to be worked before we plant a seed. Our acts-of-kindness ministry builds relationships with people in the community, which instills trust and connection. A relationship with those attributes, in turn, opens hearts to the truth of God's Word.

Currently, we have eight schoolwide outreach days scheduled in the Indiana Academy academic calendar. On these "Project 58 days," the academic day ends by noon; at 1:00 p.m., the entire school — faculty and students — yolk up for an afternoon of community outreach. My wife, Donna Hall, and a Cicero Church member, Kathy Griffin, provide leadership and coordination for this ministry that is organized into ten different "pods." Without their efforts, this ministry would not be possible. The following students share what it is like to demonstrate the love of God through Project 58.

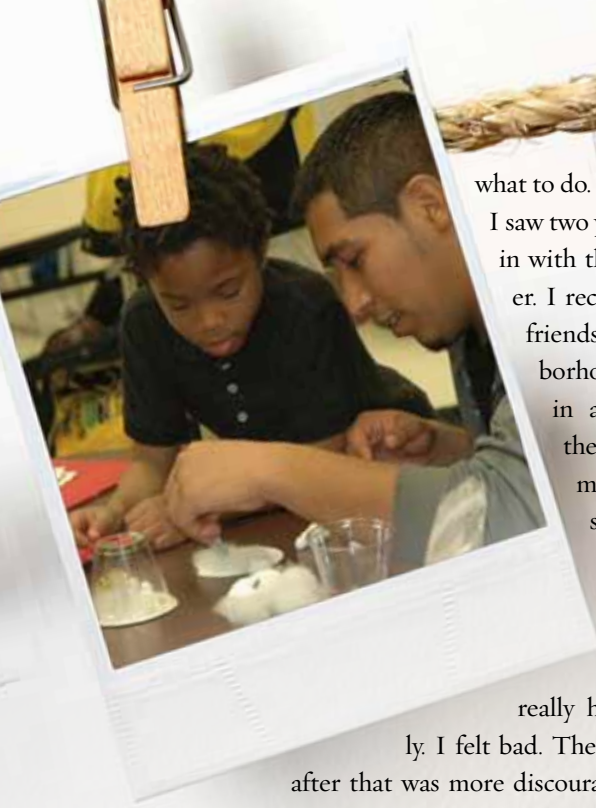
PROJECT 58 GOES TO SCHOOL 61

"On the first Project 58 day, I walked in thinking I was just going to help kids in some small way. Four Project 58 days later, I realized they gave me more than I could ever ask for. School 61 is an inner city school, in Indianapolis, that aims for every student to be college-bound. The teachers there have a lot to handle, and I know they appreciate it whenever we come to help. This group attracted me because I have wanted to be an elementary school teacher, ever since I was young. Educating the future leaders of America and decorating your own classroom — what could get better than that?"

"While at Indiana Academy, I have been able to work at the local Adventist elementary school and gain a lot of experience working in a classroom setting. Finding out I could serve in another school and learn more was very exciting for me. While at School 61, I have had the amazing privilege to work in a third-grade classroom, full of young scholars. Coming into a room, even though it's only once a month, and being greeted by many warm, smiling faces brings a lot of joy to my life. I am so thankful to God that He gave me this amazing opportunity. My prayer is that I can somehow have an impact and make a difference." —*Mariah Polen, senior*

GOOD NEWS MINISTRIES

"I truly believe God had a Divine appointment in mind for me when I was asked to be a Spanish translator on this particular Project 58 day. Mentoring kids at the youth center is what I usually do, and I very much enjoy doing that. Feeling a little apprehensive, I arrived at Good Samaritan Health Clinic, sat down and waited for people to tell me



what to do. About 2:30 p.m., I saw two young men come in with their grandmother. I recognized them as friends from my neighborhood. They signed in and talked with the nurse about my friend being seen by a doctor. I hadn't seen him in three years, and he seemed to be really hurting physical-

ly. I felt bad. The news that came after that was more discouraging. The nurse said, 'There isn't room for the doctor to see you; but, if you wait, there might be a chance for you to see him at the shift end.'

"I said to him in a hushed tone, 'Wait, have patience.' That day I had a busy schedule, from phone calls to translating minor things to patients. But, every chance I had, I went to talk to him because I was worried he would get discouraged and leave.

"It was around 4:50 p.m., and I had to leave at 5:00 p.m. The nurse finally called him, and told him he was very lucky because one person didn't make their appointment, so he was able to see the doctor. I was called in to translate. The doctor said, 'They don't know the seriousness of his condition; it's life-threatening, because this young man has the symptoms of appendicitis. When this erupts, the infection can spread and cause severe damage.'

"When I told him this, my heart sank because of the fear in his eyes. The doctor said to go to the emergency room right then, and they did. I'm glad I was there that day. God used me to help my friend stay where he could get the help he needed.

"When I went back to my principal, Jeremy Hall, he was happy for my experience. He said, 'The Lord can make miracles from things like this.' I was shocked at first; but, later, I realized God used me to help someone in my own life. I never would've expected that, and it only helps me to be a stronger Christian. I've realized now that happiness and joy in my life come from the joy of helping others in need. I can

truly say I'm blessed, and Project 58 has changed my life for the better." —*Andy Jimenez, senior*

PRISON MINISTRIES

"On the first Project 58 day, I worked in the Single Mom's Oil Change pod. The second time, I was given the opportunity to share with people in the Prison Ministries pod. When I heard I was going there, I was excited; but then it hit me: I was about to do the thing I feared the most, and that was talking up in front of people. Then I was terrified, because I hate to talk up front.

"The day of the trip was one of the most nerve-racking days ever. When we got there, the first thing we had to do was go through security. Of course, [the alarm] beeped as I went through. I was worried they would not let me in, but they quickly realized it was just my belt and let me through.

"As we walked into a very large room, Lemuel Vega, Christmas Behind Bars director, had already started his sermon. When he finished, he introduced our group and we sang three songs to a group of women. Then Mr. Vega [invited us to share] personal testimonies. I got up and said my favorite Bible verse, John 15:13: 'Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (NIV). I then sat down, and felt like I had done my part. For the next few groups [of women prisoners], I sat up front and just sang.

"After all the groups that could fit in the room had gone through, we went to a two-story cell block. Mr. Vega talked first, and then he invited personal testimonies again. I let my friends go first. When it was close to the end, I said to myself that I would just sit there and not speak; but God had other plans. The next thing I knew I was walking up front, and then I started talking. The only thing I remember is saying my memory verse and something about 'the more the merrier.' The other people in my group said I was up there for three to four minutes talking. They said I was inviting people to Heaven and asking them to be friends with God. That is where the Holy Spirit changed my life forever. What happened in that cell block, I will never forget as long as I live." —*Austin Trubey, sophomore*

BIRTHRIGHT CENTER

"In my pod, the Birthright Center, I got to hear life-changing stories from Elizabeth Bridgewater, the director at our local center. During a tour of her facility, I was amazed at

how intricately the needs of soon-to-be-mothers were being met. [There were] meeting rooms for both families involved with counselors, food, clothing and almost all baby items. How could the new moms make any other choice than life? A praying woman, Mrs. Bridgewater has many stories of how God has intervened to keep the Center open financially.

“Prayer blankets are one of many services offered to the mothers. In our pod, we each made a prayer blanket with matching burp cloths, something that would hopefully convince the mother to keep the baby. After praying about which one to give to the mother, Mrs. Bridgewater picks a prayer blanket out of the closet. She hands it to the mother with the message, ‘Someone is praying for you and your baby.’ Then, without further ado, the soon-to-be mother expresses her concerns, fears and burdens. Mrs. Bridgewater calms the mother and shows her that everything will be all right.

“We were making the blankets to hopefully reach the mother and tell her we cared about her and her baby. While I made the blanket, I realized that it had the potential to save a baby’s eternal life. I prayed my blanket could reach a mother and tell her that God loved her and her baby. Hopefully, I expressed God’s eternal love through my blanket.”

—Autumn Capps, *sophomore*

THE JOY OF SERVICE

“To me, community service makes me think of orange jumpsuits and sharp sticks to pick up trash. It’s for the dull-faced workers on the side of a highway. It’s just something else, something that I *don’t* want to do. Why? Because it’s boring, because it’s not ‘cool.’ But in the past few months, at Indiana Academy, Project 58 has changed my perspective completely into a whole new one. How? Here’s how:

“Project 58 is not a day where we show the community what good people we are. It’s not a day when we skip class and still call it a ‘school day.’ It’s a day when we show the community the type of people we should be for the God who we serve. It’s a day when we do *more* work than a regular school day, and still have *more* fun than if we had skipped the day altogether and played basketball in the gym. Project 58 is a day I look forward to, because to see a person smile as a result of my help is worth more than an ‘A’ on a big test or a three-pointer that I make.

“We are all put in certain groups called ‘pods.’ Each pod does something different. This last time I was in the Bread Baking pod. We baked and packaged bread that we made in

our own cafeteria, and gave [the loaves] out to anybody in the community who would take them. I offered bread to a lady and she refused — not because she didn’t want it, but because she thought that someone else would need it more than she would. What she did made me think of the reason that bread made that much of an impact. It’s not the bread or the fact that we’re feeding them for free, it’s the fact that someone out there in the big world still cares enough to do something, *anything*, for them, *only* because they want to be nice — not to get personal gain or fame. And that is what Project 58 taught me. It taught me that being the servant that God wants me to be not only brings glory to Him, but makes me realize what community service really *should* be.”

—Lester Pitogo, *junior*

**At this time in Earth’s history,
it is vital for our young people to
be given an opportunity to be trained
as missionaries to a dying world.**

God is blessing mightily, and His name is to be praised. Everything positive that has emerged from this ministry thus far has been because of God’s providence and blessing. The positive responses we received from those touched by our young people are inspiring. More importantly, the impact Project 58 experiences have on students and staff is the most powerful element of all.

At this time in Earth’s history, it is vital for our young people to be given an opportunity to be trained as missionaries to a dying world. In the book, *Education*, on page 271, Ellen says, “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!”

If we believe that when “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (see Matthew 24:14), then we must put all our resources and energy into ensuring that these opportunities for our young people are of the highest priority.

Jeremy Hall is the principal of Indiana Academy.

1. White, Ellen G. “Doing for Christ,” *Review & Herald*, August 16, 1881.



Mission-Driven Education

THE STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

BY GARRY SUDDS

*Make me a servant, humble and meek
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayers of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant, today.¹*

In his book, *Radical*, David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills, in Birmingham, Alabama, challenges his readers to consider how they have manipulated the gospel to fit into their modern day culture. He states: “The American Dream prizes what people can accomplish when they believe in themselves and trust in themselves, and we are drawn toward such thinking. But the gospel has different priorities. The gospel beckons us to die to ourselves and to believe in God and to trust in His power. In the gospel, God confronts us with our utter inability to accomplish anything of value apart from Him. This is what Jesus meant when He said, ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing (John 15:5 NIV).’”²

We find the same position expressed by Ellen White: “We do not, as followers of Christ, realize our true position. ... All the good things we have are a loan from our Savior. He has made us stewards.”³

She adds, “Those with whom God has entrusted His truth, must possess the same beneficent spirit that Christ manifested... They must hold all they have — property, mental powers, spiritual strength — as not their own, but only lent them to advance the cause of Christ on earth.”⁴

In a sermon by Henry Wright, “God Owns It All,” I was reminded that stewardship means I care for what belongs to another as if it were my own. Ownership, on the other hand, indicates that I care for things because they belong to me. Capitalism and the American Dream are built on the premise that each person is to acquire what they can; the goal is for each one to be an owner. It is noteworthy that, even in the Christian church today, we have been deceived into a lifestyle that is contrary to what Christ taught while on Earth; it also is in opposition to God’s

Photos by Cherie Jackson, Albert Rodgers and Patricia Williams



plan for the heavenly kingdom. Christ spent absolutely no time or energy trying to acquire things. He said, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head” (Matthew 8:20 NIV). And when the disciples were anxious about not having things, Christ said, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these [needed] things will be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33 NIV, *emphasis added*).

