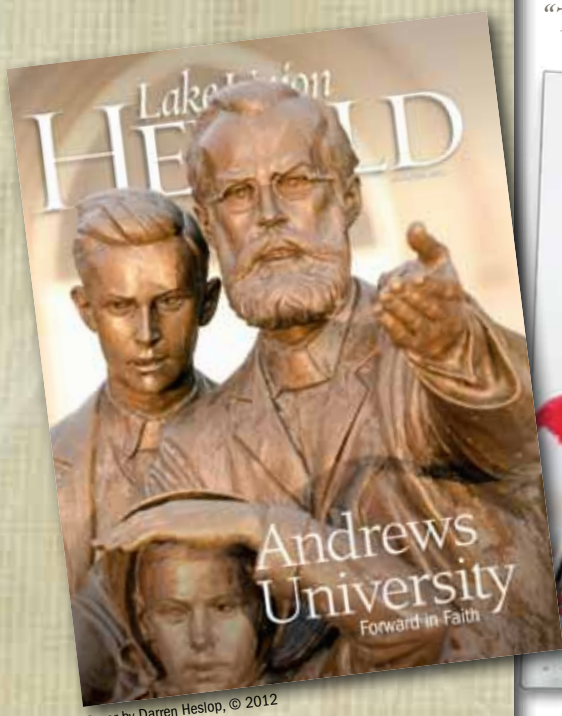


Lake Union
HERALD

OCTOBER 2012

Andrews
University
Forward in Faith



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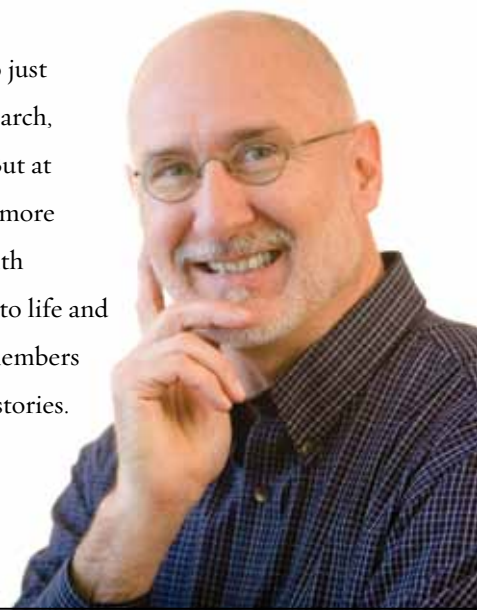


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In this issue...

When one thinks of a university, it's easy to just assume an academic community involves research, theses, projects, scientific investigation, etc. But at Andrews University, the community is much more than academic — it is also a community of faith where the spiritual dimension gives meaning to life and purpose. You will be blessed as some of the members of the Andrews community share their faith stories.



Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor

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A Five-and-Dime Commitment

If you travel west on Shawnee Road from Berrien Springs, Michigan, you will go through Bridgman. On the south side of the main street is a Ben Franklin five-and-dime store. My wife, Barbara, and I fully intend to stop and go inside someday to experience some of the past. It turns out that my uncle's wife worked for many years in this basic commerce location for that small town.

Each time I see that store, it takes me back to former days when the term "dime store" was common. "We're going to the dime store," my mother or sister would say. You could get a lot of stuff for a dime more than a half-century ago.

Today, we have a lot of dollar stores. Berrien Springs has two. In 50-plus years, that's about a one-half percent increase per year. The stuff sold in a dollar store is probably very similar to the dime stores of the past, but the prices are ten times higher today, and they don't have any root beer barrel candy.

Then there is the price of gas... Some of us are old enough to remember 16 cents per gallon. Today, prices are somewhat like a yo-yo; they bounce up and down (in Berrien Springs, sometimes 20-plus cents in a day). But somehow, the average price never seems to get back down to its previous range.

So, I pose the question: Are you a five-and-dime giver to God's cause? Today, that translates into a dollar giver. Barbara and I have practiced systematic giving since early in our marriage. That means we write a check at the beginning of the month for tithe and offerings, the first-fruit concept of the Scripture. We found that this systematic approach has become an effective way to return a portion of the blessings our Lord has given to us.

Having said that, we still give additional offerings as part of our worship experience each Sabbath. Some time ago, it occurred to me that I had been putting in a dollar for many years, kind of like a five-and-dime giver. It was time to catch up with inflation. God's blessings are inflated for my benefit. While I can't outgive God, it's a blessing to follow His generosity.

But what if your finances are really tight? I am reminded of a conversation with one of the most generous givers the Adventist Church has ever seen. He told me that faithfulness was not tied to financial position. Some years before, he was in a very tight financial condition. Tithing, at that time, was a real sacrifice. But he was faithful in the good times and faithful in the hard times.

During another conversation, I thanked him for another wonderful blessing he gave to our conference. His answer was one of the most profound statements of stewardship I've ever heard. He said, "It's not my money, it's God's. I simply have the blessing of putting my name on God's money."

So, who owns our thoughts, our desires and our resources? Do we hold tightly to all we have? Are we a container or a channel of blessings? Mine or His? My friend knew it was all God's, and countless others were blessed because of that understanding. None of us will ever match the monetary amounts of His generosity, but, like the widow who gave the mite, spiritual giving is measured by faithfulness — not by the amount of money.



For God's Glory

BY OLGA KRAMAR MURESAN

I was born in Yugoslavia in 1928. My parents became Seventh-day Adventists as teenagers. I had a happy childhood, and moved to the U.S. as a young woman, leaving behind most of my family. For several reasons, I left the Adventist Church and attended an Orthodox church, where I met Peter who became my husband in 1955.

I continued to attend church faithfully with him, although I was always very careful never to eat pork at the potlucks. One Sunday, after potluck, a woman brought in a life-size statue of Jesus she had purchased. She wanted everyone to bow down and worship it. I knew how wrong that was, and fled from the church crying. I told Peter I would never go back to the Orthodox church. Of course, he was very angry, and became even angrier when I began to attend an Adventist church again. I changed and was not the woman he married. He became bitter toward me, so I prayed without ceasing. For seven years, I prayed — seemingly more than I breathed.

I had a small business, working as a seamstress in our home. Peter didn't leave me, but life was difficult because we were unequally yoked. Through a series of miracles, Peter attended evangelistic meetings and was convicted of the Adventist message, but he never got baptized.

It was New Year's, 1963, and I resolved to begin paying tithe. I was frightened about telling Peter but, when I told him, he said, "That's fine, go ahead and pay tithe." Again, I rejoiced in answered prayers. There were more tests to come. Peter got laid off, and I had to make a decision as to whether to pay tithe or buy groceries. After turmoil and



Olga Kramar Muresan

struggling with what I should do (and what Peter would think), I determined to be faithful to God and pay my tithe. I said, "I will pay tithe even if I have only beans to eat all week." That night, with my tithe paid and nothing to eat in the house, I placed my faith in God. There was a knock on the door, and someone handed me \$100. I used the money to buy groceries, and, from that point forward, I have never had a problem with money. God has always supplied my needs.

Peter and I took our daughters on a vacation to Europe. We visited several countries as tourists. I said, "I want to go to church on Sabbath." So we found a church in Romania and went in for the services. Between Sabbath school and church, a man came up and began talking to us. He said, "I have six children, and I have been baptized for six months. There is something I want very much for my children." I looked at his children and saw they were very poor. I thought, *He is going to ask me for money to buy clothes for his kids, or he is going to ask me for shoes for his kids.* But, as he kept talking, I was shocked when he asked, "Do you have a Bible? I can't find a Bible anywhere, and I want nothing more than to be able to read the Bible to my children."

It was like a knife to my chest. A Bible, he only wanted a Bible. When I got back home, I couldn't stop thinking about the man with his six children and their desire for a Bible. I began to pray to God that He would help the man to get a Bible. For more than a year, I prayed.

By this time, I had changed careers. Two of my brothers opened a jewelry store, and I worked in sales for them. Business was good, and they presented me with a generous offer. They told me they were going to send me on a two-week vacation — all expenses paid, anywhere I wanted to go in the world. I didn't even have to think about it. I said, "I want to go to Yugoslavia and Romania."

They asked, "Olga, there are so many beautiful places. Why don't you choose a beautiful place to go?"

I was insistent, so they agreed to pay for me to go to Yugoslavia and Romania. As soon as I found out I was going, I went to a Baptist church, which had Romanian Bibles. I purchased all the Romanian Bibles they had to sell. I had two suitcases of Bibles to take to Romania. The year was 1970.

When I took the Bibles into Yugoslavia, the customs office was closed that day (a miracle), so I carried the Bibles through without a problem. I rented a car and prayed as I put the Bibles in the trunk. No need to hide them because if I was searched they would find them; if I was caught with the Bibles, they would throw me in prison and forget about me, possibly for life. It was a very serious crime. I placed myself completely in God's hands.

The next morning I got up and headed for the border of Romania. The customs officers were doing thorough searches of every car in front of me, as far as I could see. When they got to my car, I was "cool as a cucumber" because I was doing the Lord's business. The officer looked at my passport and said, "Go." He did not even look in the trunk. From there, I went straight to the pastor of a Romanian Adventist church and told him I had Bibles. The pastor couldn't believe it. I told him about the man with the six kids who went to that

very church, who didn't have a Bible to read to his kids, and shared that God had helped me bring the Bibles. The pastor told me two of that same man's sons were getting baptized that Sabbath, and he asked me to stay. I wanted to stay badly, but I still had family to see. I bade him goodbye and headed back across the border. When I got to the border, my car was completely searched (inside and out), but it was okay — the Bibles were gone.

I met with my family in Yugoslavia, and told them what happened. They exclaimed, "Oh, Olga, we have wanted to send songbooks and Bibles over to Romania for a long time, but we were afraid."

I said, "Give me your Bibles and songbooks, and I will take them." So, on Monday, I found myself at the border once again. The officers were completely searching every car, as far as I could see in front of me. This time, two guards came up to my window. One said, "Let me see your passport."

The other snarled, "I am going to search your car and even take the wheels off."

I said, "Go ahead, do what you have to do."

The first guard snapped at the other guard and said, "Leave the lady alone." He waved me on, and I went to the church once again, with more Bibles and songbooks, too. When I went back through customs as I was leaving the country, they completely searched my car. It was fine, though, because the Bibles had been delivered again.

There are more miracles and stories in my life, and I am sharing these with you for God's glory, not mine. I want you to know that God is the same today as He was with Moses, Abraham and Daniel. He will do the same for you as He did for them and me. Believe it.



Olga Kramar Muresan has seen God work miracles in her life and believes God is the same today as He was with Moses, Abraham and Daniel.