It appears that generation after generation has cultivated the spirit of ownership, losing God’s intended purpose of faith-based stewardship. That is why most people today are caught up in *their* houses, *their* cars, *their* vacations, *their* wardrobes, *their* retirement plans, etc. God never intended for us to be consumed with taking care of the things we own. All those things belong to Him. He has designated us to be His stewards, not owners. Our Father calls us to be faithful in caring for His time, His talent, His possessions and His spiritual gifts that are on loan to us.

The more grounded I become in understanding that *everything* I have belongs to God and is to be used according to His promptings, the easier it will become to live the abundant life in Christ. As long as I continue to view myself as owner, I will never grow in faith to the degree God desires for me. My life will always have the preservation and promotion of self at its core.

Now, how does this statement of Christian philosophy fit with Adventist schools and the priority placed on the integration of service/outreach education into the academic curriculum? Jesus tells us:

“If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all”; “He who is least among you — he is the greatest”; “Freely you received, freely give”; and “Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave” (Mark 9:35, Luke 9:48, Matthew 10:8, Matthew 20:26–27 NASB).

Servanthood and service-learning are the very essence of a life lived for Christ. Paul tells us that Jesus “made himself nothing, taking the the very nature of a servant,” and that “he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross” (see Philippians 2:6–8 NIV). Servanthood and service-learning

are the evidence, the byproduct, when one’s life is in absolute surrender to the Lord, Jesus Christ.

It was through continual communion with God, a study of Scripture and nature, as led by the Holy Spirit, and ministering to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of others that Christ was able to live a sinless life “above the circumstances” of this world.

It is for this reason that our schools make prayer, Bible study and outreach ministry an intentional part of the curriculum. Let me share a few examples.

Elizabeth Harseny, who teaches English at Peterson-Warren Academy, reports how their school is responding to the counsel that “Christ’s true followers will witness for Him.” In the past year, Peterson-Warren Academy students had many opportunities to witness to others about their love for Christ. From kindergarten all the way to high school, students witnessed to others — both near and far.

The seventh- and eighth-grade language arts class write letters to Cherylyne Jure, a little girl in Haiti whom the students seek to encourage through their thoughtful words and pictures, reminding her how much Jesus loves her.

Alice Dent, a parent and representative from Habitat for Humanity, organized Peterson-Warren’s first-ever mission trip to North Carolina. After the destructive tornadoes, students sponsored by Habitat for Humanity partnered with an Adventist outreach ministry known as “Pathways to Peace.” Selected students from the classes of 2012 and 2013 put finishing touches on a house, and led out in preaching and singing. (See more of the story in the February 2012 issue at www.lakeunionherald.org.) This spring students will lead an evangelism series, April 30 through May 4, at Peterson-Warren Academy in Inkster, Michigan. The meetings will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Cynthia J. Ferguson, principal of the Crest Hill Christian School in Joliet, Illinois, started the school year by “fishing” for students in August as they kicked off the school year with their VBS program, “Go Fishing!” She and Laurie Grabowski, a pre-school teacher, led out in the program with a few volunteers from

the church. They prayed they would be able to lift up Christ to those in attendance, to accurately portray Christ to those in their community while teaching those in the church and school how to minister effectively to others. Several young people from the church served and led out in posts during the program, and did an excellent job.

The teachers also prayed that God would bring kids who were ready to learn what God can do in their lives. They prayed that the outreach would help their students discover that God is eager to empower them to be fishers of men, even while they are young. Their prayers were answered with nearly 30 participants.

Harold Oetman, interim administrator at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy, reports that Scott Ritsema, Bible teacher, told students the shocking fact that “every 15 seconds a child dies because of lack of access to clean drinking water.” Silence filled the room as students and faculty watched the clock. “There’s another one. And another one. And another.” Holding his own nine-month-old child to drive the point home, Scott was visibly moved.

To honor Christ, to become like Him, to work for Him, is life’s highest ambition and its greatest joy.

Delwin Garcia, English teacher, then dramatized, even with tears, what it must feel like to lose a child to the sex trade, a tragedy that occurs every 30 seconds in the world today.

Confronted with these shocking realities, the inescapable and urgent thought gripped the student body: *We have to do something about this!*

The student body leaders temporarily set aside all other efforts to take advantage of ADRA’s (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) seven-fold matching program to make a real impact in the world. The goal was set at \$1,000; Delwin challenged the students to each raise \$20 before Christmas break, noting that their efforts would literally save lives.

When one student came in with \$86, she was asked how she came up with that kind of money. “It was my last paycheck,” she responded, “the entire thing.”

A 12th-grader brought a \$100 bill. His response to how he obtained it was, “Oh, just presents and stuff.”

The students eclipsed the goal of \$1,000 before Christmas. Approximately 50 students, with only a little help from teachers and administration, raised a total of more than \$2,000 for ADRA! The thermometer illustration device charting the progress “exploded” out the top, and smiles were on every face. “I

don’t remember the last time I’ve had this much fun!” Scott exclaimed to the students.

When combined with the seven-fold matching grant from ADRA, the monies raised by the students made it possible to either provide clean drinking water to about 3,000 children, saving them from dying of water-borne diseases, or save approximately 150 girls from the sex trade by providing them with education and economic skills!

The project made a great impact on the students. “It felt amazing that we accomplished something so big,” said Kendal Graham, an 11th grader.

“I loved the fact that we [could save] girls from the sex trade, actually giving them meaningful lives,” said Stephen Quick, a freshman.

Another student, Samantha Smith, explained the joy of “imagining the girls’ faces and the tears in their eyes, and the fact that we had an impact in changing their lives even though we weren’t there.”

These students not only experienced the joy of self-sacrifice for the benefit of another, but also touched individuals in ways they will only learn about after Christ returns. The GRAA faculty and staff are proud of the students for living out the school’s theme for the year: “We are His Hands.”

Cherie Jackson, communications coordinator at Hinsdale Adventist Academy in Hinsdale, Illinois, shares that the neighbors surrounding the school were greeted with a hearty “Merry Christmas” from the kindergarten class who went door-to-door, delivering delicious plates of cookies just before their winter break. Their teacher, Fawn Scherencel, said she was carrying on a tradition instigated by her own kindergarten teacher. “I think it is really important for us to reach out to our neighbors to help build a bridge to our community,” stated Fawn. “It helps our students to recognize from an early age that they are a special part of the community and that simple gestures make a big difference.”

Other HAA classes poured out their love to families in need in Chicagoland, by forgoing their regular gift exchange. Instead, students brought in non-perishable food items that were placed under a Christmas tree. The collection was donated to the Darien Lions Club, whose members redistributed the items to families throughout the city.

Joy Uzarraga, the second-grade teacher at HAA, chose a rather unorthodox project for her class. “We decided to buy a goat!” said Joy. “Purchasing a goat [through the Samaritan’s Purse organization] for a family in a developing country means they will have a [goat to provide a] source of income, a source of nutrients, and that their standard of living will be dramatically changed.”

Upon hearing about the second-graders’ project, the seventh-grade teacher, Zeb Meharry, decided to help boost their earnings

by involving his students, without the knowledge of the second-grade class. “I have lived as a missionary in Kenya, so I know how much difference something like this can make,” he said.

Joy was brought to tears when the seventh-grade students presented her with their earnings. “They came into our classroom, surprised us with the money, and then prayed for us and our project. What a blessing that was! I was so moved, I couldn’t help but cry!” She continued, “We were able to raise more than \$280, and we purchased two goats in addition to a sheep, honeybees and two sets of chickens for six different families around the world!”

Love was poured out to neighbors in other countries also! Brandy Prokop’s class at HAA collected \$483.35 for ADRA, which serves in more than 120 countries without regard to gender, age, religion, ethnicity or political persuasion. Just last year, ADRA helped more than 20 million people in need throughout the world. “The awesome thing about donating to ADRA is that what we raise gets multiplied by matching donors, so the end result is so much more!” said Brandy. (For more information about ADRA or to make a donation, see www.adra.org.)

HAA first-graders completed their annual Operation Christmas Child initiative, led passionately and efficiently by Olga Dattil. This year, 80 boxes were collected to help families overseas.

“There are so many ways to show the love of Jesus, both to our students and our neighbors, whether they live next door, in the next town, the next state or the next country,” said Robert Jackson, associate principal. “It is exciting to think about how many people HAA students were able to help this year, just by giving up a gift exchange. My prayer is that these projects will inspire our children to continue serving their communities in tangible ways.”

Patricia Williams, principal of Downer’s Grove Adventist School, is no stranger to the concept of adoption. Teachers adopt new schedules, and school boards adopt new handbooks. There are textbook adoptions and technology plan adoptions. Most of these adoptions are usually in effect for a short time before they are replaced with new adoptions; but, on December 18, 2011, students began an adoption that may last until Jesus comes and beyond.

It all began when Nehemiah Sitler, a sixth-grader, announced that he and his family would participate in a Maranatha mission trip to Nicaragua during the Christmas break. Nehemiah mentioned that he would work in an orphanage; and his parents, David and Cinda Lea Sitler, shared what Christmas would be like for the children of the orphanage. When the students thought about the contrast between their Christmas experiences and that of the orphans, their hearts were touched; they responded with enthusiasm and passion. The students determined to make

this the best Christmas ever for ten-year-old Pedro Paulino Reyes Poso and seven-year-old Yoseling Yorleny Tinoco. They began praying for Pedro and Yoseling and making lists of what the two children needed.

The students’ zeal resulted in an avalanche of gifts that included three soccer balls and two Spanish Bibles! Students donated clothes for church and play, underwear, socks, shoes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap and shower gel, cologne and deodorant, school supplies and toys — lots of indoor and outdoor toys.

The students plan to write to Pedro and Yoseling throughout the year, giving them an opportunity to practice what they are learning in Spanish class. The students see this as a long-term project. One student said, “I hope we can be friends with Pedro and Yoseling until Jesus comes, and then we can all get to meet each other in Heaven!”

Isn’t that what Adventist education is all about? Our educational system is holistic in nature and seeks to develop each child spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially. Consider this perspective on what Seventh-day Adventist education stands for: “‘Something better’ is the watchword of education. ... Often the youth cherish objects, pursuits, and pleasures that may not appear to be evil, but that fall short of the highest good. They divert the life from the noblest aim. ... Let them be directed to something better than display, ambition, or self-indulgence. Bring them in contact with truer beauty, with loftier principles, and with nobler lives. Lead them to behold the One ‘altogether lovely.’ When once the gaze is fixed upon Him, the life will find its center. The enthusiasm, the generous devotion, the passionate ardor, of the youth find here their true object. Duty becomes a delight and sacrifice a pleasure. To honor Christ, to become like Him, to work for Him, is life’s highest ambition and its greatest joy.”⁵

That last line — “To honor Christ, to become like Him, to work for Him, is life’s highest ambition and its greatest joy” — that, dear friend, is why service/outreach learning is such a vital part of what has been referred to as “something better” for God’s children in our Lake Union schools, from pre-kindergarten through graduate school.

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

1. “Make Me a Servant,” words and music by Kelly Willard, Maranatha! Music. (1982). Lyrics used with permission from Kelly Willard, www.kellywillard.com.
2. Platt, David, “Beginning at the End of Ourselves,” *Radical*. Multnomah Books: Colorado Springs, Colo. (2010), p. 46.
3. White, Ellen G., *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3*, Pacific Press Publishing Association: Nampa, Idaho (2002), p. 397.
4. White, Ellen G., *Gospel Workers, Review and Herald Publishing Association: Hagerstown, Md. (1948)*, p. 335.
5. White, Ellen G. *Education*, Pacific Press Publishing Association: Mountain View, Calif. (1903), p. 296, 297.

Lake Union Educational Leadership Retreat

BY GARRY SUDDS

The Bible is full of examples where God has trained and employed special leaders for special times. When the children of Abraham were confronted with a major famine that threatened their very existence, God called Joseph to lead them out of certain starvation. To guide His people through their growing pains in the Promised Land, God called out to a young boy named Samuel. To preserve His people from total genocide, God raised up a courageous teenager named Esther to call a nation to prayer. When our Father needed a leader to stand against the influences of another dominant, heathen nation, He worked through a young captive teenager named Daniel. As we entered the divinely-appointed time of the end, God called another teenager named Ellen to help raise up a remnant people who would carry the messages of the Three Angels of Revelation 14 to the world.

The track record is obvious; our Father often called young people to play major roles in His story — young people whose hearts listened to His call, whose hands and feet followed His commands; young people who “obtained their knowledge by the faithful use of their powers, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They placed themselves in connection with the Source of all wisdom, making the knowledge of God the foundation of their education. In faith they prayed for wisdom, and they lived their prayers. They placed themselves where God could bless them. They avoided that which would weaken their powers, and improved every opportunity to become intelligent in all lines of learning. They followed the rules of life that could not fail to give them strength of intellect. They sought to acquire knowledge for one purpose — that they might honor God. They realized that in order to stand as representatives of true religion amid the false religions of heathenism they must have clearness of intellect and must perfect a Christian character. And God Himself was their teacher. Constantly praying, conscientiously studying, keeping in touch with the Unseen, they walked with God as did Enoch.”¹

I’m encouraged by the evidence that our Father is beginning to wake up His sleeping children, one person at a time. The Holy Spirit is doing His promised special work of preparing a people for Christ’s soon return. It is essential that we partner with Him so He can accomplish His purpose of preparing a special group of educational leaders who can cooper-

ate with God in preparing our young people for His service. “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!”²

It was in this context that the first educational leadership training retreat was conducted by the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on November 10–12, 2011. Lake Union president Don Livesay, with the support of Barbara Livesay, Jim Martz and Garry Suds, the Lake Union Department of Education team, conducted a two-and-one-half-day retreat for seven first- or second-year principals and superintendents in the Lake Union territory. Participants included: Elvis Agard, principal, Battle Creek Academy; Wendy Baldwin, principal, Village SDA School; Diane Barlow, associate superintendent, Michigan Conference; Delwin Garcia, administrative assistant, Grand Rapids Adventist Academy; Jeremy Hall, principal, Indiana Academy; Al Rogers, vice principal, Peterson-Warren Academy; and Linda Rosen, superintendent, Wisconsin Conference.

Specific topics explored during the conference included:

The Stewardship of Leadership: Don facilitated an open discussion focused on what it means to dedicate one’s life to the call of God as opposed to seeking a career doing religious work for the Adventist Church. He encouraged the leaders to intentionally and prayerfully seek opportunities to challenge students to consider God’s call for their lives as pastors or educators. It was noted that when the “will of man cooperates

with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished through His strength. All of His biddings are enablings.”³

“The Four Rights” in Decision-making: Godly decision-making involves doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right way and for the right reason. Participants were challenged to seek the direction of the Holy Spirit that they might be used by God as an instrument in His hands to make and implement daily decisions that will honor Him. It was noted that while implementing “The Four Rights” they still may be met with opposition, but they will tend to build a climate of trust and respect.

Godly Authority Versus Power: Our Father’s original definition of the word “author” (from which the word “authority” is derived) meant to create, to enlarge and to enable growth. Healthy authority is about neither power nor control. Authority does not control, it authors. It empowers, enables and builds up the Body of Christ.

It was during the time of rebellion in Heaven that Lucifer misconstrued the original meaning of authority to the accepted meaning today, which is power to command thought or behavior. Don challenged the participants to apply the biblical context by using one’s position to empower, build up and strengthen others rather than be seduced to the worldly definition of positional power and force.

Conflict — Never Waste a Crisis: A crisis is God’s opportunity to do something great! It is through the crisis that He is able to accomplish for us those things which are otherwise absolutely impossible for us to accomplish. Impossibilities are God’s way of teaching us to walk by faith and not by sight. It is in times of crises that a leader’s true relationship with God is revealed. These are the times when godly leaders are able to sanctify God before the people.

Leadership Profiles and the Holy Spirit: Don identified a list of skills, abilities and inherent practices that are the “flavors and functions leaders typically bring to their responsibilities.” Included in this list were: spiritual leadership, character, people skills, personality projection, decision-making, work ethic, communication, organization, visioning, problem-solving, judgment and leadership style. It is noteworthy that those “with whom God has entrusted His truth, must possess the same beneficent spirit that Christ manifested. ... They must hold all they have — property, mental powers, spiritual strength — as not their own, but only lent them to advance the cause of Christ on earth.”⁴

In addition to presentations that were both enlightening and practical, a special highlight of the weekend was the opportunity to supplicate the throne room of God, pleading for

the Holy Spirit to open the minds of each small group member with His custom-designed thoughts for specific Bible passages. Several of the new administrators reported that, at the conclusion of each Bible study, they immediately called their spouse and shared with enthusiasm the various concepts they had learned.

Wendy Baldwin, principal at Village SDA School, expressed the sentiments of all with these words:

“The Educational Leadership Retreat held by the Lake Union office this past fall was a wonderful experience. It was a time of refreshing, in a small group setting of educational leaders, that led to significant Bible study and self-reflection on how to become more like Jesus in our leadership styles. As leaders, daily challenges arise, and I know I was in need of ‘a personal approach to personal accountability.’”

Again, we are reminded: “True success in any line of work is not the result of chance or accident or destiny. It is the outworking of God’s providences, the reward of faith and discretion, of virtue and perseverance. Fine mental qualities and

*God gives opportunities,
success depends upon the
use made of them.*

a high moral tone are not the result of accident. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them.”⁵

The first, of what is intended to be an annual event for both young educators and young pastors whose lives give evidence that the Holy Spirit is bestowing the spiritual gifts of leadership and administration, was a wonderful, Holy Spirit-filled event.

Don commented: “We stand at a critical point in time of this world’s history and that of our church. God will continue to call leaders to step up to accomplish His plans. Here, in the Lake Union, we will prayerfully seek to encourage and equip future leaders to respond to the calling of God.”

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

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2. White, Ellen G., *General Conference Bulletin*, July 1, 1902, Article C, paragraph 23.

3. White, Ellen G., “Talents,” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, Review and Herald Publishing Association: Washington, D.C. (1940), p. 333.

4. White, Ellen G., “No Respect of Persons,” *Gospel Workers*, Review and Herald Publishing Association: Washington, D.C., (1948), p. 335.

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Alendu

BY JOELLE ASHLEY



W

alking down the silent, fluorescent-lit hall to the Spanish room, my palms sweat, and I see that I've rumbled my brochures in a nervous grasp. I feel like a guilty student headed to the principal's office. *Really?* I think to myself. *What's wrong with you? You're an adult, have taught high school English, been to plenty of faculty meetings. What's the big deal?* I know God brought me to inquire of this dedicated group of individuals for His purpose. After all, God implores us to care for orphans and widows in their distress (see James 1:27). It's a good cause, I breathe quietly before entering the Andrews Academy faculty, post-week meeting. *Would they have room in next year's calendar for a grass-roots mission project?*

"Yes! Let's do it," comes the quick and painless reply. Alendu Village Mission would be the targeted project for Andrews Academy's fifth annual Cause Week, November 7–10 of the 2011–2012 school year.

Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" charges through my brain, thanks to the four years I sang it as a student in Andrews Academy's Feast of Lights. *Yes! I'm ready to present Alendu to Andrews Academy students.* I have all manner of materials, PowerPoint slides and stories put together from past presentations.

I've been making presentations on the plight of Alendu Village in Kenya since 2006, when I met a dear woman from Alendu Village and learned of her village's courage in the face

of utter deprivation and daily reminders of death's grip on her culture. Some purchased land and a couple of mission trips later, Alendu Village Mission is a registered non-profit organization that provides various forms of security for orphans, other vulnerable children and widows.

I pass the S.O.W. (Service, Outreach, Witnessing) Safari display on my way out of the academy and remember attending the very first Andrews Academy-sponsored mission trip to Cuentepec, Mexico. I pause to muse gratefully over the experience and its influence on me. It is a good cause!

Summer rushes past me, pursued by the busy fall schedule, and October plops down in front of me demanding

attention. I meet for the first time with the National Honor Society members who are responsible for Cause Week and learn of their thematic slant, raising awareness regarding violence. We pull together a framework for a fundraiser to be coupled with daily presentations on various aspects of violence and a to-do list. *Violence?* Hmm... *I haven't focused on Alendu's violence issues in a presentation before. Okay, I'm not ready.* "Thank you, Jesus, for not making this too easy."

According to a study conducted by the World Health Organization, violence causes more than 1.6 million deaths worldwide every year. More than 90 percent of those deaths occur in third world countries.¹ There are no Child Protective Services, no National Domestic Violence Hotline, no Department of Violence Prevention, and no 911 in Alendu. The village lies about 50 miles north of Tanzania, the only country in Africa to have conducted a nationwide survey regarding the impact of violence on both boys and girls. According to the study, nearly three out of every ten females and one out of every seven males have experienced sexual violence prior to age 18. Almost six out of ten girls and boys experience physical violence at the hands of relatives, and one out of two at the hands of teachers.²

My first action items on the to-do list are to write up brief press releases for the *Herald Palladium* and *Journal Era*, two local area newspapers, to invite the community to participate, and to contact Gary Burns about writing to you. *Check!* Next item: Glean community support. Might as well not sit around and hope enthusiasm ramps up; let's give it a little jumpstart with financial pledges from local businesses. What should be our approach? Let's ask them to "Ally Against Anger" with us in an effort to stop violence in our community and abroad. *Check!* In the week prior to Cause Week, ten different businesses³ pledged their support, starting the week off with more than \$1,000, and the promise of a free game of bowling and treats to the class that ends up raising the most. What humble gratitude I feel for this tangible display of support!

Currently, it costs \$1,250 every month to provide food and security for 20 of the direst orphans and ten disadvantaged families through our community center in Alendu. We employ widows to prepare the food, an agriculturalist to train residents in small-holder farming and develop a community garden from which the children are fed, Masai warriors for protection, and a community center director and assistant to organize and supervise it all. Surplus from the garden is sold, and the money circulates back into the project. Our prayer is that this feeding program will be self-sustaining by 2015.

In the flurry before November 7, 2011, our Cause Week kick-off date, National Honor Society members make

announcements during chapel, write notices to parents about the week, remind the week's speakers of their appointments, put up bulletin boards, assemble "Ally Against Anger" buttons, and much more. Everyone works together with their sponsors, Sari Butler and Byron Graves, to make final preparations. We're ready, and by now, I'm ready, too.