Olga Kramar Muresan is a member of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan. Deb Greve Krautwurst, a member of the Three Angels Fellowship in Rockford, Michigan, wrote this story with Olga. She met Olga at Michigan Camp Meeting and desired to help Olga share her testimony of God's faithfulness.



The Marshmallow Test

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Self-control will be a valuable acquisition to the graces of the Spirit, and parents should teach their children, by precept and example, this precious lesson of patience and self-control. —Manuscript Releases, Vol. 19

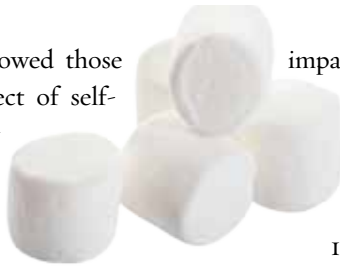
In a Sanford University research project, 600 four-year-olds were given a marshmallow (or Oreo cookie or pretzel stick, if they preferred) and told that if they wanted to eat it right away that was okay. However, if they waited while the adult went to get something, they then could have two. The purpose was to understand when the control of delayed gratification develops in children. Some ate the marshmallow immediately, others put it off for a few minutes but couldn't wait the 15 minutes, and about one-third saved their marshmallow until the adult returned so they could get two.

A follow-up study 15 years later showed those who had delayed gratification (an aspect of self-discipline) were, as teenagers, personally effective, self-assertive and better able to cope with frustrations of life. They were less likely to freeze or regress under stress, or become rattled or disorganized when pressured. They embraced challenges instead of giving up. They were self-reliant and confident, trustworthy and dependable. They took initiative and plugged into projects.

Another follow-up study showed the ability to delay gratification also correlated with significantly higher SAT scores. A 2011 study of the same participants indicated this characteristic remains with the person for life.

It's an everyday challenge for parents and children to develop the skills of self-discipline. Children learn very young. Many factors impact a person's ability to say "no" to him/herself, but parents have a huge impact on a child's ability to become self-aware, self-reliant and self-disciplined.

Self-discipline is two times stronger a prediction of school success as intelligence. David Walsh, a leading authority on children, teens, parenting, family life, and the impact of technology on children's health and development, has identified a growing epidemic: Discipline Deficit Disorder or DDD, with symptoms including distraction, disrespect,



impatience, sense of entitlement and self-centeredness. He identifies self-discipline as our ability to say "no" to ourselves.

What's a parent to do? First, face our own challenges in regard to self-discipline. Romans 17:15 acknowledges it's not our natural inclination to live a self-disciplined life. Isaiah 26:3, 4 identifies the benefit of self-discipline — perfect peace and the recognition of mutual trust. Isaiah 40:31 promises that by waiting on the Lord (delayed gratification) positive things will follow. James 1:19 gives the example of being swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath.

We need to have a parenting plan, set reasonable limits, and be consistent. Short-term relief from giving a child what he wants in the moment can result in paying a long-term price. Some children learn that "no" doesn't really mean "no." It's a signal to escalate and, shortly, they will get what they want. We need to learn the lesson of the marshmallow test — that there is an amazingly strong correlation between being able to delay gratification at preschool age and experience success in school and in life as one matures.

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.

Author's Note: You may want to check out "The Marshmallow Experiment — Instant Gratification," "The Mature Marshmallow Test" and "Dr. Walsh Marshmallow WCCO Segment" at <http://www.youtube.com>.

Eating breakfast helps you manage your weight better.

Skipping breakfast increases your risk of diabetes.

Start Your Day Right

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

One in five Americans regularly skips breakfast. While it is considered to be the most important meal of the day, people give all kinds of reasons for ignoring breakfast. They say they are simply not hungry in the morning, or they cannot squeeze in a meal amid the morning rush. Some, who are trying to lose weight, skip breakfast in their efforts to remove a few hundred calories from their daily intake. Many others simply don't know the value of a healthy breakfast.

Unfortunately, millions of school children attend school every day having skipped or skimmed breakfast. These children manifest a greater irritability and anxiety, more disruptive behavior in the classroom, and a decreased ability to concentrate. In a two-week study, school children felt significantly more cheerful and indicated less fatigue on the day they consumed breakfast compared to the day they skipped breakfast.



Academic performance of children is generally better when breakfast is eaten.

Starting the day with a good breakfast improves work productivity and helps one function more efficiently. In a study of more than 800 nurses, eating breakfast was associated with lower stress, fewer cognitive failures, and fewer injuries and accidents at work. In the Alameda County Study, eating a regular breakfast was associated with a better quality of health and greater life expectancy.

Eating a good breakfast is normally associated with having good meals the rest of the day. Those who skip breakfast have a higher prevalence of other unhealthy eating habits and a poorer quality of diet overall. Studies of young people found that breakfast-skippers consume 40 percent more sweets, 55 percent more soft drinks, 45 percent fewer vegetables and 30 percent less fruit than people who eat breakfast.

When adolescents were followed for five years, those who skipped breakfast were consistently heavier than those who

did not. In a British study, those who ate breakfast actually consumed five percent fewer calories during the day. Examination of the eating habits of the more than 5,000 members of the National Weight Control Registry (persons who have lost an average of 66 pounds and kept it off for more than five years) found that almost 80 percent claim to be regular breakfast eaters.

The type of breakfast consumed has a significant effect upon the average energy intake at lunchtime. The amount of food ingested at lunchtime was lower after a low glycemic index (GI) breakfast (high-fiber whole grains, rice and beans, barley, nuts, apples, berries and citrus) compared to a high GI breakfast (sweetened refined cereals, potatoes, biscuits, donuts and refined breads). It is believed that low GI foods may play an important role in weight control, and decrease the risk of diabetes.

Male health professionals who skipped breakfast had 21 percent higher risk of diabetes than did those who consumed breakfast. Skipping breakfast also makes the metabolic control of Type 2 diabetes more difficult.

Eating breakfast is good for your health, so start your day right. Make time for a healthy breakfast.

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



Conflict, Agitation and Differing Opinions

THE EDITORS

“Peter exhorts his brethren to ‘grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ’ [see 2 Peter 3:18]. Whenever the people of God are growing in grace, they will be constantly obtaining a clearer understanding of His Word. They will discern new light and beauty in its sacred truths. This has been true in the history of the church in all ages, and thus it will continue to the end. But as real spiritual life declines, it has ever been the tendency to cease to advance in the knowledge of the truth. Men rest satisfied with the light already received from God’s Word and discourage any further investigation of the Scriptures. They become conservative and seek to avoid discussion.

“The fact that there is no controversy or agitation among God’s people should not be regarded as conclusive evidence that they are holding fast to sound doctrine. There is reason to fear that they may not be clearly discriminating between truth and error. When no new questions are started by investigation of the Scriptures, when no difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for themselves to make sure that they have the truth, there will be many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition and worship they know not what.

“...When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested, they knew not their great ignorance. And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness.... Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold. God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting. Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God so that when the testing time shall come and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith they may be able to give

a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear.

“Agitate, agitate, agitate. The subjects which we present to the world must be to us a living reality.”¹

This column is designed to promote searching the Scriptures on current topics — in community, through prayer. Invite others to join you in a prayerful response to these thoughts about statements made in the above text:

- In what ways are we responding to Peter’s counsel to “continue to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?”
- Does my “investigation of the Scriptures” generate “new questions?”
- In what areas have we “become conservative and seek to avoid discussion,” and how do we relate to those who have differing opinions?
- Is it proper for us to conduct “a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold,” i.e., our fundamental beliefs, practices and policies?

The Lake Union Herald editors

1. It is significant to note that Ellen White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, published the above counsel following the controversial 1888 General Conference Session and the contested presentations on righteousness by faith. The above selection first appeared in *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, pp. 706, 707, under the title, “Mysteries of the Bible a Proof of its Inspiration.” Read the entire chapter in the online version of this issue: <http://www.lakeunionherald.org>.

Interceding for Those Who Can't Pray for Themselves

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

"My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly." ... And the Lord accepted Job's prayer. —Job 42:8, 9 NIV

Several recent polls in North America show that about 80 percent of the population do not have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. That means people do not regularly have access to God's throne of grace. That is a horrible, hopeless state to be in — cut off from the One who is the source of all grace and blessing.

The word for "intercession" in the original language of the New Testament means "having freedom of access." It was originally a technical term that meant meeting with a king in order to make a request. In the Bible, intercession means "making a request of God on behalf of others."

The privilege of access is given to believers not simply so that we may ask for ourselves but also so that we may ask for others, especially those who have no access. God has so much to give them but, having determined long ago to give in response to asking, He withholds His gracious giving until we intercede.

When believers begin to pray seriously for their neighbors, things begin to happen. When members of a church in Bakersfield, California, planted several Lighthouses of Prayer* in an apartment complex to pray for those who lived there, the manager became a Christian, drug dealers moved out, crime rates went down, many tenants started going to church, several Bible studies started and ten people made commitments to Christ. The difference was so evident that the police, discovering the reason for the changes, asked the church to consider planting similar Lighthouses in other complexes.

What do you think God wants to see happen in the lives of the people around you? Are you willing to be the one to intercede so that God will accomplish His will in your neighborhood through your prayers?

Reflect

Try to imagine what it would be like to be a non-Christian with no one to pray for you.

Consider what it would mean for you, if you were an unbeliever, to live or work near a believer who would regularly pray for you. Prayer, and the blessing from God that comes through prayer, is a gift you can give to non-Christians around you. Think about it.

Pray

Thank God for the privilege of access to His throne, opened up for you through Jesus Christ.

If you have failed to use your privilege of access to God on behalf of unsaved persons, confess this sin and claim God's forgiving grace.

Tell God of your readiness to be a faithful intercessor, and ask for His help in doing it.

Act

Ask God to make clear to you what He wants to accomplish in the lives of the non-Christian persons or families He has led you to pray for. Wait patiently for God's answer. Pray about the things God brings to mind.

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.

*A Lighthouse of Prayer, as referred to in this devotional, is a person, family or small group who commits to praying for, caring for and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with their neighbors, co-workers, friends or family members.



Discovering the Joy of Service

BY JUANITA EDGE

Bethany Erb, a 15-year-old member of the Middleton Fellowship in Wisconsin, spent her summer in Fort Worth, Texas, learning to meet people in the community, give Bible studies and hold evangelistic meetings. She was part of Youth for Jesus, an annual youth-led summer outreach program sponsored by Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries each July.

"My summer experience has made me a lot more open to sharing the gospel and seeing what I can do in my local church," said Bethany. "We (youth) are going to be the ones to carry the gospel to future generations, yet we need the help, support and wisdom of the older people. We need all parts of the church. If someone in the church doesn't step up to sharing the gospel with people, no one else will follow. I want to inspire other youth in my church to get out and share. I think some would be willing if I encourage and help them."