The week is delightfully fun, inspiring and sobering all at the same time. Duane McBride, Karl Bailey, Brent Geraty and Wagner Kuhn, all from Andrews University, share different presentations on topics such as domestic violence, the neurophysiology behind violence, bullying and firsthand observations of violence in war-torn countries. I share about Alendu Village Mission.

Raymond Ji, a student at Andrews Academy exclaims, "Cause Week was rewarding to me; our speakers were really good. And the fundraising game was definitely fun and memorable!"

Another student, Joanne Lee explains her utter astonishment at her peers' response to raising money for Alendu. "When I saw kids just lining up and piling around the wooden box to put their money in, it just surprised me so much," she says. "I've never seen people that enthusiastic about donating money."

All in all, the students add \$1,431 to the substantial local business donations of \$1,680, which comes to a grand total of \$3,110. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

As I write this, it's been a good two-and-a-half weeks since Cause Week, yet the privilege and joy I feel at having been a part of such a positive alliance continues to linger. What a dream team to be on: God, Andrews Academy students and faculty, powerful speakers from Andrews University, and generous local businesses. Together, we allied ourselves against anger — against violence — in our school, community and in Alendu, Kenya.

Joelle Ashley is an alumna and big fan of Andrews Academy, and is the president of Alendu Village Mission. She is a member of Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

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2. United Nations Children's Fund et al., "Violence against children in Tanzania," U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: United Republic of Tanzania (2011).
3. Allred Funeral Home, AMF Blossom Lanes, Apple Valley Market, Careful Transit, Exquisite Homes of Michigan, Michiana Eye Care, Raymond Roberts, C.P.A., Roma Pizzeria, Two by Two Animal Hospital and UltraCamp



Standing Tall

BY BONNIE GREEN

In years past, graduation ceremonies at Enfield High School in Enfield, Connecticut, always fell on weekdays. Yet, following a winter with frequent snow days, the graduation ceremony for the class of 2011 was moved to Saturday, June 25. Patrick Knighton, class president and a Seventh-day Adventist, discovered this unlikely date during one of the few remaining senior assemblies of the school year.

Surprised by the news, Patrick spent an entire day turning over the issue in his mind, trying to reconcile the reality of the situation with his personal convictions. Relying on prayer and seeking advice from others, Patrick was provided with opinions from both sides. In the end, Patrick determined he would be compromising his claim to faith in an all-powerful God if he compromised his beliefs. Patrick recalls a statement, made by a youth leader in his church, which had a great influence on his decision to honor God's Sabbath. "He reminded me that God had always been present in my academic career. To leave Him out at the end of it would be a disgrace," he recalled.

Patrick's choice wasn't easy. "The issue over the graduation date was hard enough, but my responsibilities as class president made it all the more difficult." Loyalty to his class and loyalty to God seemed to be two separate qualities, though both desirable. "Finally," says Patrick, "I had to ask myself: Do I honestly believe God will protect me ... and my reputation?"

Patrick wrote a letter to the Board of Education. His letter seized the Board attention, not to mention that of local media outlets. Emphasizing the Enfield High School mission statement, Patrick's letter concluded that he was determined to be the "responsible individual" and "citizen of a global society" of which the school's mission statement spoke. He did not fail to acknowledge his source of strength. "I draw strength from my belief in God; this is why neglecting my obligations to uphold the Sabbath day is inexcusable." Patrick told the Board that he had peace of mind that the decision was in God's hands.



Patrick Knighton

God proved He was with Patrick. Despite some delays in the Board's decision, word came that they would not change the date, due in part to the families who had previously arranged for flights coordinating with June 25 and other contractual agreements that couldn't be changed. Patrick continued trusting that God was in control. The Board eventually determined a separate graduation ceremony could be held for him during one of the rehearsals. Patrick was thankful to God that, in the end, he would be able to uphold his religious beliefs while still carrying out his presidential duties.

As Patrick delivered his presidential address to his peers during his rehearsal graduation ceremony, he captured his gratitude to God in the nature of his speech, challenging his class to seek a "greater purpose, a higher calling."

This experience undoubtedly has left Patrick changed. "You have to seek out God in every situation you come across. You don't know when people are watching," he says. Although his situation could have blocked his faith, Patrick trusted God to see him through. "In the beginning it seemed as though it would be easier to say no, and preferable to simply blend in. But when God calls you and you choose to trust Him, He enables you to move forward in confidence. After all, it's not about you — it's about showing God's glory to the world."

Patrick is now a freshman pre-med/biology major at Andrews University.

Bonnie Green is a student newswriter in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.

Priceless Opportunities

BY ALLAN SMITH

Every so often, I get a call, out of the blue, from a non-Adventist parent who is looking for a school for his or her teenager. These calls are challenging. In a 15- or 20-minute telephone call, how does one describe what life is like at an Adventist boarding academy, knowing that the paradigm is so different? In reality, most Adventist parents who send their students to public school do not fully understand the striking contrasts either.

As a student who attended public school, I learned there are many things you just don't tell your mom! Sure, our rural public school didn't have metal detectors or kids selling drugs out of their lockers, but there were much more subtle issues that affected my character. So much of growing up as a teenager revolves around friends and one's social life. This leads me to my story about my friend, Nate Eversman, a sophomore at Indiana Academy.

I love going to Teen Camp at Timber Ridge Camp, in Spencer, Indiana, which is where I first met Nate. To be honest, recruiting at camp can be a bit discouraging, because so many of those joyful, young people are attending public school, including many who are raised in Adventist homes. I wish they could experience the opportunity I had when I went to academy.

This is Nate's story, recently written for English class:

"I grew up in Indiana, living my whole life in a little house by the river. I worked with my mom and my stepdad at our marina, repairing boats.

"My entire family went to church every Sunday, not that I really wanted to go. All I cared about was socializing with my friends. I was a home-schooled student, along with my sisters, from the fourth through the eighth grade. Then my mom decided to send me to a Christian school in Madison, but I didn't like it. After a whole year of going to that school, we decided to go back to homeschooling. That's when things changed for me.

"My family went to some [evangelistic] meetings. That's how I found out about Seventh-day Adventists. We started going to this church in Scottsburg, Indiana, and someone told my parents that my sisters and I should go to Timber Ridge



Nate Eversman holds a baby at an orphanage in Honduras while on an Indiana Academy mission trip. He believes God answered his prayers and made it possible for him to attend Indiana Academy.

Camp in the summer. We loved it! While we were there, I got the privilege to meet Mr. Smith, the recruiter for Indiana Academy. I got a packet of information and shared it with my parents on the ride home from camp. To make a long story short, my mother agreed to send me to Indiana Academy.

"I was excited to go to this new school! The first day was so different from what I was used to. It took a while for me to step out of my comfort zone, but I quickly made new friends.

"I absolutely love it here. The teachers are so loving. The kids are like my new brothers and sisters. I thank God every day for sending me here, and for providing financial aid to make it possible.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened' (Matthew 7:7 NIV).

"I picked this verse because I prayed to come to this school; and when it looked like it was not going to be possible, I kept on praying. I feel that God has answered my prayers."

I wish more young people like Nate could attend Adventist schools. We live in some difficult times. My academy experience helped me though my divided home. It is where I solidified my walk with Christ. Encourage a young person today to take a leadership stand and serve the Lord, and help them discover the difference an Adventist Christian education makes.

Allan Smith is technology director, recruiter and marketing at Indiana Academy. Nate Eversman is a member of the class of 2014 at Indiana Academy.



Erin Behrer

Maria T. Maestre

Chaplain Maria T. Maestre: A portrait in grief

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. — Psalm 34:18 NIV

When a mother loses her baby, pain and grief fill every corner of her room at Adventist Glen Oaks Hospital. Words are of no comfort. Family members don't know how to act.

But there, in the doorway, dressed in her long white coat with her hands clasped over her heart, stands Maria T. Maestre, a chaplain. Time after time, she takes in this scene and simply enters the room.

"I'm sorry. I'm so sad for you, but you are not alone," says Maestre to the grieving mother. "We are with you today."

A Chilean native and Seventh-day Adventist, Maestre is very involved with the region's Still Missed program

for parents who've experienced pregnancy loss from miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death. She also conducts grief groups in Spanish for the parents.

A few years ago, Maestre traveled to Honduras on a mission trip, and is a certified medical interpreter. She has been with Adventist Midwest Health for the past five years, and is currently finishing up a Doctor of Minister degree with emphasis on how Hispanic families deal with the loss of a baby. It's a difficult and daunting subject, especially when Maestre sees mothers who have suffered this loss many times, she said.

"I tell these moms that they have a future and that it will get better. They need to bring losses out into the open. It is a transition, a time of new beginning when it is important to share their grief, with family and friends," Maestre said.

Some parents may express anger at God, but they are treated kindly and without judgmental comment as the bereaved are brought again to trust and faith, Maestre added.

Tending to these mothers knows no time clock. Maestre attends funerals on weekends and works well past her scheduled shift, said Adventist Glen Oaks lead chaplain, Hugo Portal, who often sees Maestre comforting a grieving mother late into the night.

"When patients come to our hospital, especially Hispanic mothers with a language limitation, they meet Maria and know she is someone they can trust," Portal said. "She is compassionate, and you just can't imagine how much these mothers value her good disposition."

For Maestre, grief is not something to avoid. It's a part of life, and it happens to everyone — even her. In August 2011, she lost her husband after a lengthy illness to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and she takes the pain of that loss into every hospital room she enters, being able to provide comfort with much more empathy.

"It's different when it happens to you, but I tell patients, 'I know what it's like,'" Maestre said. "I call what I went through my 'experience of faith.' In God, we have hope and faith. The chaplain team, medical and clinical staff carried me through those first difficult months. In the context of faith, loss is not the final reality. I know I'll see my husband again in the day of resurrection."

When Maestre's husband, Jorge, passed away, employees from all four hospitals kept asking Portal how she was coping. For all the comfort that Maestre provided through the years, her Adventist Midwest Health peers wanted to return the favor.

"When Maria returned to work, she openly shared her story of loss with peers and patients alike," Portal said. "Her faith is congruent with her experience. Before her husband's death, she was able to walk alongside a patient who lost a loved one; but, after her husband's death, she walks with them."

Sheila Galloro, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health



Jim and Gloria Hippler, Elaine Chadoir and Richard White all received a 2012 MLK Legacy of Freedom Award. The Legacy of Freedom Awards were instituted at Andrews, in 2006, to recognize individuals or organizations who exemplify Martin Luther King's values of civility and equality.

2012 MLK Celebration at Andrews University

“Prophetic Imagination: Breaking Through to a New Vision” was the theme for this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, held Jan. 12–17.

Walter Brueggemann, a world-renowned Old Testament scholar and author, provided two keynote addresses. His presentation, “The Prophetic Imagination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,” validated King’s universal contribution to the important role of prophets as peacemakers and advocates of justice.

On Sabbath, Jan. 14, during a worship service in the Seminary Chapel, seminary student, Richard Means, delivered “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop.” It was the speech King delivered on Apr. 3, 1968, just one day before his death.

On three separate occasions during the week-long celebration, a 2012 Martin Luther King Legacy of Freedom Award was presented. The Legacy of Freedom Award was instituted at Andrews, in 2006, to recognize individuals or organizations who exemplify King’s values of civility and equality. The recipients were Elaine Chadoir, Jim and Gloria Hippler, and Richard White.

Elaine Chadoir

Chadoir has dedicated her life to

serving those around her. Her volunteer work began in 1958 as a charter member of the Civic League. At the club’s 50th anniversary, Chadoir was named “Exemplary Woman and Citizen” of Berrien Springs. The following year, she began volunteering at the Berrien Springs public schools, and enjoyed the time with the teachers and students.

Chadoir volunteered more than 29,000 hours at Berrien General Hospital where she served as the gift shop chairperson for 20 years. She was president of Southwest District of Auxiliaries and the Michigan Association of Healthcare Advocates. In 1982, Chadoir was awarded the Lion’s Club Citizen of the Year and, in 1985, the Margaret B. Upton Volunteer Leadership Award.

From 1971 to 1980, Chadoir served as a trustee for the 1839 Courthouse Museum, and from 1979 to 1999 as a trustee on the Village Council.

She chaired the finance and trustees committees at the Berrien Springs United Methodist Church, has been a member of the choir, volunteered at the church’s store, and was a member of the English bell choir from 1988 to 2005. She said, “My life is given now to church; the friends I have there are dear to me.”

Richard White

White has helped families, churches and communities around him achieve financial stability for the past 16 years. His ministry combines principles of holistic stewardship with Christian leadership.

With a Bachelor of Accounting degree from Baruch College (1988) in New York, he later obtained his CPA license, which he has held for 27 years. White is currently working on both his Master of Divinity and Master of Business Administration degrees at Andrews University.

In 1995, White founded the Advent Financial Institute, Inc., and has since held a variety of seminars on

holistic stewardship and financial management at churches and institutions across the country. He is the director of finance for Harbor Habitat for Humanity in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Recently, White held financial management seminars at numerous churches, Benton Harbor Street Ministry and I’m Saving Myself, Inc., a community non-profit organization in Benton Harbor. White also has served his church as stewardship director, elder, Sabbath school teacher and chair of the finance committee.

Jim and Gloria Hippler

Jim and Gloria Hippler met while attending Andrews University, and married in 1976. In 1990, the couple participated in a mission project in Venezuela, the first of 20 short-term mission trips the Hipplers have been involved in throughout Eastern Europe, and Central and South America.

In 1998, Jim Hippler returned to Andrews University to earn a degree in architecture while continuing to run his company, Exquisite Homes, Inc. In 2003, he graduated with a Master of Architecture.

In 2003, Jim Hippler and Gloria Hippler widened their mission focus to include Nepal, India and the Philippines, working on churches and schools. Jim Hippler designed an airplane hanger with living quarters on each side for a mission station in Palauan, Philippines.

Gloria Hippler has spent seven years working with the HOSTS mentoring program in the Benton Harbor, Mich., school district. She was the first female president of the Berrien Springs–Eau Claire Rotary Club. Both Hipplers have served on various community and school boards. Jim Hippler has been involved with Habitat for Humanity in Benton Harbor as well as the construction of several churches throughout Berrien County.

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

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Magabooking offers opportunity for GRAA students to share their faith

Michigan—At Grand Rapids Adventist Academy, the fourth- and fifth-grade students readily participate in magabooking, a program where students canvass from door-to-door, placing in homes such books as *Seven Secrets* cookbook, *Christ's Object Lessons*, *Storytime* for children, and *The Great Controversy*. After an afternoon of training, the students are ready to share their faith in this most remarkable way.

The benefits of such a program are many — Christ-centered books are placed in homes as a witness, the students learn canvassing skills and grow in their Christian experience, and money is raised for worthy students so they can attend a Christian school. In *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6*, Ellen White reminds readers, “Through the work for the relief of our schools a fourfold blessing will be realized — a blessing to the schools, to the world, to the church, and to the workers” (p. 475).

Natasha Mwansa, a fifth-grader in her third year of magabooking says, “It is a nice experience going door-to-door telling about Jesus.”

Nathan Quick, another fifth-grader, agrees, “Magabooking is a great



Students in grades four and five at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy display the books they sold door-to-door.

experience because you get to share the Gospel with other people.”

Some may question, “Can time be taken from the curriculum to do this type of work?” In *Counsels to Teachers*, White says, “This kind of work is, in fact, one of the means that God has ordained for giving our youth a missionary training, and those who neglect to improve such opportunities lose out of their lives a chapter of experience of the highest value. By entering heartily into this work, students can learn how to approach with tact and discretion men and women in all walks of life, how to deal with them courteously, and how to lead them to give favorable consideration to the truths contained in the books that are sold” (p. 529).

As students participate in this program, it prepares them for other lines of Christian service. They develop leadership skills as they take less

experienced students with them. GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) literature is also distributed to homes where books are not placed, thus placing God’s Word in these homes, too. (See www-goglow-org.adventistfaith.org for information about GLOW literature.)

In the fall of 2011, the students raised more than \$2,100 that is being used to assist families in meeting their tuition needs.

I believe this is God’s plan for our schools. Nothing warms my heart like one of my students excitedly telling me, “We placed [a copy of] *The Great Controversy* today,” or listening while one of my students prays with someone. This will continue to be part of my curriculum.

Brenda Mejeur, fourth- and fifth-grade teacher, Grand Rapids Adventist Academy

HAA students learn life lessons on the basketball court

Illinois—More than 70 Hinsdale Adventist Academy students were bouncing off the walls in the HAA gym during the winter break, but it wasn’t caused by a sugar overload! These students were participants in a special basketball camp.

“Inspiring our kids to be fit and active is an essential part of the program

here at HAA,” stated Robert Jackson, associate principal at HAA. “Taking care of our bodies and recognizing that they are God’s creation is a value we want instilled in all of our staff and students.”

More than basketball skills were taught during the four-day camp. Each day, Jackson started the camp with worship. “Basketball provides some great object lessons. Every day, we selected a new word to focus on. We talked about how this word applied to our spiritual life, academics and, finally, basketball.

Perseverance, attitude, responsibility and dedication were the words focused on. The students were inspired to set goals and then strive to achieve them, to be tenacious and not give up, despite obstacles that are bound to occur. This is a message that applies to life!”

Anthony Bowie, a former NBA player who conducted the camp, was impressed with the HAA students participating, who ranged in age from kindergarten right through to seniors. “These kids gave it all they had. They were very



Cherie Jackson

Former NBA player Anthony Bowie helps HAA students refine their basketball skills and learn new techniques.

enthusiastic and respectful. It was great to spend some time with them.” Bowie played for the Houston

Rockets, the New York Knicks and was a key player for Orlando Magic for five seasons. Jackson said, “Anthony is a

long-time friend, and he was willing to use his expertise to help our kids refine their basketball skills and learn some new techniques. We had a fantastic week together.”

Senior Denzel Washington, a captain of the school’s Hurricanes team, said, “This has been an excellent experience. Mr. Bowie reminded us about how important it is to get the basics right. It was pretty awesome to have someone teaching us who used to play in the NBA.”

For more information on Hinsdale Adventist Academy, go to www.haa.org.

Cherie Jackson, communications coordinator, Hinsdale Adventist Academy



Kristin Rosa

A few Alpine Christian School students display a small sampling of bags collected during the school’s annual fall service project. The bags contain clothes, shoes and toys that will be sent to benefit those who need the items in Africa.

Alpine Christian School recycles to benefit environment, less fortunate

Illinois—Recycling is more than just a buzzword for today’s generation, it’s a way of life. The students of Alpine Christian School in Rockford already know recycling is key to helping save the planet, but this fall they learned it also can help others in need.

Every fall, the school hosts a major service project, usually a can-collecting or food basket project. This year, however, ACS principal, Renae Young, and school staff were looking for a change.

They landed on Lociquet Recycling, a Rockford company that specializes in collecting gently-used clothes, shoes and toys. The materials Lociquet collects are sorted and baled, then shipped to West African countries where they will be reused.

“The people behind this program are local, and have a real passion for recycling and helping those who need it,” said Young. She felt this project was a great fit for ACS students, and hoped it would instill in them the value of helping others.

“That’s probably my biggest goal, always,” Young said. “The idea of recycling in today’s world is fairly popular, which has its pros and cons. I’m glad the kids are so well versed in how to recycle, but the knowledge doesn’t seem to curb our society’s appetite for getting new and better things all the time instead of utilizing what we currently have.” This project combines the lesson of keeping the environment clean with the additional benefit of moving unwanted materials to where they are wanted.

Young said the students responded positively to the idea, beginning with kick-off day in October when a crew from Lociquet stopped by ACS to bring collection bags and talk about the program. The school added its own spin to the project by making it a competition among the classrooms.

Students from pre-K to eighth grade were inspired by a prize that went to the classroom that brought in the most recyclable materials.

“The students were thrilled about this project, mainly because of the ‘friendly’ competition,” Young said. “They liked to show off how much they brought in.”

She added that the recycling program provides parents a way to clean out toyboxes and closets without too much complaining from their kids. “It’s a win-win situation for the homes,” Young said.

Lociquet also provides some reimbursement for materials collected. The money went toward the eighth-grade class trip fundraiser.

The month-long project ended Nov. 18, when Lociquet returned to ACS to collect the bags. Local media also came to broadcast to the Rockford area what the school had accomplished.

“We turned in our bags to them, and the U-Haul truck was on hand to take it all away to where it is needed most,” said Young.

By participating in the recycling service project, ACS students made a difference, not only for the environment but for someone in need.

Kristin Rosa, communication committee member, Rockford Church



Daniel Craig

Guests attending the Door Prairie Adventist School's "Journey to Bethlehem" enjoyed the warm glow of the candlelit paths that guided them to various scenes depicting the story of Jesus' birth.

La Porte community experiences Journey to Bethlehem

Indiana—What do you think of when you hear the word “education”? Do you think of a pupil-packed classroom where staunch, ancient teachers lecture? Perhaps your fondest memories of school involve something more experiential: pilgrim and Indian costumes cut from brown grocery bags at Thanksgiving, using your pointer finger to write the ABCs in meringue-textured shaving cream that was smeared over your school desk, spring concerts and field trips.

If so, you might share a Hebraic philosophy on education. Modeling and imitating — this is how Jesus taught. He showed His disciples how to do things and then said, “It’s your turn.”

On Dec. 2 and 3, 2011, more than 300 people from the La Porte community came together to give the students at Door Prairie Adventist School “their turn.” The children enacted the Christmas story in an interactive production, “Journey to Bethlehem,” three times each night, for a total of six performances.

Students learned more about the real story of Jesus’ birth as they taught others about the Bible. Unbeknownst to the students, they also were being mentored to participate in future church functions as they watched more than 100 adults sew costumes, organize and build stage areas, and set up props, sound equipment and lights throughout the La Porte Church property.

Under clear skies and bright stars, attendees watched with fog-like breath for the angel, Gabriel. A warm glow and candlelit paths guided guests to various acting stages strategically sprinkled amidst the outdoor village. Onlookers saw the angel talk to Mary, and followed the enchanting path to subsequent scenes where they saw Joseph, the shepherds, the palace of the wise men, a hectic marketplace and the stable.

“There was a lot going on in our Bethlehem with people ‘selling’ bread, pears, apples, cloth, chicken, baskets, etc.,” said Hilda Scott, Door Prairie Adventist School principal. “The Roman soldiers did a fantastic job at being gruff!” Shepherd staves amidst the live sheep, goats and donkeys, rope halters on ponies, amidst the flutter of chickens, pigeons and rabbits, added realistic flair in the Bethlehem market.

“We had burn barrels where people could keep warm by a fire,” said Rebecca Reis, teacher of grades two through four at Door Prairie. She had the vision for the program three years ago.