After breakfast each morning, the students learned how to give Bible studies, then they went door-to-door to pray with people and offer Bible studies. In the evenings, they held ShareHim meetings in Adventist churches around Fort Worth. "Every time I got up front to share, I truly felt the Holy Spirit," said Bethany, who shared a health nugget each evening. "Sometimes, I wasn't quite sure how to say some things, so I prayed and asked God's Spirit to be with me. Then I would just listen to the right words come out of my mouth, and I would think, *Oh, yeah, that's what I meant to say. Thank you, God!*

"I remember a nice, older couple we met visiting door-to-door. We gave them our survey, and they gave all the right answers. Come to find out, he was a pastor. The next



Bethany Erb (sitting second from left) and the other Youth for Jesus young people played games, sang songs and told Bible stories to the children at Arlington Mission this past summer. Getting involved with Youth for Jesus really opened her eyes to what outreach really is, stated Bethany.

evening, they came to our meeting. I was so amazed! The night's topic was on the Sabbath, and I was a little nervous. But, later, they told me they had been studying about the Sabbath and were convicted about the seventh day. They were really excited to find out a church actually worshiped on the Sabbath.

"It's really neat to see people get baptized that you have studied with and prayed for, because you don't really know where their heart is until

they decide. Before this summer, I thought the Holy Spirit was only sobering — and He can be. But I found out the Holy Spirit also makes you want to sing, laugh and pray! He makes you smile and want to tell everyone about Jesus.

"This summer opened my eyes to what outreach really is. Usually, we separate our work from outreach; but we can do outreach all the time. We even witnessed while doing laundry at the laundromat. Outreach was definitely the best part of doing laundry!"

Ninety people were baptized through the efforts of ASI's Youth for Jesus program this summer, and 33 young people were trained for service. In 2013, ASI Youth for Jesus will take place on the LIFE campus in Lady Lake, Florida, July 7–August 11. Learn more at <http://yfy.netasi.org>.

Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference





El mundo necesita nuestra enseñanza sobre la salud?

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Debemos educar, educar, educar, en forma agradable e inteligente. Debemos predicar la verdad, orar acerca de la verdad y vivir la verdad, colocándola, con sus influencias saludables y llenas de gracia, al alcance de los que no la conocen. Cuando los enfermos son colocados bajo el toque del Dador de la vida, sus facultades de la mente y del cuerpo son renovadas. Pero, a fin de que esto pueda acontecer, deben ellos practicar la abnegación, y ser temperantes en todas las cosas. Solamente así pueden salvarse de la muerte física y espiritual, y ser restaurados a la salud. — Evangelismo, p. 384

Recuerdo que cuando mi madre empezó a visitar la iglesia adventista, yo le hice algunas preguntas acerca de lo que la iglesia creía. Ella me explicó, que entre otras prácticas, los adventistas creen en el vegetarianismo y como consecuencia, muchos de los miembros no comen carne. Me acuerdo que mi reacción fue muy negativa; le dije que me sería difícil dejar de comer mis bistecs. Pero luego, al unirme a la iglesia, aprendí las razones prácticas por las cuales conviene seguir los principios de salud que recomienda la iglesia y con ánimo puse en práctica el vegetarianismo.

En los últimos años ha habido mucha preocupación debido a la crisis de salud que existe en este país. De acuerdo a las estadísticas del gobierno, más de 300.000 personas mueren cada año por falta de buena nutrición y ejercicio. Además, sabiendo que más de una tercera parte de los niños en este país están con sobrepeso, hay una gran preocupación de parte de los médicos porque saben que la salud de la población se sigue deteriorando. Como consecuencia hay mucho interés en la nutrición, y actualmente muchos médicos recomiendan una dieta vegetariana.

Por ejemplo, es interesante notar que existe en Washington, D. C. una organización no adventista, sin fines de lucro, llamada *El Comité de Médicos para una Medicina Responsable*, que tiene como meta educar al público acerca de los beneficios de tener la mejor salud posible por medio de una dieta vegetariana. Por varios años esta organización ha auspiciado un programa en inglés en el que se invita a los



El Dr. George Guthrie, renombrado médico adventista, enseña principios de salud en el retiro de salud en el campamento Timber Ridge.

participantes a que prueben la dieta vegetariana por 21 días. Me acabo de enterar que esta organización también va a tener el programa en español y que se enseñará la dieta con preferencia al sabor latino. El programa comienza el 1 de octubre y tanto la inscripción y como la participación son completamente gratuitas. Para obtener más

información y para inscribirse vaya al sitio Web: <http://www.vegetarianoen21dias.org>.

No hay duda que la iglesia adventista tiene una gran oportunidad para traer sanidad a muchos y a la vez traer a muchas almas a nuestra iglesia. Quiero animar a los hermanos de nuestras iglesias a que consideren que hay muchas personas en nuestras comunidades que sufren las consecuencias de una mala alimentación, y que es nuestro deber seguir el ejemplo de Jesús y presentarles nuestro mensaje de salud.

Carmelo Mercado es el vice president de la Unión del Lago.

Don't Discount the Power of Prayer

BY KERI SUAREZ

It was an incredibly hot July day in Michigan, but we hardly noticed from the cool water of my sister's swimming pool where I took my daughters to spend the afternoon swimming with their cousins. We left early enough to squeeze in a nap for three-year-old Keira before heading out for Fourth of July festivities.

Despite my efforts, Keira fell asleep in the car on the way home. When we got home, I roused her enough to walk into the house. As I led my sleepy girl upstairs to her bed, her hand slipped out of mine, and she slumped into a seizure on the stairs. A surge of adrenaline rushed through my body as I gathered her into my arms while shouting to my older daughter, Josie, to bring me my phone.

For what seemed like minutes — but was really only seconds, Keira's little body convulsed. I tried in vain to communicate with her: "Keira! Look at Mommy! Keira, I need you to look at me." Then she went terrifyingly limp. Her eyes were closed and she was still, but her breathing was steady.

My mind shifted into panicked-mommy overdrive. *I had epilepsy as a child; had that been passed onto Keira? My niece suffered a series of strokes and seizures as an infant, leaving her with lifelong physical limitations; was that happening to my Keira, too? Had Keira eaten something poisonous? Contracted an illness?* Though I was outwardly calm in an effort to keep Josie from being scared, inwardly, my mind was screaming out for Keira to wake up and talk to me, to let me know she was okay.

"Lord," I prayed, "please let my baby be okay. Please wake her up."



Keira Suarez and her mommy, Keri Suarez, are thankful for answered prayers.

I called 911 and then my husband, Michael. The paramedics arrived, and soon we were in the back of an ambulance headed to the Emergency Room. During that 20-minute drive, I was alone, except for the paramedic who was quietly tending to Keira. I desperately needed some support, so I pulled out my phone and posted a Facebook status: "Need prayer!! Headed to ER with my baby..." Within seconds, I had family and friends around the world sending up prayers on our behalf. Texts and Facebook messages started pouring in, offering me a small measure of distraction as we sped along the highway toward the hospital.

At the ER, the doctors quickly determined Keira had suffered a relatively harmless febrile seizure. Essentially, she spiked a temperature faster than her body could process, causing her to seize. It was likely an isolated incident, the doctor said, with no lasting side effects.

When Keira finally woke up, relief washed over Michael and me as we looked into her eyes. She was okay! All those awful scenarios that raced through my mind evaporated away — my baby girl was moving and talking to me. To this day, it remains one of the most precious and beautiful sights I've ever witnessed.

We quickly let our family and friends know that all was well and explained what happened. “It was nothing more than a febrile seizure,” I told them somewhat dismissively. In fact, I was slightly embarrassed that perhaps I had overreacted.

My big brother, Rodney, held me in check. “Wait a minute, Sis. Didn’t you pray for God to watch over Keira? To heal her? God just answered your prayer! Don’t discount the

power of prayer, especially when He just answered yours.” He was right! How often do we encounter a situation where we ask for God’s intervention but, after the situation seemingly resolves itself, we forget that it was God who was in control? God had swiftly and decisively answered my prayer.

Keri Suarez and her family are from Niles, Michigan. Today, Keira is in kindergarten at Village Adventist Elementary School.

Commitments at Camp Meeting

BY JUANITA EDGE

On June 23, several hundred people gathered along the sandy shore, at Wisconsin Camp Meeting in Oxford, as 36 people sealed their commitment to Jesus in baptism.

“I’ve never attended a camp meeting that focused on people being baptized,” said Eugene Kitney, newly-appointed pastor of the Milwaukee Central District. “People wanted to wait and share their special commitment day with the whole conference. It’s an incredible spiritual highlight of the year.”

As each candidate entered the water for baptism, James Fox, Wisconsin Conference ministerial director, read a short testimony each candidate had prepared. Below are a few of these testimonies.

Wayde Minett, of Hylandale, said, “I was born and raised in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I have thought long and hard for several years about making this decision. I’m grateful to my family and church for their support in my faith and growing up.”

“One day, on the television, I stopped at a channel called 3ABN,” said Gary Raabel, of the La Crosse Church. “That is when the journey of truth began, and I haven’t looked back.”

Spirit Martinez, of the Sparta Church said, “I always believed in God, but hearing Pastor Richie [Silie] in the Teen Tent at camp meeting helped me make a stand. I want to get baptized because God helped me, and I want to help Him back. I want to do more things for Him. I love God.”

John and Sheri Maggioncalda, who are joining the Portage Church, said, “When we came to Wisconsin, we moved



Thirty-six individuals sealed their commitment to Jesus in baptism at Wisconsin Camp Meeting this past summer.

next door to Greg and Lesa Budd, and felt God brought us here to connect with them. They were praying that their new neighbors would be open to God’s message. Our baptism today is the next step in our spiritual growth.”

“I am so thankful for my parents who raised me in a Christian home and taught me every day how important it is to love and

follow Jesus,” said Kaity Brock, who is joining the Wisconsin Academy Church. “My whole family has loved and supported me as I grew to love Jesus.”

“I originally was baptized into the Delavan Seventh-day Adventist Church, in 1988, following a Revelation seminar,” said Robert Moyer, new member of the Tomah Church. “After an unexpected divorce, discouragement got the best of me, and I left the church. This past February, I got tired of fighting the Holy Spirit. I’m so thankful that Jesus, our great Shepherd, does not give up searching for the “sheep” that go astray! It is good to be back in His arms.”

More than 200 people were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wisconsin during 2011. Learn more about baptism at the Fundamental Beliefs page on the Wisconsin website (see <http://wi.adventist.org/article/86/about-us/beliefs>).