The stable was the last stop before going inside for aromatic, warm apple cider, hot cocoa and tempting cookies.

“This scene was peaceful,” re-members Hilda, a guest. “The people gathered together and we sang ‘Away in a Manger’ with guitar accompaniment while taking in the picturesque scene. Then, Pastor Bill Payne (La Porte Church pastor) said a few words about the meaning of Christmas. He invited the people to give their hearts to God.”

Mary, a local children’s librarian, said, “I was coming home from work and saw your sign out front, and decided to stop. Not knowing what to expect, I’m glad I did. I’m not from your church, and found my experience enjoyable. Congratulations on a job well-done. I’ll be back next year.”

Comment cards from the event were filled with accolades and requests for a repeat performance. “Just keep doing it!” a card from Robert and Sally encouraged.

Adventist Christian education models young disciples for Jesus. The experience at Door Prairie Adventist School shows them how, and then says, “It’s your turn.”

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference



Daniel Craig

Fully-costumed children helped tell the story of Jesus’ birth in an interactive production offered six times to the community. More than 300 people from the La Porte, Ind., community convened for the special event.

Fourth-grade class shares Christmas gifts with Humane Society

Michigan—Pamela Curry's fourth-grade class at the Village Adventist Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Mich., forfeited a Christmas gift exchange to make a difference in the life of animals in need. Instead of bringing in gifts for each other, the students purchased items for the Southwest Michigan Humane Society. Students gifted items that will benefit animals in shelters, including dog and cat food, bleach, kitty litter and comforting animal toys.

This has been a Christmas tradition for several years in Curry's classroom, and the exchange project is always well received by enthusiastic fourth-grade students. Curry has a love for animals, which is contagious in her classroom.



Instead of exchanging gifts with one another, students in the fourth-grade class at Village Adventist Elementary School purchased gifts to donate to animals at the Southwest Michigan Humane Society. From left: Sam Gusky, Josh Rosengran, Logan Robbins, Olivia McLaughlin, Emma VanderWaal and Kaila O'Carey

Many of her daily worships include animal stories that inspire students and instill virtues such as empathy, kindness, loyalty and love.

God has blessed us with the presence of animals and pets on this Earth, and many people are touched by the life of an animal in positive ways. In the

spring, fourth-grade students will participate in a field trip to the Humane Society to see firsthand how their gifts were a blessing to animals in need.

Wendy Baldwin, principal, Village Adventist Elementary School

[PATHFINDER NEWS]

Zoo tree decorated by Pathfinders, Adventurers

Illinois—On Nov. 20, 2011, the Downers Grove Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs met at the Brookfield Zoo to decorate one of the 471 Christmas trees that were placed this year in various locations around the zoo. Families and groups, along with corporations, are invited to sponsor the trees with a donation that goes toward the zoo conservation fund. Every year, for the past three years, Adventurers (led by Deb Navaro) and Pathfinders (co-led by Cindy Sokolies and J.P. Navaro) have sponsored a Christmas tree at the zoo.

At the meeting before the tree decoration was scheduled, Adventurers and Pathfinders were eagerly putting together the decorations that would be placed on the tree. When Deb Navaro



Young people from the Downers Grove Church Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs decorated a tree at the Brookfield zoo last Christmas. The activity helped the children learn about how God cares for the creatures He creates, and that though they are young they can have a part in caring for the animals.

was asked if there was a theme for the decorations, she said that there was no specific theme. She just looks through the crafts she has left from the year; whatever leftovers she has the most of decides the theme. This year's ornaments were made from clear plastic cups, glitter, cotton balls, pine cones and stickers.

Adventurers, Pathfinders and their families met around the tree at 11:30

a.m. to decorate. The ornaments were placed in a box on the ground, and within seconds the children were busily decorating the tree, some held up high by their parents so they could reach the top of the tree to hang their ornament. After the tree was decorated, children and parents enjoyed a small snack and were then encouraged to visit the rest of the zoo, and told they needed to see at least five animals before they left.

Outings such as these combine fun and appreciation of God's creatures, and help the children learn that God cares about all the creatures He creates. It also helps the young people learn that, even though they are young, they can have a part in helping take care of what God has created.

Sandra Walker, communications leader, Downers Grove Church

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



Paula Saehs

A CHIP program offered at The Shepherd's House in Wausau, Wis., encouraged positive lifestyle changes and resulted in improved health for each of the 16 participants.

CHIP program introduces community to The Shepherd's House

Wisconsin—As early as 1863, Ellen G. White wrote and lectured about the positive benefits of a healthy diet and exercise. Today, modern science is catching up and recognizing the

importance of getting back to a vegetarian diet as provided by God in the Garden of Eden until the time of the flood. Hans Diehl, a physician, has created the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) program, taking this counsel to a level that the average person can learn and understand, and see positive changes.

The Shepherd's House (also known as the Wausau Seventh-day Adventist Church) held its first annual CHIP program with the graduation ceremony on Nov. 3, 2011. The program was successful with each of the 16 participants experiencing a positive change in one or more areas: weight loss, cholesterol levels, triglycerides, blood glucose, HDL/LDL ratios, blood pressure or reduction/elimination of prescribed medications (with their primary physician's approval), less pain and more energy.

During each evening of the program, the participants tasted samples of CHIP-approved foods, from salads to

soups to desserts, which were prepared by a dedicated group of ladies who love to cook healthy foods. The comments were always positive, and many thought the entrees were as good as the meat they were used to eating. Exercise was tracked on a map traveling from the east coast to the west coast. A "monkey" traveled from table to table, and resided with the group who walked the farthest for the week.

The CHIP program was led by Joy Sajdak and her "band of volunteers," and it was chosen by the church as a main focus of ministry in 2011. The goal of the program is obviously to teach people about better health; but, just as important, it is to introduce the community to what The Shepherd's House has to offer and to develop friendships on this Earth that members pray will lead to eternal relationships with Christ and each other.

Pamela Krueger, communications secretary,
The Shepherd's House, Wausau

International Day celebrates diversity of church members

Indiana—On Oct. 22, 2011, the Glendale Church members, in Indianapolis, celebrated the seventh International Day with guest speaker, Lawrence Brown, director of the Sabbath School and Religious Liberty departments of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, with headquarters in Queens, New York. Brown also serves as pastor of the Lebanon Church.

"This praise-drenched event is always a high Sabbath for members and guests alike," says Paulette Taylor, coordinator of the annual event.

This year, 36 nations were represented in the Parade of Flags ceremony that preceded the worship service. "Historically, Adventists have always given to foreign missions, and Glendale's International Day



Judith Yeoman

From left: Rachel Pizarro Pacheco and Melissa Cowgills prepare to carry the Peru flag at Glendale Church's International Parade of Flags at the recent International Day service.

represents some of the harvest from those offerings as we have families in our congregation who were directly impacted from those mission offerings

when they lived in their native lands," reports William Jamieson, a longtime, Glendale member, "and now they join us as members in our church here in America!"

"I think International Day is a great way to celebrate the diversity within our church," says Chad Cowgill, a new member at Glendale. "International Day helps us recognize that God has blessed everyone with something unique, and each person brings something special to our congregation of believers. Each one of us is different, but we are all a part of one family!"

An International Day dinner followed the Sabbath service.

On a Sunday afternoon a few weeks later, under the direction of L. T. Gates, a local physician and member of Glendale, the church sponsored an International Dinner for the community. Foods from several countries were featured and enjoyed by the guests.

Judith Yeoman, member, Glendale Church

The Shepherd's House assembles gift baskets for families

Wisconsin—On Dec. 20, 2011, The Shepherd's House CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) alumni met to assemble gift baskets to give to various families who are in need spiritually, physically or financially. The baskets contained CHIP-approved breads, muffins and cookies. In addition, nuts, dried fruits and fresh Florida oranges and grapefruit were included. A bottle of sparkling grape juice and a special Bible verse along with the necessary glasses, Christmas



On Dec. 20, 2011, The Shepherd's House CHIP alumni assembled gift baskets to present to families in need in their community.

plates and napkins were added to ensure the baskets were decorative and pleasant to look at.

The delicious contents and beautiful baskets were created and delivered

by the graduates of the first CHIP program held in Wausau. Friendships sprouted during the CHIP program and continue to grow on a weekly basis. One of the graduates has developed a very close friendship with Joy Sajdak, the CHIP coordinator. During their weekly walks, Sajdak shares Jesus with her friend as well as information about the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Shepherd's House plans to conduct annual CHIP programs with the goals of teaching the health message, developing friendships and sharing the love of Jesus.

Pamela Krueger, communications secretary,
The Shepherd's House, Wausau

[UNION NEWS]



Dave and Vicky Skinner accepted the invitation to pause for a photo to remember their special visit to the Historic Adventist Village.

Visitors enjoy annual Christmas walk at Historic Adventist Village

Michigan—On Saturday night, Dec. 17, 2011, 122 people came to Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek to enjoy the Annual Christmas Carol Stroll. The yearly event is held the second Saturday night before Christmas.

Through the softly falling snow, guests walked up Wood Street through the two hanging lanterns positioned at the start of the stroll. Small candles lined the pathway to the first venue. As they entered the replica of the

1857 second Battle Creek meeting house (church), soft Christmas music was played on the 1864 pump organ. Garth "Duff" Stoltz, Village director, began the program with a welcome and prayer. Two recitations and a beautiful special music set the tone for the evening. Then, lanterns were handed out and guests directed by groups to other buildings in the Village.

Each group listened and strolled through the village as they visited the James and Ellen White home, constructed in 1856; a log cabin built in the 1800s; and the 1870s' Kane School where Christmas stories were told.

For the closing program, all gathered in the Parkville Church, constructed in 1860. The pump organ played Christmas music; volunteers led in the reading of Scripture; and all joined in singing Christmas carols and listened to a recitation. Guests were invited to hang Christmas stockings filled with donations on the tree. The donations received went to support the New Level Sports after-school program located across the road from the Village. The program uses sports to teach about Christ and Christian living.

The evening concluded with refreshments in the Welcome Center, and many took advantage of the photo opportunity to capture the evening's

memories in a sleigh at the White home.

People came from the neighborhood, area churches and others from some distance. Some who came had no idea this Adventist Village even existed. We do not like being the Adventist Church's "best-kept secret." After a brief synopsis of what the Village has to offer, most stated they would come back for a full tour in the future.

You are encouraged to come tour the Historic Adventist Village. Tours are offered Memorial Day through Labor Day, Sunday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (last tour starts at 4:00 p.m.). Tours are offered on Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Groups of ten or more are requested to pre-arrange a tour time. From Labor Day to Memorial Day, tours are offered on Saturday afternoons only from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Other times by appointment only. Materials for a self-guided tour can be found on the front door of the Welcome Center. For additional information, visit adventistheritage.org; or call 269-965-3000.

Plan now to reserve Dec. 15, 2012, so you can join the annual candlelight stroll to add to the blessing and memories of this special season.

Don Scherenceel, assistant director, Historic
Adventist Village



Dana Mills

Gwen Foster, former health czar for the City of Philadelphia, will direct a medically-supervised health camp, July 22-31, at Timber Ridge Camp in Spencer, Ind.

Fitness at the Ridge program to be launched

Indiana—Health Ministries and Timber Ridge Camp are pleased to offer a new camp to the Lake Union Conference, “Fitness at the Ridge.” Gwen Foster, former health czar for the City of Philadelphia, will direct the medically-supervised health camp, July 22–31.