Juanita Edge is the communication director of the Wisconsin Conference.

A Community of Faith

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” —Jeremiah 29:11, 12 NIV

Andrews University’s faculty and staff community is rich with stories of faith, providential leading and Divine intervention. With more than 850 employees, each one with their own story of how God led in their life, choosing just four individuals was, in itself, a challenge. Yet, even in selecting which stories to share, God led every step of the way. These are His stories of faith: a doctor and his wife saved by an angel, a homicide detective looking for a better life for his family, a young soldier imprisoned for his faith, and a young woman who patiently waited for God to reveal His plans. Each individual was faced with a set of challenges, and each one placed their life in God’s hands — putting their faith to the test in ways both large and small. From being saved by an angel from an angry mob to God revealing His plan through a dream, each story is a powerful reminder that God knows our needs before we do, and He alone is in control. —*Keri Suarez*

No Roadblocks

EMMANUEL RUDATSIKIRA
DEAN OF SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

From his beginnings in a remote village in Rwanda to his new role as the first dean of the Andrews University School of Health Professions, Emmanuel Rudatsikira’s story will remind you that when God is leading, no roadblock can stand in your way. —Author

Emmanuel Rudatsikira was the firstborn child of a family of nine. He was raised in a remote village in Rwanda, one of the poorest countries in the world. Though stricken with polio at the age of three, which left him with a limp, Emmanuel was a survivor in a place where one in five children die before their fifth birthday.

“By the grace of God, I lived near a school where I was able to get an education. Disabled children who lived far away from a school had no opportunities to get an education,” Emmanuel said.

When he was in the third grade, Emmanuel remembers his elementary school principal rushing into his classroom, shouting, “Run for your lives! Go into hiding!” The children and teachers each scattered, running in different directions. “I saw huts burning on the hills around the mission



Four-year-old Emmanuel Rudatsikira (right) with his little two-year-old sister, Catherine, are pictured here in Mugonero, Rwanda.

compound where I lived. I could hear the sounds of mobs and victims screaming. Many people were killed that day.” Emmanuel eventually made his way to Mugonero Hospital, where he found his mother and siblings. His mother was weeping, having learned several family members had been killed that day.

The hospital soon turned into a refugee camp, where Emmanuel and his family were safe. “An American doctor by the name of Robson

Newbold protected the hospital compound like an angel of God,” says Emmanuel. “He ensured the Blue Berets (United Nations peacekeepers) were there to keep the camp safe and secure.”

After a while, the Rudatsikira family was able to go home and resume a semblance of normality. “But things would never be the same again for me or anyone who was a target,” Emmanuel said. “Many of my relatives went into exile. All had tales of horror about what had happened in their respective villages.”

As a young man, Emmanuel left Rwanda and went on to get a medical education at Kinshasa University in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 1994, he was working as the director of the Seventh-day Adventist Medical Services in Burundi, a country located just south of Rwanda, where genocide between conflicting tribes would claim more than 800,000 lives

that year. “Burundi had experienced ethnic conflicts — not to the extent of Rwanda, but quite bad,” described Emmanuel.

One Sabbath afternoon, he and his wife, Jeanne, left their children at home while they went to visit friends who had recently lost a child. On their way home, the Rudatsikiras found themselves in the middle of an angry, drunken, rioting mob. “That would happen anytime there was a grenade explosion in the neighborhood. You couldn’t predict it,” said Emmanuel. The mob ordered them to get out of their car. “It was not uncommon for people to die. I was with my wife, and we had left our four children at home, telling them we were coming back. For some reason I could support the idea of me dying, but not both of us; I couldn’t stand the thought of leaving my children without a parent. As I called upon the Lord, a man appeared with a big, long sword and said, ‘Whoever touches these people will pay with his own life.’ The man ordered us back into the car, told us to close the doors and follow him. He went ahead of us on foot with his sword up in the air as we followed him in the car. Each time we got to a roadblock, he said, ‘Remove the roadblock,’ and the rioters would remove the roadblock. It happened several times and, at a certain point, he said, ‘From here on, you are safe; go in peace.’”

The next day, Emmanuel learned that more than 40 people had been killed in the rioting. “We believe God sent an angel to rescue us,” he said.

In June 1994, Emmanuel, Jeanne and their four children arrived in the United States as refugees with two suitcases, no money and the luggage of resentment from losing more than 200 relatives to the genocide. “I lost my grandparents, uncles and aunts, cousins and others, father-in-law and brothers-in-law. I asked, ‘Why?’ but I believe God spared us for service.”



The Rudatsikira family stand for a photo in 2002, while living in Loma Linda, California. From left: Emmanuel Rudatsikira; sons, Paul and Michel; daughter, Grace; son, Jean-Baptiste; and Emmanuel's wife, Jeanne

“I couldn’t come to terms with what had happened. It got to the point where I couldn’t sleep, and I was getting sick. So, I prayed to the Lord God to help me, and God told me that there was only one way to healing — it is through forgiveness.

“So, I said, ‘Lord, You will have to help me, because I can’t do it on my own.’ Of course, God is always willing to help, and He helped me. Once I forgave all the killers, the murderers, those who had committed the genocide, and those who

had offended me in any way in my personal life, I felt as though a ton of bricks was taken off my shoulders; it was an extraordinary experience. God opened up many doors for me; He helped me and led me with His providence to the point where I am. I always share with whomever is watching or listening about forgiveness.”

One day, Emmanuel was visiting with friends from his home country, friends who hadn’t forgiven and were suffering with this terrible burden. A man said to him, “You know, Doctor, if I didn’t know you and respect you the way I do, I would slap you in the face for saying that we should forgive those people who have raped our mothers and sisters and daughters, ... who have torn apart our lives and ruined our country.”

Emmanuel said, “My friend, it’s not me. It’s the Lord. The God who spared you is the One who is asking you to forgive, and it is for your own good.” The man stared at Emmanuel intensely before weeping, then he remarked, “It’s too hard!”

“No, it’s not hard. Because if it were hard, a mighty person could do it by their own strength. It is impossible without God,” Emmanuel said to him.

Keri Suarez is a media relations specialist in the Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.



Following God's Leading

DALE HODGES
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE
OF CAMPUS SAFETY

After spending more than a decade as a homicide detective in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Dale Hodges didn't need much prodding from his wife to start looking for a job that would provide a change of pace for their family. But even after submitting to God's leading and accepting the position of director of the Office of Campus Safety at Andrews University, it took the morning headlines to reassure him that he had made the right choice. —Author

“If you would have told me in 2007, ‘You will be working for Andrews University in Michigan,’ I would have argued with you,” said Dale Hodges.

But it's been more than four years since Dale, his wife, Christi, their two sons and Christi's parents packed up their homes and traveled north to the southwest corner of Michigan. “I have never worked in an environment where before every meeting — of any nature — there is prayer. I came from an environment where I had to intervene to prevent co-workers from fist-fighting with each other. It is quite a blessing to go from that extreme to this.”

Dale's career as a homicide detective in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, spanned 12 years. It came with a lot of emotional baggage that was difficult to “leave at the office.” “I was involved in two

different serial killer investigations that were active at the same time in Baton Rouge,” said Dale of his last several months on the job.

The ill effects of crime also were seeping into their children’s lives. With the closest Adventist school 45 minutes away, Dale and Christi made the decision to put their boys into the city’s public school system, but that brought its share of challenges. “They were coming home with stories that would obviously get a parent’s attention,” says Dale. Each night, around the dinner table, his son Cooper, then 14, reported on how many fights happened that day or how many people were arrested at school.

“I worked for the Sheriff’s Department but also for the schools as the assistant in charge of the security program. Working in that capacity, I knew what was going on. On any given day, there were 25 deputies working in the schools.”

The Hodges family reached a point where they recognized the need to make a significant change. In the summer of 2007, while on vacation, Dale started chatting with an officer from Tennessee who said there had never been a homicide in his town. “On the way home from that trip, we were discussing, ‘Wouldn’t it be nice to live in a place like that?’” remembered Dale.

That was all the inspiration Christi needed to hear, that her husband was receptive to moving. She showed Dale a job advertisement from Andrews University for the director of the Office of Campus Safety. “I was interested until I heard ‘Michigan.’ For me, being from south Louisiana, Michigan seemed like some far-off place in the Arctic Circle,” said Dale. Several weeks later, following more bad days at work, Christi gave Dale a gentle reminder: The opening at Andrews University was still there. Dale said, “At that moment, I went online and applied.”

Shortly thereafter, Dale got a phone call. He was being considered for the position, and Andrews wanted him to come for an interview. They came, Dale interviewed and then the decision-making time arrived. On the last night of their brief trip, Dale bundled up and headed out in the

blustery January cold for a walk and some time in prayer. “I said to God, ‘If the dominoes fall and this is where I am supposed to go, I will submit to it and come.’” The next day, he accepted the position.

The night they returned home from Andrews, the phone rang with a pre-recorded message from their older son’s principal. “The message said, ‘Don’t be alarmed but, the day before, there was a child arrested at the school with a loaded handgun,’” said Dale. The next morning, the local newspaper’s front-page article read “116 murders in 2007.” “When I brought the paper in and showed it to my wife, we both interpreted it as, ‘Take this with reassurance. You’ve made the right choice.’”

Dale had the front-page article framed to hang on his office wall as a constant reminder of God’s leading. “If I ever have those moments of doubt as to whether or not I made the right decision, I wanted to have that as a reminder of why I left.”

Keri Suarez is a media relations specialist in the Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.



Visit www.LakeUnionHerald.org

A Quiet Conversion Experience

ANTE JERONCIC
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RELIGION

Ante Jeroncic, assistant professor of religion at Andrews University, describes being arrested and imprisoned for his commitment to keeping the Sabbath in the same matter-of-fact manner as he shares the story of how he came to know Jesus after his mother bribed him with pizza just to get him to church. Ante's experiences speak to the powerful, quiet influence of the Holy Spirit. — Author

Religion was always in question when Ante Jeroncic was growing up. Although he was born in Yugoslavia, Ante spent his early years in Germany. His mother was Catholic while his father was an agnostic. When he was ten years old, Ante moved with his mother to what was then Yugoslavia, and that's where his mother learned about Adventism. Curious about the new religion, she decided to go to confession and ask her priest about it. Incredibly, the priest told her that Adventists were good people, and it would be alright to attend their church.