“I want people to see that health patterns can be changed, even in the ten days we’re together,” Foster stated.

Foster helped pilot Philadelphia’s signature program, “Health Journey.” After placing at the top of *Men’s Fitness* magazine’s fattest cities list in 2000, the program’s impact on Philly landed the city at No. 23 on the list.

While serving as health czar, Foster was visited multiple times by then U.S. president, Bill Clinton, and Sanjay Gupta, the chief medical correspondent for CNN.

Foster said, “President Clinton announced that these principles constitute probably the best program in the nation.”

As with Health Journey, Fitness

on the Ridge will begin with a pre-physical assessment. The assessment will describe a “starting point” attendees can reference as they make progress. It identifies blood sugar, weight, height, body mass index, cholesterol and lipid levels.

“It’s not difficult for them to achieve their goals,” Foster said.

Foster’s philosophy revolves around the **FACES** model:

FUN: “If it’s not, they won’t!”

ACCOUNTABILITY: “Lifestyle coaches come in to support the people. I always tell members of the program that we stay with them ‘til Jesus comes.”

CREDIBLE (science-based information): “The Adventist Church has it from the Creator God.”

EMPOWER: “Give people skills so they can do it at home.”

SUSTAIN: “Plan with them so they continue it over a lifetime.”

“Fitness at the Ridge will provide daily activities at a level determined appropriate for each person’s fitness level,” Foster said. Activities could be dodgeball, guided walks around the lake, swimming, fishing and other traditional camp activities.

The program involves daily exercise, worship in rooms, whole food meals, seminars during the day such as nutrition and cooking classes, emotional support and a period for rest.

“Fitness at the Ridge can be a transitioning place for people,” said Clinton Meharry, Indiana Conference health ministries director.

In previous programs, Foster saw people get off their oral medications. Some people with Type 1 diabetes reduced their insulin needs by more than half.

Attendees will continue to transform their health after Fitness at the Ridge, and follow-up support will be available. “Accountability is very important,” Foster said. Medical supervisors will be there each step of the way to monitor, encourage and mentor attendees.

Physician George Guthrie will be among the camp’s medical personnel. Guthrie, an expert in lifestyle medicine with Adventist Health System and the previous director of Lifestyle Center of America, will volunteer his time at TRC during his summer vacation.

Television programs, such as *The Biggest Loser*, gain popularity as Americans’ fitness disintegrates. “It only shows the great need for help,” said Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth ministries director. “Each summer, I see kids at camp who are unable to participate in physically-demanding activities like rock-climbing or horseback riding. Even something as simple as walking to activities has become a strain for some. I hurt for them every time. Now, I’m excited that we can do something to help them and their families.”

Lifestyle changes are more easily achieved when done in groups. “Families and couples are encouraged to attend,” Foster said. This logic is why TRC will have Family Camp congruently with Fitness on the Ridge. “Four hundred sixty-five dollars for a ten-day fitness camp is a bargain,” Thompson said. Websites advertising comparable programs cost more than \$1,000. A family rate for four or more adults, ages eight and up, is \$1,500. For more information, call 317-844-6201 and ask for the Health Ministries Department.

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference



Enjoy the benefits of nature and exercise at the 2012 Fitness at the Ridge health camp, July 22-31, at Timber Ridge Camp.

TRC



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* Website 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

Eighth Annual Ellen G. White Studies Symposium: We extend a general invitation to attend this Symposium to pastors in the Lake Union, religion and theology professors at Adventist colleges, scholars of Ellen White and Adventist studies, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary students, and other interested persons. It will be held on Mon., **Mar. 26**, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m., in the chapel of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. Our speakers include Katrina= Blue, Merlin D. Burt, Jud Lake and Jiri Moskala. For more information, contact the Center for Adventist Research at 269-471-3209 or email shoemakk@andrews.edu.

AU Music and Worship Conference: Hosted at Andrews University, **Mar. 29-31**, this annual conference provides training for pastors, worship leaders, church musicians and church artists seeking firm biblical principles and practices of worship ministry. For registration and more information, visit auworship.conference.org or call 269-471-8352.

The AU Health & Fitness Symposium 2012 will be held at Andrews University, **May 10-13**. This event will feature presentations, seminars, workshops and poster presentations from a variety of health and fitness professionals. It is sponsored by the AU Department of Nutrition & Wellness, Pioneer Memorial Church's Health & Wellness Ministries, the GC Department of Health Ministries and PositiveChoices.com. For full details and registration information, visit www.andrews.edu/cas/nutrition/symposium.

Illinois

Broadview Academy Alumni Association
Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend is
May 4 and 5. All alumni are encouraged

to attend. Mark your calendars. Call your classmates, and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes: 1942, '52, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92 and 2002. Fri. night vespers, Sabbath school and church. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, **we need your email addresses – postage is too expensive.** Send it to Ed Gutierrez at edjulie1@att.net, or call 630-232-9034. More information to come. Don't miss it!

Indiana

Sabbath Celebration (annual statewide convocation): This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Dick Tibbits, is the author of *Forgive to Live*. The celebration will take place **Mar. 31** in the Indiana Academy gymnasium. For more information, contact Sheri DeWitt at 317-565-6201.

Hispanic Holy Week is a full week of Easter evangelism, **Mar. 31-Apr. 8**, hosted by all Indiana Hispanic churches. Keying on the biblical events around Christ's death and resurrection, Hispanic Holy Week reaches the Hispanic Catholic community, which also commemorates these events. This is a great opportunity to celebrate Christ's resurrection with your Catholic friends and coworkers. For more information, or to find a participating church near you, contact Antonio Rosario at 317-844-6201; or email prarosario@aol.com.

Operation Downpour will be held in Carmel, **Apr. 14**. Mark your calendar. Be a part of the storm! For more information, contact Don Hawley at hawley7@yahoo.com.

Glendale SDA Church Celebrates 50 Years: Located at 2900 E. 62nd St., Indianapolis, the Glendale Church members will celebrate the anniversary on Fri., **May 18**, at 7:30 p.m. and Sabbath, **May 19**, at 9:30 a.m. The speaker Friday evening is Indiana Conference president, Van Hurst, and the Sabbath morning worship service will be Pastor C.D. Brooks. The church would like to invite all previous Glendale members and friends to join them in celebration to their Great God for His leading and sustaining power these last 50 years. A luncheon will follow. For further information, please call the church office at 317-253-3711.

Indiana Academy Graduation Weekend this year will be held **May 25-27**.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Mar 3** Local Church Budget
- Mar 10** Adventist World Radio
- Mar 17** Local Church Budget
- Mar 24** Local Conference Advance
- Mar 31** Illinois: Illinois Evangelism; Indiana: Timber Ridge Youth Camp; Lake Region: Camp Wagner Development; Michigan: Good News Market and Farm; Wisconsin: Wisconsin Academy Instructional Classroom Renovation

Special Days

- Mar 3** Women's Day of Prayer
- Mar 4-10** Adventist Youth Week of Prayer
- Mar 17** Disabilities Awareness Sabbath

13th Sabbath Offering

- Mar 31** Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Lake Union Academies Reunion potluck will be held on Sabbath, **May 5**, 1:00 p.m. Come to the Loma Linda University School of Nursing West Hall, 11262 Campus St. (1/2 block north of Barton Rd.) in Loma Linda, Calif. For more information, call 909-799-8039 or 909-748-5178.

Michigan

Great Lakes Adventist Academy invites all students in grades 8-11 to come for the awesome experience of Academy Days, **Apr. 22-23**. Visit classes, make new friends, enjoy current students and experience boarding academy life. Registration is from 4:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday. To register, visit our website at www.glaa.net; call Mrs. Hilda Reichert at 989-427-5181; or email glaa@misda.org. Contact GLAA today!

"Ye Olde Cedar Lake Academy Reunion" will take place **June 14-17** for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1962 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1932, '42, '52, '62. 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. Please do pass the good word.

North American Division

Washington Adventist University celebrates Alumni Weekend, **Apr. 13-15**. Join us for the grand opening of the Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center, Apr. 14, at 8:00 p.m. Visit www.wau.edu/alumni for a list of events and activities or call 301-891-4133 for more information.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30	Apr 6
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:37	6:45	7:53	8:01	8:08	8:16
Chicago, Ill.	5:43	5:50	6:59	7:07	7:14	7:21
Detroit, Mich.	6:23	6:32	7:40	7:48	7:56	8:03
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:38	6:46	7:53	8:00	8:07	8:13
La Crosse, Wis.	5:55	6:04	7:13	7:22	7:30	7:37
Lansing, Mich.	6:29	6:38	7:46	7:54	8:02	8:10
Madison, Wis.	5:49	5:57	7:05	7:14	7:22	7:29
Springfield, Ill.	5:52	5:59	7:07	7:14	7:21	7:28

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

Obituaries

ABBOTT, Betty J. (Hutchison), age 89; born July 28, 1922, in Chadron, Neb.; died Nov. 15, 2011, in Beloit, Wis. She attended the Beloit Church.

Survivors include her sons, Walter, Roger, Thomas Peter and Robin; daughters, Sarah Bernstein, Karen Anderson, Elizabeth Summers, Rebecca Souther, Catherine Numata, Polly Brooks, Margaret Empereur and Priscilla Abbott; 26 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Gary McHone, and interment was in Eastlawn Cemetery, Beloit.

ADAIR, Thelma E. (Clayton), age 96; born Sept. 18, 1914, in Lincoln, Mich.; died June 9, 2011, in Harrisville, Mich. She was a member of the Alpena (Mich.) Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Austin, and interment was in Twin Lakes Cemetery, Lincoln.

BUGBEE, Iva E., age 96; born June 19, 1915, in Havre, Mont.; died Dec. 2, 2011, in Owosso, Mich. She was a member of the Owosso Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ilko Tchakarov, and interment was in Riverside Cemetery, St. Charles, Mich.

CLAYTON, Cora E. (Brooks), age 91; born Feb. 12, 1919, in Harrisville, Mich.; died Sept. 8, 2010, in Anacortes, Wash. She was a member of the Alpena (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Gary, Dale and Wayne; daughter, Carol Ann Clayton; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Austin, and interment was in Twin Lakes Cemetery, Lincoln, Neb.

COY, Kenneth R., age 82; born Jan. 29, 1929, in Downers Grove, Ill.; died Oct. 24,

2011, in Petoskey, Mich. He was a member of the Carp Lake (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn (Beal); sons, Merlyn, Marvin and Meredith; daughter, Judy Cov; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor George Dronen, and interment was in Petoskey Cemetery.

EMANS, Mary Ann (Cramer), age 82; born Mar. 26, 1929, in Maple Grove, Mich.; died Nov. 13, 2011, in Durand, Mich. She was a member of the Owosso (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Charles; daughters, Nancy Innes and Sharleen Mason; sisters, Julia Perry and Rose Selfridge; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Max Morrow, and interment was in Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Owosso.

HARTLEIN, Betty Lou (Williams), age 86; born May 4, 1925, in Compton, Calif.; died Oct. 3, 2011, in Bainbridge Island, Wash. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her sons, Wesley, Wayne, Marcus and Ted; sister, Barbara Jean Luther; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Dwight K. Nelson, and interment was in Indiantown Gap Military Cemetery, Penn.

KEENEY, Geraldine A. (Fraser), age 78; born Oct. 18, 1933, in Sparta, Mich.; died Dec. 6, 2011, in Loma Linda, Calif. She was a member of the Cedar Lake (Mich.) Church and the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Elden D.; son, Evan D.; daughters, Cheryl L. Szutz, Sandra L. Keeney and Wendy R. Thomsen; brothers, Joseph F., Jerry L. and Earl G. Fraser; sisters, Joy Wold, Mary J.