Eager for her son to join her, Ante's mother invited him to church as well. When he expressed disinterest, she offered to buy him a pizza if he came to church. "I bought my soul with a pizza, I could say," he said with a laugh. There was nothing special about the Sunday evening service he attended, which included nothing to attract a 16-year-old. In fact, a few months earlier, he had been taken to an event designed for the youth, but had remained unmoved. By the end of this ordinary service, however, Ante was converted. "Sometimes,

we think we have to provide a special atmosphere and use gimmicks to bring people to Christ," he says. "For me, it was the Holy Spirit working. It was the quiet, the singing and the absence of noise that got me converted."

At first, Ante was a very conservative Adventist, and he believed that even things like having fun and going to parties was sinning. Rather than feeling limited by this, he later realized that he actually experienced a new sense of freedom. "For me, Adventism was not constrictive," he says, looking back on his experience. "It was like breathing fresh air. I saw the world differently, literature differently, art differently. High school assigned books and literature, and I was never interested; but, suddenly, when I had that shift, I started



Ante Jeroncic stands beside his mother, Emilija, who encouraged his spiritual growth early in his life.

reading literature and philosophy and art." As he developed these new interests, Ante realized Christ was able to free him both from his sin and from the fear he saw in others that the devil was always hanging over their shoulder, waiting for them to make a mistake.

It wasn't long before Ante's new faith was tested — Sabbath soon became an issue. Many students attended school during the Sabbath. One class was held only on Friday evenings, so Ante missed the entire class. As difficult as this was, larger tests were to come as Ante was

conscripted into the Yugoslavian Army. At the time, he had been a Christian for only two years. In a country that had no religious freedom, Ante was forced to answer the summons and serve in the Army. Worse, no literature was allowed in the Army. "Things like keeping a journal were considered subversive, let alone having a Bible," Ante recalls.

The Army posed other challenges. Nearly everything was made with pork or lard, and Ante was only able to attend church every other week. In spite of these difficulties, he was still determined to keep the Sabbath. Ante's decision had heavy consequences. He was eventually arrested and placed in investigative prison, then moved to the capital, Belgrade, where he spent a short time in solitary confinement. "They



I realized that each decision to stay faithful starts instilling into you a fortitude.

wanted to charge me not just for disobeying my superior, but for being subversive and undermining the country,” says Ante.

Although he faced five to 13 years imprisonment, many people agitated on his behalf and Ante was released. “It was a very formative experience for me,” he recalls. “I realized that each decision to stay faithful starts instilling into you a fortitude.” After seeing Ante led away in handcuffs, his fellow soldiers were amazed to see him return; this gave him a unique opportunity to witness to them.

After the Army, Ante decided to continue his education. Ever since his baptism, he had wanted to study theology, so Ante enrolled in Adriatic Union College for his bachelor’s degree. Since it was only a three-year program, Ante already had been planning to leave when the Yugoslavian Civil War broke out in 1991. Additional concern about being drafted prompted him to move to South Africa. While there, Ante completed his bachelor’s degree at Helderberg College (then

affiliated with Andrews University) and his masters in theology at Stellenbosch University.

After moving to the United States, Ante served in various pastoral positions in Illinois while working on his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Although Ante loved pastoring, he knew he also wanted to teach. After praying about it, he unexpectedly received a phone call, and was asked if he would be interested in applying for a position at Andrews University. He joined the faculty in 2006.

“My troubles that I had are nothing exceptional,” says Ante. They did help him grow as a Christian, however, and gave him a new understanding of what it means to be faithful to Christ. “It just shows that God really gives strength and helps us,” he says.

Ashley Meyer is a student newswriter in the Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.

God Reveals His Plans

LEILANI LANGDON
CAREER DEVELOPMENT COUNSELOR
FOR ANDREWS COUNSELING & TESTING CENTER

As a career development counselor at the Andrews University Counseling & Testing Center, Leilani Langdon works one-on-one with students, helping them discover God's will for their career path. During her college career, God used dreams to show Leilani Langdon His plans for her. —Author

It was 2002, and Leilani Langdon was getting ready to start her college career at Rutgers University. One night, just two weeks before she was set to leave, Leilani had a dream. She dreamed of a faith-based school in a small, rural town far away from home in Willingboro, New Jersey. The next morning, at breakfast, Leilani told her mother about her dream. “My mother dropped her spoon and said, ‘Oh, my goodness, Leilani! I had that same dream!’”

Together they started doing some research to discover which school was in their dreams. “Now I know it was Andrews; but at that time, despite growing up as a Seventh-day Adventist, I didn’t know anything about the Adventist school system. I didn’t even know Andrews existed,” Leilani says. “It was complete turmoil. I didn’t have a relationship with God and had some resentment at the time. I had not been looking to start my educational career at a Seventh-day Adventist school. But my mother told me, ‘Leilani, God works in mysterious ways. If He gave us both this dream, there must be a reason. Why don’t you just apply?’”

So, two weeks later, Leilani and her family arrived at Andrews University. “It just felt right,” she says. Leilani was soon asked to audition for the singing group, Divinity, and was offered a spot. “That was the beginning. I felt God orchestrated that experience for me so I could begin to be intrigued about Him again.”

The Divinity members met regularly and had Bible studies. “At the end of every meeting, I would walk out saying to myself, *I want what they have*. There was this longing in my heart to have a relationship with God,” Leilani said.

In February of her second year of college, Divinity was scheduled to travel to a church in Saginaw, Michigan, for a concert. Before the trip, Leilani had another dream. In this dream, she saw an octagon-shaped church sanctuary with blue carpet and blue-cushioned pews. “In my dream, there was a choir singing with rails on the sides of the stage and behind them. There were also two people being baptized.”

Despite awakening the day of the concert with an unsettled feeling, Leilani traveled with Divinity to Saginaw. “At the church, something felt familiar — but I couldn’t quite put my finger on why.” Chaplain Tim Nixon, from Andrews University,

was the guest speaker that day. As he preached, a realization hit Leilani — this was the church in her dream! “Then I heard God say to me, ‘Leilani, you are going to be rebaptized today.’” It was a cold, February day, and the baptismal tank wasn’t set up. No one was expecting a baptism that day.

“I told God, ‘If you want me to be rebaptized, you need to have the speaker make an appeal,’” said Leilani. “I told God what I needed to hear the speaker say; but when Tim was done, he sat down with no mention of a baptism,” she continued.

After a moment, Tim stood back up and told the congregation the Lord had impressed him to make an appeal. Leilani recalled, “He said word-for-word what I had asked God to have him say.” That afternoon, Leilani and another young man were baptized in the blue-carpeted, octagon-shaped church with the choir singing. “I had such peace,” Leilani remembered.

From leading her to Andrews to connecting her to Divinity to opening the way for her to be rebaptized, God led in Leilani’s life. And it didn’t stop there. Countless times, Leilani has asked God to show her the way. God faithfully answers her prayers and, each time, Leilani faithfully obeys His leading.

“God has done amazing things in my life, and these are just a few of the countless experiences where God has led me by the hand. He not only led me to Andrews University and to rebaptism but to be a student missionary and, later, revealed to me my husband, Adrian,” said Leilani. “It’s like a puzzle — you can’t put it together unless you have the image to focus on and guide you. It’s the same thing with my life. I focus on Him, letting Him lead. He faithfully continues to put the pieces of my life together. Following God is the best decision I ever made, and I’ll never look back.”

Keri Suarez is a media relations specialist in the Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.



From left (clockwise): Leilani sings on the day of her baptism.; Leilani and her husband, Adrian, enjoy a fun moment.; Leilani stands with her parents, Vivian and Abraham Mercado, and her brother, Abe Mercado Jr.; Leilani was baptized by Rob Peters, then a dean of men at Meier Hall.; Leilani poses with the Divinity singing group.; and Leilani and her family celebrate her graduation from Andrews University.



AMH harnesses technology to extend the healing ministry of Christ

Adventist Midwest Health is embracing the latest technology — including blogs, social media and a smart-phone application — to promote the organization’s mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ. More than ever before, it is harnessing the power of digital media with unprecedented success.

Led by the Public Relations Department, Adventist Midwest Health launched three blogs* this year: Abundant Life, C-Suite Corner, and Hands & Feet.

Abundant Life is a devotion blog authored by members of the Adventist Midwest Health pastoral care department on a rotating basis. C-Suite Corner is a collection of videos in which members of the organization’s executive team address employees about current happenings around the hospitals. Hands & Feet incorporates stories, photos and videos showcasing employees, volunteers and physicians serving as the hands and feet of Christ in the spirit of I Corinthians 12:12–14.

“Moving away from traditional printed newsletters and toward blogs, social media and apps gives us the power to reach more people across the world and interact with them on a daily basis,” said Julie Busch, regional director of public relations. “They allow us to tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples, as we are directed to do in I Chronicles 16:24.”

Busch spearheaded Adventist Midwest Health’s foray into blogging back in 2011, when she started a blog from the organization’s medical mission trip to Costa Rica. Busch’s updates, posted once or twice a day, were gobbled up by family, friends and co-workers seeking



The Adventist Midwest Health public relations team embraces the latest technology to promote the organization’s mission. From left: Sheila Galloro, public relations specialist; Rebecca Larson, web content manager; Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist; Julie Busch, regional director; and Katie Klinger, web content specialist

to communicate with their loved ones in the mission field. Each blog post resulted in dozens of comments. Every night, Busch read these comments aloud to the mission team, an inspiring tradition that helped quell feelings of homesickness and compassion fatigue among the missionaries.

In addition to the blogs, the public relations team also directs Adventist Midwest Health’s social media strategy. The team manages four Facebook pages, five Twitter accounts, a YouTube channel, a Pinterest page and a Google+ account. More than 4,000 people have identified themselves as followers, or fans, of the organization through those channels.

“Hearing from our fans is so gratifying,” said Rebecca Larson, web content manager. “When we posted a story about Chaplain Vicky Syren on the Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital Facebook page, for example, it prompted a comment from an employee singing Chaplain Vicky’s praises. Connecting people to one another and to our hospitals is what our social media strategy is all about.”

News about Adventist Midwest Health is also readily available on

smartphones via a new application developed by Adventist Health System. The AHS Newline App, available at <http://www.ahsnewline.com>, highlights articles on mission, technical developments, clinical milestones and patient experiences. It also features messages from Don Jernigan, Adventist Health System president/CEO.

Search for Adventist Midwest Health on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest and Google+, or visit <http://www.keepingyouwell.com/social> for a complete list of sites.

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

*The word “blog” is an abbreviated version of “web log,” a term used to describe websites that maintain an ongoing chronicle of information. Blogs are usually arranged in chronological order from the most recent post, or entry, at the top of the main page; readers are encouraged to post comments or responses at the end of each post.



Andrews computing program is ABET accredited

The Andrews University Department of Engineering & Computer Science's computing program is now accredited through the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). The computing program offers a Bachelor of Science in Computing with emphases in computer science and software systems. The engineering program has been ABET accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET since 2006.

"The Department of Engineering & Computer Science is a family and, through a team effort (including the support of Verlyn Benson, immediate past dean of the College of Technology, and Keith Mattingly, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences), ABET accreditation of the computing program has affirmed the strength of our program," says George Agoki, chair. "We plan to use the processes of accreditation, which includes assessment, to keep our computing and engineering programs on the cutting edge. ABET accreditation is valuable to Andrews University but also, more importantly, to our students as they continue their academic or professional journeys."

ABET is the nationally-recognized accrediting body for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering and technology. ABET is a federation of 31 professional and technical societies that contribute funds and volunteers to set policy, develop strategy and conduct ABET accreditation activities worldwide on behalf of their professions. There are more than 3,100 ABET-accredited programs at more than 660 colleges and universities in 23 countries. ABET is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

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



Mary Jane Cunningham has worked at Andrews University for 47 years. Family and friends gathered at the Andrews University Bookstore on Aug. 15 to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Andrews employee celebrates 90th birthday

On Wednesday, Aug. 15, family and friends came to the Andrews University Bookstore to celebrate Mary Jane Cunningham's 90th birthday and thank her for 47 years of service at Andrews, the last 14 at the bookstore. Before Mary Jane was employed at Andrews, she was a student at what was then Emmanuel Missionary College.

The Andrews Bookstore was decorated with balloons, and refreshments were served with treats brought by friends. The event was filled with laughter and smiles as people gathered together to celebrate with Mary Jane.

Mary Jane attended Andrews in the early mid-1940s and met Loren Cunningham while she was a pre-nursing student. They married in 1947, and had two children: David and Penny.

In the 47 years that Mary Jane has worked at Andrews, she has held several

jobs. Her first job was as a hostess in the student lounge. She supervised students for approximately three years before starting work at Dining Services, where she was a hostess for an additional 30 years. At the young age of 76, Mary Jane was offered a position at the Andrews Bookstore, where she still works today. Mary Jane keeps the store neat and organized as she interacts and learns about the students on campus. She enjoys meeting students and working at Andrews, and hasn't given much thought to retirement. "I plan to keep working for years to come," she says.

"Mary Jane is our inspiration. Love shines all around her as she freely gives it. God must be so proud of her as she is His faithful helper every day!" says Cheryl Kean, manager. "If anyone ever needs a warm smile and a kind word, just stop by the Andrews Bookstore between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m."

Mary Jane has four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, with another one on the way.

Kristin Paris, student newswriter,
Division of Integrated Marketing &
Communication

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Educator's gift blesses school and community

Wisconsin—Realizing the dream of an unexpected donor, the Green Bay Church hosted a Teacher Book Sale, July 16–18. However, what started as a fundraiser became a life-changing outreach event that, through the Lord's leading, brought both community and church together in support of disadvantaged students.

Sheila Saunders, wife of a former Green Bay Church member, recently lost her three-and-a-half-year battle with cancer. An educator for almost 20 years, wherever she lived she opted to serve in the poorest of schools. Part of that mission included collecting sufficient books so that every child in her classroom would have a copy of each book used, and each library would have the resources her students needed. Sheila had amassed a tremendous col-

lection of books, DVDs and other educational materials, and it was her wish that these materials be put in the hands of people who would

help students overcome their economic disadvantages to have a better life through education. So, upon her death, the resources were donated to the Adventist Junior Academy in Green Bay.

AJA administrators quickly saw that this collection was far more than could ever be used by the school. Susan Slikkers, a church member and the sale organizer, suggested the teacher book sale — a book sale open only to teachers, with items priced very inexpensively and the money raised given to the school's outreach projects. Initially a reluctant volunteer, Slikkers says she didn't feel prepared to devote the necessary time and energy to the sale, but "God decided something different."

The most daunting part of the project was the sheer scale of the collection — there were 12,000+ books (for



The Adventist Junior Academy gymnasium, in Green Bay, Wis., was filled from end-to-end with 12,000-plus books before doors were opened for the Teacher Book Sale on Monday morning, July 16. The books and other teaching resources were donated by Sheila Saunders, who lost her battle to cancer earlier in the year.



While her mom continues to shop at the Teacher Book Sale, a child reads a book to pass the time.

comparison, a small bookstore might have an inventory of 3,000 books). The materials filled the entire school gymnasium. Had the books been set out on a single shelf, that shelf would have extended more than a half-mile.

With strong support by the local media and a lot of legwork from Slikkers and other church members, traffic at the teacher book sale was strong and steady. However, mid-way into the second day, it was clear that, even with

consistent sales, there was no way all the items would be sold by the end of the sale. When Slikkers worried that they would either have to open the sale to the public — not in line with Saunders' wishes — or explain a gymnasium half-filled with books to the pastor, she followed her father's advice. He said, "Just pray. Have a little prayer meeting. God knows what you need to do." Her volunteers busy, she had a prayer meeting of one.

There's More Online!
 >> More Photos >> More Inspiration
 >> www.lakeunionherald.org

The solution came with a call to her husband, Mark Ringwelski: Along with the sale, offer the books for free to schools with the greatest need for them.

So Slikkers called schools in high-poverty areas individually, telling them that if they could come down after the sale hours, they could haul away whatever books their school could use. “They didn’t believe I was serious, but I assured them that our Christianity doesn’t go very deep if we can’t share what we’ve been given.”

By the end of the sale, all 12,000 books were gone. One teacher, from a school less than a block away from the church, carted away eight boxes and three grocery bags of books. Crying

when she left, she said, “You have no idea how much you have changed our school and our community. This is an incredible gift; we will never be the same.”

A superintendent, from a school in an area where the poverty rate is 53 percent, came at the end of one day and filled her pick-up truck to overflowing. When it was clear she was disappointed that she couldn’t take more, Slikkers asked how much she would like to take. “I felt God’s power right then,” she says, “because she told me she would take them all if she could.” With a borrowed truck and trailer, she did just that, and informed Slikkers that the donation would change the lives of thousands of

people — children and adults.

In the end, more than 110 people volunteered for this project and just under \$11,000 was raised for AJA, but there is no way to calculate the number of people impacted by Saunders’ generosity and her love for the students she served. God’s plans are so much bigger and greater than ours, Slikkers shared. “We just have to be willing to follow His lead and try to keep up. It is thrilling to be willing and see Him work.”

Aileen Yingst, communications leader, Green Bay Church

For additional information about the Teacher Book Sale, see <http://www.facebook.com/GreenBayAJATeacherSale>.

Service-learning projects nurture students’ faith

Wisconsin—Somewhere in the Philippines today, several families are happily drinking and selling milk from their new goats. These goats will help the families work their way out of poverty, thanks to the generosity of students at Petersen Elementary in Columbus. Instead of buying Christmas gifts for each other, these students saved \$280 to buy goats for these people through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (see <http://www.adra.org>).

These families in the Philippines are not the only ones with a brighter future because of Petersen Elementary students. A whole community in Africa is enjoying fresh, clean water because of the joint efforts of students from Petersen Elementary and Three Angels Elementary School (aka Madison Elementary School) in Monona. Through a program called “WaterDrops of Hope,” the students sold water bottles and funded the digging of an African community well. “This was my favorite project of the year,” said Kayla Isensee, a fourth-grade Petersen Elementary



Petersen Elementary students learn how to bless others during a Bible Labs outing where they cleaned toys and sorted clothes for Kindred Kids, a non-profit organization that supports children with special needs in Columbus, Wis.

student, “because we were able to help so many people.”

“We’ve had so much fun,” said Sarah Hillebert, Bible Labs coordinator for Petersen Elementary. “We assisted with story time at the Columbus Library, sang and visited nursing home residents, and became email pals with kids whose parents are missionaries with Adventist Frontier Missions. We helped sponsor a missionary couple through Adventist World Aviation by washing car windows, volunteered at Kindred Kids (a non-profit organization that supports

children with special needs) and so much more. The kids learned that doing things for God and others is fun. There are so many ways to get involved!”

Bible Labs is a unique part of Adventist education. Its purpose is to nurture the faith of students, promote service-learning projects in the K–12 curriculum, and aid students in becoming part of the global mission of their church.

Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference

HAA faculty and staff begin school year with communion

Illinois—To publicly declare their recommitment to Christ, Hinsdale Adventist Academy faculty and staff participated in a communion and anointing service prior to the commencement of school in August. The religion teacher, Danaran Frederick, led the HAA team in worship, reminding them that they are all part of one body and that each person is vital to the health of the whole.

Following communion, pastors from Hinsdale, Hinsdale Fil-Am, Bolingbrook and Downers Grove Churches joined the team to pray throughout the building; board members, Ray Pichette (Illinois Conference president) and Ruth Horton (Illinois Conference superintendent of education) also joined the group. Every child, parent, teacher and staff member were prayed for. Students moving on from HAA were also prayed for.

“Nothing of worth can be accomplished without the presence of



Hinsdale Adventist Academy faculty and staff participated in a communion and anointing service in August, publicly declaring their recommitment to Christ before the new school year began.

Photos by Cherie Jackson

the Holy Spirit and God’s blessing,” said George Babcock, administrative principal.

After the prayer walk, Ron Schultz, Hinsdale Church senior pastor, led the other pastors in providing anointing for each teacher and the building. “The act of anointing is reminiscent of the Passover,” Schultz stated. “The blood of the Lamb protected the faithful Israelites. The oil we use for anointing is an

outward act, signifying our need for God’s protection and cleansing.”

HAA has more than 280 students enrolled this school year. Students travel from as far as Indiana, Boston, China and Taiwan to take advantage of the outstanding Christian education that HAA offers. Please keep HAA in your prayers throughout the school year.

Cherie Jackson, communications coordinator, Hinsdale Adventist Academy

[YOUTH NEWS]

Godly Women Inpost changes lives

Wisconsin—The first Godly Women Inpost took place last year during Teen Camp at Camp Wakonda in Oxford. It was again offered this year, and continues to be a life-changing experience for many of the girls who participate.

Each year at Camp Wakonda, the teen campers (ages 13-17, usually from Wisconsin or Illinois, not always Adventists) get to choose a campout or inpost, offered Thursday afternoon through Friday morning. While the directors were planning which departments would hold inposts, Kalissa Jardine, girls director, felt impressed to request one just for girls called “Godly Women.” She felt God calling the camp



During the Godly Women Inpost at Camp Wakonda, the young ladies and staff baked and decorated cookies and made cards to give to people who had encouraged them that week.