Bielas, Cheryl J. Moser and Kathleen F. Rosenquist; and 11 grandchildren.

Memorial services were held in Calif. in January, with private inurnment.

KNOTT, Rose Marie (Galey), age 81; born May 21, 1930, in Syracuse, N.Y.; died Oct. 30, 2011, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, David W.; sons, David, Bill and Ron; brother, John Galey; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Esther R. Knott, Bill Knott, W. Richard Leshner and Dwight K. Nelson at Pioneer Memorial Church on Nov. 3, 2011, and Memorial services were conducted by Bill Knott and Esther R. Knott at College Church, Lancaster, Mass., on Nov. 12, 2011. Inurnment was in Maple Grove Cemetery, Heath, Mass.

LUNDGREN, Carole J. (Grant) Johnson Hasbrook, age 84; born Feb. 5, 1927, in Henry City, Ill.; died Oct. 15, 2011, in Amery, Wis. She was a member of the Clear Lake (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Sheldon Johnson and Craig Hasbrook; daughters, Sharon Valentin, Benita Chamberlain, Cheryl Laursen and Joylyn Ward; brothers, Orville, Dwayne, Phillip and Cary Grant; sisters, Zeretta Swanson, Norine Hasbrook, Joyce Gibson, Veronica Moon, Patricia Weyland and Linda Justice; 18 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Curtis Denney, and interment was in Clear Lake Cemetery.

MAGESA, Israel M., age 67; born Nov. 23, 1943, in Rusoli, Majita, Musoma, Tanzania; died Sept. 15, 2011, in Niles, Mich. He attended the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his sons, Biseko E. and Fares M.; daughter, Rehema A. Feleke; mother, Anastazia (Nyakwata); brother, Gad; sisters, Pendo Mugeta, Hulda Egubo, Miriam Magesa, Dorcas Mbeba and Bettie Musyoka; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Dr. Jaspine Bilima, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

OLSON, O. Helen (Turner), age 103; born Oct. 26, 1908, in Missouri; died Oct. 28, 2011, in Portland, Tenn. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Micheal Goetz, with private inurnment.

RADCLIFFE, Hazel M. (Schleifer), age 79; born May 24, 1932, in Manningsfield, Clarendon, Jamaica; died Nov. 15, 2011, in Gary, Ind. She was a member of the Mizpah Church, Gary.

Survivors include her sons, Giles McGill, Gordon Phillips and Owen Radcliffe; daughters, Trinoda Radcliffe and Jean Radcliffe Douglas; sister, Amy Shaw; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dwayne Duncombe, and interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Gary.

SIEMS, Ralph J., age 85; born May 23, 1926, in Fremont, Mich.; died Nov. 16, 2011, in Traverse City, Mich. He was a member of the Edmore (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley J. (Osborne); son, Milton; daughters, Shirley Donahue and Evelyn Spencer; 10 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Mickey Mallory, and interment was in Cedar Lake Cemetery, Home Twp., Mich.

WUERFEL, Henry, age 86; born Apr. 8, 1925, in Constanca, Romania; died Oct. 8, 2011, in Belding, Mich. He was a member of the Lansing (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Susan (Schotzch); sons, Harold and Edwin; daughter, Gisela Knowlton; brother, Simon; sisters, Erna Marko and Tina Kalivoda; five grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Charles Davisson, and interment was in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Lansing.

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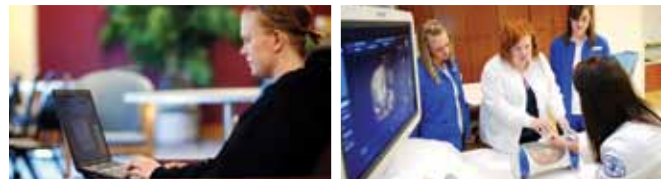
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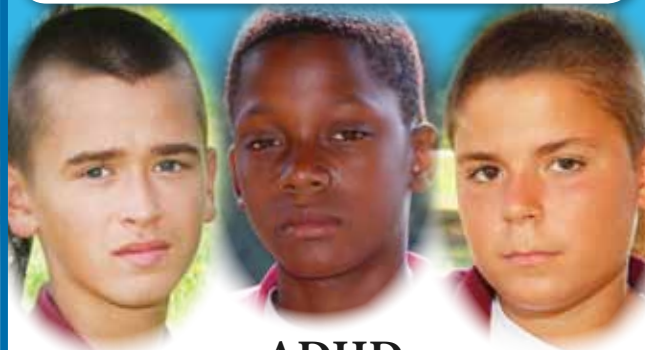
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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Open Doors

BY DIANE THURBER



I sat anxiously across from an executive of a pharmaceutical company who quietly perused my résumé. The document I handed him included a listing of my attendance in Adventist schools, from first grade through college, and work experience that also consisted of employment by those Adventist institutions. I wondered, *Would he discount my work history? Would he be prejudiced against my schools, and religion?*

The first words out of his mouth were: "I see you have attended Seventh-day Adventist schools your whole life."

I responded nervously, "Yes, sir, I did," and wondered what would come next.

He said, "I love to hire Seventh-day Adventists! They know how to work, and they have integrity." He continued, "Adventist parents do their children a real service when they expose them to the work-study programs offered at your schools. I haven't hired an Adventist yet who let me down."

I relaxed, and we enjoyed a delightful discussion about our church, our schools and their mission. I left that day with a job offer from an employer who appreciated the sacrifices made for Adventist Christian education. I was thankful, too, for those who went before me and paved the way.

God opened doors for many other spiritual conversations in that organization, and I knew He placed me there, like Esther, "for such a time as this" (see Esther 4:14). When my pastor-husband accepted a new position in another state, the office team was delighted to surprise me with an all-vegetarian farewell luncheon, since they had earlier observed my dining preferences.

Adventist education opened lots of doors, and helped me discover God does have plans for my life (see Jeremiah 29:11).

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

Jesus Got Me

BY ANTHONY DON MAGBANUA

Throughout my college career, I wrestled with God about what career path He wanted for me. Although I was already a junior in the pre-physical therapy course at William Paterson University in New Jersey, I began thinking about switching my major to theology. I asked my youth director, Laffit Cortes, for advice on what to do.

“Is God calling you?” he immediately asked. The question intimidated me, so I decided to let go of the idea.

On March 26, 2011, my friend, Miriam, asked me to give a message for ONEighty, a youth vespers at her church. Afterwards, we engaged in conversation, and she said she and her prayer partner had been praying for me regarding my career choice. She believed I should study theology, but I was still reluctant.

In spite of my resistance, I continued to feel God’s presence in my life through a variety of common-turned-awesome experiences. One day, just before Thanksgiving, I arrived on campus unusually early and decided to take a nap in my car. When I woke up, I realized I had left my headlights on and, as a result, the car battery was dead. As I turned the key in the ignition for the third time, I clearly heard God saying to me, “Don’t worry about it,” He said. “Just go to class. I got you!”

After class, I decided to ask around for jumper cables. When no one had any, I finally surrendered and said, “Alright, God, You say that You got me.” I went back to the car and felt impressed to turn the key. I was amazed when the car immediately started. Again, the thought of changing my major and transferring to Andrews University crossed my mind, but I still decided to disregard it.

A few weeks later, I was conversing with Jesus about the testimony I would give for ONEighty the following night. When He told me Miriam would ask me again

about going into the ministry, I decided that if it actually happened I would know He was calling me.

The next night Miriam approached me. “So, Don, are you still thinking of going into theology?” she asked. I couldn’t believe it! I realized this really was what I was being called to do.

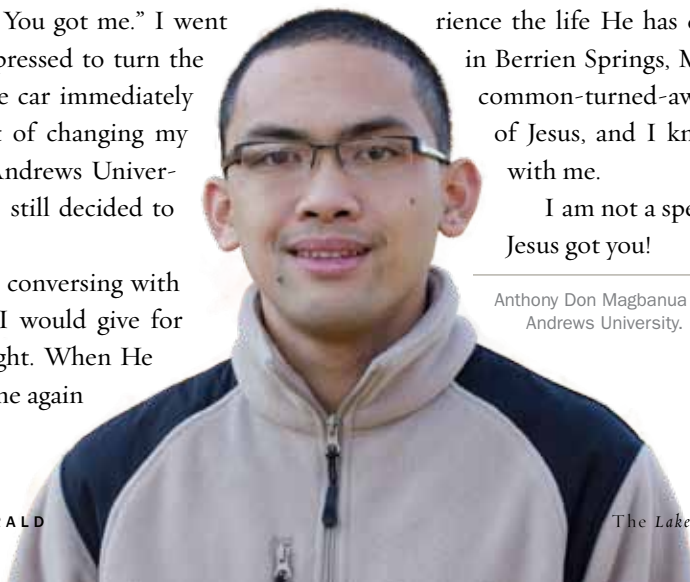
Just one week before classes started, I emailed Naomi Best, an enrollment coordinator at Andrews University. I told her I believed God was calling me to attend Andrews, and I was intent on transferring in time for the new semester. The next morning an unidentified caller awakened me on my phone. It was Naomi.

Naomi and I started to talk about paperwork. By Friday morning, all my paperwork was completed. I was even financially cleared. Miraculously, by Monday, I was ready to start my first day of classes.

When Jesus said, “Come, follow me...” and study theology at Andrews, it was easy to accept after experiencing Him in ordinary life. Why would I not want to experience the life He has called me into? I ended up in Berrien Springs, Michigan, because of a lot of common-turned-awesome experiences because of Jesus, and I know He will continue to be with me.

I am not a special guy, but if Jesus got me, Jesus got you!

Anthony Don Magbanua is studying theology at Andrews University.



The Call to Go

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of them who preach the good news!' — Romans 10:15 ESV

"I've always felt it's important to serve," says Emily Olakowski, a junior at Andrews University. Emily is a student missionary on the island of Ebeye where she teaches second grade to nearly 30 students. The mile-long, half-mile-wide island is the last place Emily ever thought she would serve.



Emily Olakowski

At the beginning of the school year, Emily visited Andrews' Campus Ministries office to explore mission opportunities. She always knew she wanted to be a missionary, just like her grandparents, mother and sister. Her convictions grew stronger when she was baptized in 2008.

"My heart was convicted, and I felt the call to go. It was unsettling to know that the world I live in doesn't know about the Calvary I cling to," she says. "That was a big thing."

Emily prayerfully looked through the list of options while talking with a ministry leader at Campus Ministries. She realized Ebeye was in need of teachers, and noticed how often the island appeared in her searches and its great need for missionaries that very year.

"I really didn't want to go to the island at first! I wanted to go to a vacation spot," laughs Emily. "But I felt convicted, like God was saying 'Go, and I will reward you and you will grow so much in me.'"

After talking with her advisors, family and God, Emily decided to go to Ebeye as a teacher and assistant for second semester. She currently serves there with another Andrews graduate.

In the past, Emily has been on short-term mission trips where she built churches, painted schools and was involved in worship services. She's also a spiritual leader at Andrews, where she leads song services and teaches at Refresh Sabbath school.

Emily believes God is calling students and young adults to be missionaries wherever they are. "Whether it be here in America, or in a foreign country, if you have an opportunity to reach people, please take it. ... With God, you never know what jobs He has up His sleeves for His workers, but you know that He will be working right there next to you."

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, and she is a physical therapy major at Andrews University.

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