Kalissa Jardine



Kaitissa Jardine

A highlight of the Godly Women Inpost was the Fashion Show, where the young ladies modeled outfits chosen by them from Camp Wakonda's costume room. The point of the fashion show was to help the young ladies understand their worth in God's eyes and learn not to judge themselves or their brothers and sisters according to the world's definition of beauty.

to offer this campout as a way to minister and talk with the girls about things that really matter.

"After much prayer and prodding by the Holy Spirit, we decided to include Godly Women as an option, and the rest is history! I was able to email one of my former religion teachers from Andrews Academy for ideas, and she emailed me back, almost overnight. Most of the ideas for Godly Women came from seminars I've attended, Christian books I've read (like Dannah Gresh's *And The Bride Wore White*), and other Bible camps/retreats that have helped me grow as a Christian," said Jardine.

There were 21 campers at the first inpost and four other staff (Elkid Alvarez, Megan Dieck, Kim Phillips and Frenchy Lopez) who assisted Linda Johnson, program director, and Jardine. On Thursday, the girls and staff baked and decorated cookies and made cards to give to people who had encouraged them that week.

The girls were later surprised when the staff took them to the Camp Meeting Pavilion for the first-ever "Godly Women Fashion Show." "We had a strobe light, music and a runway down the middle of the stage and into the audience. Each girl took a turn down the runway as a little blurb was read about them, stating their name, hobbies

and what they were wearing," recalled Jardine. Prior to the fashion show, the girls were taken to Camp Wakonda's giant costume room where they chose an outfit and accessories.

The point of the fashion show was to help the young ladies understand their worth in God's eyes and learn not to judge themselves or their brothers and sisters according to the world's definition of beauty. "Also, we wanted to stress the importance of modesty and our duty as sisters in Christ to not only dress ourselves appropriately, but have fun with it and show that Christian standards don't have to equal boring," said Jardine.

The girls were treated to a candle-light dinner where male camp staff (Blake Martin, Enrique Serna and Scott Young) answered questions and talked about God and relationships, sharing the way guys think. Jean Marcel-Clouzet (the camp pastor that week) also came, and he tackled some other questions about physical intimacy, relationships, marriage, etc.

Later that night, the girls had worship in the basement of one of the lodges where they would sleep. Following worship, an afterglow was offered in a side room "where the Holy Spirit was working overtime," recalled Jardine. "Huddled around a candle in the dark,

tears were shed and hearts touched as the girls slowly opened up about their past, their pain, their struggles with God, and anything else that needed God's healing. We laughed and cried with each other. One thing I know for sure is that the Holy Spirit was in the room that night, giving freedom and hope to girls who needed it the most. I'm so glad God had us hold Godly Women. It not only touched my own life, but it touched the lives of many young women who needed to hear how much God loves them. I still keep in touch with a couple of the girls from last year's Godly Women Inpost and from that afterglow. They're so special to me; their stories and the way they can smile after all of the pain they've been through is truly inspiring to me. I thank God for letting me be a part of His great and marvelous plan for these girls," remarked Jardine.

At worship on Friday morning, the girls created an object which symbolized the new person they are in Jesus, how they'd grown at camp that week, and who they wanted to become. Also offered was a self-esteem exercise where they learned ways they bring themselves down, the things said to themselves that just aren't true and can bring down self-esteem. They recognized those things as not of God, and made it a point to dismiss those negative thoughts and practice affirming themselves in three things that God has blessed them with, Jardine shared.

"We were again blessed this year with what God did," said Jardine.

Maddie Judenis attended the Godly Women Inpost both this year and last. She recently wrote Jardine, enthusiastically recounting her experience: "Godly Women last year helped me improve my relationship with God so much. It grew so much stronger. I grew to trust Him with everything in my life. And Godly Women helped me to realize that God is someone who will never let me down. I can't thank the Camp Wakonda staff enough for having Godly Women this year and last. My life has changed tremendously since my first year at

camp. My relationship with God has blossomed into something so beautiful. He has become my Best Friend. I didn't have that before. This camp has truly changed my life and has helped me grow into a better Christian."

While attending the Godly Women Inpost, Beth Strangstalien, a student from Wisconsin Academy, discovered God has been with her, though she always didn't recognize His presence. At the afterglow service, she shared her feelings that there seemed to be a wall between her and God. An illustration Jardine shared with the group changed Strangstalien's perspective. "She told us to hold out our hands in a cup-shape, and to imagine a little baby chick. Now this baby chick is running into the walls struggling to get out of the hands,

wanting to not be alone and feel safe. Then Kali said that's how we are sometimes. We are this baby chick struggling, trying to feel God, trying to find Him, when the whole time those hands we thought that were keeping us back were God's hands! He was with us the whole time; we just didn't realize that He was there. He was there listening to us, protecting us, taking care of us and, best of all, holding us. God is always holding us. From then on, I didn't feel a wall between God and me anymore. I knew He was there, and He was holding me the whole time! Godly Women was a HUGE blessing for me, and so was Kali. God put them there for me, which was His plan the whole time!"

Jardine recently returned from being a student missionary in Denmark. She

was an assistant dean at an Adventist school there. Jardine returned this fall to Andrews University where she is a student chaplain. Greg Taylor, Wisconsin Conference youth and camp ministries director, said, "Kalissa, at the tender age of 20 years old, is changing lives through the power of God. Godly Women was a smashing success."

If you'd like to learn more about the Godly Women Inpost, contact Kalissa Jardine by email at kalissa@andrews.edu.

Kalissa "Kali" Jardine, member, Pioneer Memorial Church, and girls director, Camp Wakonda, as shared with Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Altgeld Church pilots innovative outreach

Lake Region—Twice a month at the Altgeld Gardens Church in Chicago, Philip Willis Jr., pastor, leads an innovative outreach initiative. After three years of pastoring in the back of a low-income housing development, Willis realized a most important factor: "If they don't come to you, go to them," he stated.

Following failed attempts to convince community members to walk through unsafe streets and abandoned buildings to get to the church, Willis and Arvell Robinson, head elder, persuaded the church to rent a room in the Carver Park Community Building twice a month where youth meetings could be held. Willis said, "I believe one of the greatest needs in a low-income community is money, and again the church approved the idea to give away \$100 at each event to the youth between the ages of seven and 16 if they could answer teachable questions after the presentation and/or story hour." Money gets them in the door, but the program, other young people



Between 30 and 40 community young people accept the invitation to a bi-monthly program at the Altgeld Gardens Church in Chicago. Using stories, games and video presentations, they are learning practical and spiritual lessons. "I try to appeal to all the learning modalities of each youth," said Philip Willis Jr., pastor.

and fun keeps them there. "The idea that they could win something of value just for showing up is too good to pass up. Each week, the first person who signs in gets \$10 automatically. I am honing the principle, 'The early

bird gets the worm,'" said Willis

At the first meeting, Willis gave away \$20 per question, but soon realized that was too much for one person. He changed the amount to \$10 per person, and he said, "That worked

better because more people walked away with something.” His treasurer brought in \$5 bills one Sabbath, and they realized they could ask more questions and get the maximum value and participation. Willis said, “Some have walked out with as much as \$45. Because of my curiosity, a few meetings later, I asked the youth what they did with their earnings. This is what I found: 1) clothes for school, 2) saved it and 3) got things they needed. ... An underlying principle reinforced with this outreach is that there are rewards for focusing, participating, capturing and remembering things presented and learned.”

Ecclesiastes 11:1 reads, “Cast your bread upon the waters, for you shall find it after many days.” Willis believes that if we give what people need, the Lord will bring the increase. “This innovative approach has brought out 30–40 youth weekly,” he said. Willis sees both repeat youth and newcomers. “My goal is to continue to capture youth who have been there before, so we can build relationships and deeper connections. A sign-up sheet provides phone numbers for the young people. The target audience is ages 7–16; however, one week, an 18-year-old showed up, stayed for the entire program and won some money,” Willis said.

Topics shared include: “How to Be a True Champion”; “Types of Addiction: What You Need to Know”; “Hidden Messages in Movies and Music”; and “Values: A Hidden Treasure.” A relevant, short, true story is shared. All presentations include a

PowerPoint presentation with videos and photos. “Using the stories, games and video presentation, I try to appeal to all the learning modalities of each youth,” Willis said. “And the refreshments afterward are enjoyed, too.”

Because the youth lead active lives, Willis believed advertisements posted weeks in advance would be most certainly lost, so he only passes out fliers on Sabbath morning between Sabbath school and the Divine worship service. The approach and innovative outreach has been well-received in the community, confirms Willis. “Recently, seven community parents have started taking Bible studies under the leadership of Stanley Biles.”

Robinson expressed, “I think this youth program is great. With all the

members getting older and dying out, it is important that we (the Church) get younger.”

“Working with youth is a passion of mine. We will try to keep this successful ministry outreach going as long as possible, but I understand it must transform/evolve as we further understand what the youth need. Being a small church, resources are limited. But what better way to use what we do have than to give it away along with a positive message of hope!”

For additional information about this ministry for inner-city youth, visit <http://www.mancollege365.com>.

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



Vivian Garrido teaches community young people at the bi-monthly youth meetings held at the Altgeld Gardens Church in Chicago. The innovative outreach, coordinated by Philip Willis Jr., pastor, promotes that there are rewards for focusing and participating in the presentations. Ultimately, they desire to build relationships.

Brown-Chapel Missions reach community through Indianapolis Public Schools

Indiana—Brownsburg and Chapel West Churches initiated a joint outreach

called “Brown-Chapel Missions” as they embarked on the second voyage of their Indiana Public Schools (IPS) after-school program. Their first endeavor in Schools 49 and 46 registered 74 students in February. They now have more than 100 students registered for the 2012 fall semester. The program incorporates concepts in vacation Bible school with mentorship and tutoring.

According to Brown-Chapel Missions’ blog, “School 49 already contacted us, expecting our presence there after school this year and reiterating their appreciation for our participation in the school last year.”

After the program’s first semester, Brown-Chapel Missions conducted marketing research. “We basically asked the families, ‘Why did you register

your kids in a faith-based, after-school program?” Nelson Silva, the founder of this program and a counselor for the IPS district adjudicator, stated.

Bold questions such as, “Do you attend church?” yielded encouraging feedback. Seven adults indicated interest in receiving Bibles studies; four adults requested home visitation; and ten adults wanted their children to have Bibles studies.

The churches continued their ministry through the summer months. A vacation Bible school was held during Sabbath afternoon hours at a rented church near the IPS schools. During this time, ten predetermined members made in-home visits, started evaluating families’ receptiveness to spiritual things and began Bibles studies where appropriate.

“The program became a multi-level ministry. We have had opportunities to witness to IPS teachers as well as community members who have joined the program as volunteers,” Silva said.

Silva’s pursuit of a doctorate in ministry degree in family youth and



April Silva

Indianapolis Public Schools 49 and 46 claimed the Brown-Chapel Missions’ after-school program last year was a success and invited the ministry to continue this year. More than 100 students enrolled for the program at the start of the fall semester this year.

culture played a key role in the program’s development. His studies pointed to reports, which show 80–90 percent of students in IPS Schools 49 and 46 come from families in poverty — the perfect opportunity to embrace the community’s need with Christlike love.

Brown-Chapel Missions’ program revolves around three components:

development, discipleship and mission.

Silva said, “Now, we step toward phase two of our strategy — make disciples.”

Readers can stay abreast of this mission endeavor through pictures and videos at <http://www.brownchapelmissions.blogspot.com/>.

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference

Decision made on a busy street corner

Illinois—As part of a 15-day mission trip to Australia, the Hinsdale Men’s Chorus sang at many churches, locations and fundraising events. One night was different.

The Chorus and supporters touring with them were at The Way, a Seventh-day Adventist community church plant that services the aboriginal people in Redfern, a Sydney suburb. They had been warned that Redfern was not the safest place to be, especially at night.

Located on a busy street, The Way is more of a soup kitchen/recreation center/homeless shelter than a traditional church, and Matthew 25 is its daily sermon. Johnny Murison, pastor, showed the group around the small facility. They met some of the



Karen Matthews

Marlene, a street musician on a bustling city corner just outside Sydney, Australia, shared her tear-filled testimony with the Hinsdale Men’s Chorus. Her encounter with Karen Matthews, a Chorus supporter, and the singing group drew Marlene closer to the Jesus she once loved in childhood.

men and women who go there for food and fellowship and, that night, also for health screenings.

To draw more attention to what the church was offering, the Chorus stood outside and began singing a *capella*. Passersby stopped to listen, ask questions and even sing with the Chorus. Many expressed appreciation for the traditional music and wanted to hear more.

The look on Marlene’s face (a street musician) was obviously one of angered surprise and frustration. Her thoughts were also obvious, *I will no longer be able to collect coins and maybe a dollar bill here and there this evening because this group of men, probably tourists (more than likely American), have just stolen my street show! How dare they! Now what? Guess I might as well pack up my saxophone and proceed to my other corner.*

Karen Matthews, a supporter, recalls, “Then, for a brief moment,

we locked eyes — ‘our’ corner to ‘her’ corner — and I felt her pain. My heart began to sympathize with the bad luck that had surely struck her. Our objectives were opposite. I felt hope for the possible souls that the Holy Spirit could touch through the musical messages delivered by the Hinsdale Men’s Chorus that were about to be heard throughout this bustling city corner just outside Sydney, Australia, a national center for aboriginal people from all across Australia. Marlene hesitated. *This is my space, my time. The right thing to do is play my saxophone; ignore the competition.* So she attempted to increase the volume of her saxophone above that of men singing a different type of music, which made neither clearly heard.

“Feeling her disappointment, I crossed the street to ‘her’ corner, away from the security I felt with friends at ‘our’ corner and the assignment I had been given by our music director to be sure to photograph as much as possible.

“Your music is beautiful, etc. ...” It wasn’t too long until I understood her story. And it also wasn’t too long until I saw the Hinsdale Men’s Chorus also cross the street from ‘our’ corner to ‘her’ corner.”

“Can we sing while you play?”

“Amazing Grace” filled the night air with the sound of God-sent male voices and a single saxophone, now in beautiful harmony. Curious commuters now paused to listen. The nearly-empty saxophone box began to fill with not only coins but also paper bills!

The time passed by quickly as the group continued to listen to a heartfelt, painful story coming from the mouth of a brilliant, talented woman. “Life isn’t fair. Why did God allow such painful experiences to cross my path? My son is surely to die soon from his heavy addiction to powerful street drugs.”

As the group stood beside Marlene’s saxophone box, containing her unexpected financial blessings, she tearfully confessed that she was addicted to gambling. Matthews said, “I saw the bill I had earlier placed among



The Hinsdale Men’s Chorus sang at many churches, locations and fundraising events on a 15-day mission trip to Australia.

that of my friends, and the words came quickly from my mouth, ‘Don’t even think about it!’ I assured her that Jesus, her Best Friend, could take away her sinful habits.”

Then came another most-unexpected testimony. While Marlene’s life was challenging and she had questioned God to the max, she had the blessing of being raised by a Seventh-day Adventist mother, a dear-to-her-heart aunt and a grandmother who helped to pioneer the Adventist faith among the Queensland aboriginal bush people!

Just a coincidence? Her testimony became tear-filled as she made a huge decision on a busy street corner that only two hours before was filled with sorrow and disappointment, but now became the most joyous moment of her life! She remembered her childhood love for Jesus in the bush country of Australia and the grandmother who pointed her to Him. In addition, she felt the love of God through her new American friends and began her adult journey with Jesus, in one miraculous moment, through a simple but powerful prayer on a busy street corner. And the group clearly understood their mission to Australia.

The Chorus sang, prayed with people and praised God until they ran out of both songs and time.

On the bus, the excited chatter from the experience quickly died down, and the group settled in for the hour ride back to Sydney Adventist Hospital. From somewhere in the back of the bus, one of the men began singing “Be ye holy, holy.” Someone joined in with “For the Lord God Almighty is holy.” Soon the bus was filled with the beautiful words of this powerful hymn. When finished, someone else began singing “Jesus, Thou art everything to me.” The bus was filled with God’s presence. Some paused to listen, and basked in His glory.

What a privilege it was to be in a bus full of like-minded believers worshipping God while racing along night-darkened, unknown streets 10,000 miles from home.

Since that evening, the group’s new saxophone friend, Marlene, has begun taking Bible studies at The Way.

Karen Matthews, support member, with additional reporting by Christian Prohaska, member, Hinsdale Men’s Chorus, and Lake Union Herald staff

An additional story about the trip, “God’s Ways, Not Ours,” by Arnold Hutabarat, chorus director, is available in the online version of this issue at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org>.

Announcements

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

Andrews University

Howard Performing Arts Center Concerts:

Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560. Ask about our Flex Series tickets. More information can also be found on our website at <http://howard.andrews.edu>.

Sun., Oct. 21, 7:00 p.m.: The first Christian concert of the season will feature Dove Award-winning group, Gungor, led by husband and wife duo, Michael and Lisa.

Sun., Oct. 28, 4:00 p.m.: This year's reigning champion of the Fiscoff National Chamber Music Competition, the Barkada Quartet, will perform.

Illinois

Downers Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

will welcome Lonnie and Jeanie Melashenko for a special Sabbath on **Nov. 10**. Lonnie will speak to the congregation during the worship hour and in the afternoon to the AY group. Jeannie will present the children's story. A potluck lunch will be served after the worship service. All are invited. For more information, please contact Joe Arner at 630-847-1389 or 630-968-4446.

Indiana

Indiana Academy (IA) Alumni Association

welcomes all graduates/attendees to the IA campus for Alumni Homecoming, **Oct. 12-13**. Honor classes this year are 1962, '72, '87 and '92. Special recognition will be given to Golden Age Club classes, 1929-61. Sabbath morning speaker will be Tom Sanford, class of '62, and founder of Project Patch. Please plan to join the 22nd Annual Alumni Golf Classic on Fri., Oct. 12. For more information regarding this event, please call Brent Schalk at 800-346-0272, or email schalk@bluegrassfarms.net. For more information regarding the weekend, please email Brian Allinder, alumni president, at laffin@me.com, or you may call or email Kathy Griffin, alumni/development director, at [\[agriffin@gmail.com\]\(mailto:agriffin@gmail.com\) or 317-984-3575, ext. 242. School website is <http://www.iasda.org>; alumni website is <http://www.iaalumni.org>.](mailto:kathy</p>
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Conference Calendar Dates: If no contact information is included, call the conference office at 317-844-6201.

Oct. 13: Operation Downpour, 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., at the Southside Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4801 Shelbyville Rd., Indianapolis. Each time we have this event, the Holy Spirit moves the communities and new people attend the local Adventist churches. Please help us go door-to-door.

Oct. 20: Glendale International Sabbath, the speaker is Ron Smith, Southern Union president. The theme, "We Are All God's Children," will help attendees celebrate the Lord and our disabled brothers and sisters. For more information, contact Paulette Taylor by email: paulette2525@comcast.net, or by phone: 317-823-1009.

Oct. 24: Conference-wide Day of Prayer, a day of fasting and prayer for God's people to have the heart to reach out to others in the name of Jesus. Spend the day without the interruption of television; drink water, eat light. Ask God to speak to your heart and show you His assignment for your life. Ask Jesus to bless our church with love for His mission. If possible, culminate the day with prayer meeting at church.

Oct. 26-28: Healthy Beginnings Training Weekend, the training program that enables attendees to teach Healthy Beginnings and includes a new bonus that qualifies registrants to conduct lifestyle expos. To learn more, contact Susan Landess by email: susan_landess@yahoo.com, or by phone: 765-621-7557.

Lake Region

Second annual Man College offered: The Brunswick Heights Church in Gary, Ind., will again host Man College, **Oct. 13**. This event is designed to reach, educate and empower at-risk adolescent males and single mothers of any age. Improve your life, family and ministry. For more information, see website <http://www.mancollege365.com>, email philwill7@hotmail.com or call 248-217-8528.

Shiloh/Chicago Seventh-day Adventist Academy Alumni Association will celebrate 99 Years at its Alumni Homecoming 2012 on **Nov. 23 and 24**. Honor reunion classes include: 1922, '32, '42, '52, '62, '72, '82, '92, 2002 and 2012. We hope to see you then! For more information, contact the Chicago SDA School office at 773-873-3005.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Oct 6** Local Church Budget
- Oct 13** Voice of Prophecy
- Oct 20** Local Church Budget
- Oct 27** Local Conference Advance

Special Days

- Oct 6** Children's Sabbath
- Oct 7-13** Health Education Week
(Vibrant Life)
- Oct 20** Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath
- Oct 27** Pathfinder Sabbath

"JESUS. All Or Nothing" is the theme of the 2013 Lake Union Youth Evangelism Congress to be held **Feb. 8-10, 2013**, in Rolling Meadows, Ill. Interactive and practical training for ages 16 to 35. For more information, email PastorRon@andrews.edu or call 269-471-8380.

Michigan

Upper Peninsula Marriage Retreat: "North Woods Romance" is the theme, and the setting is beautiful Camp Sagola

in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This weekend, **Nov. 2-4**, is designed for you and your spouse to get away and take some time to reconnect with each other and with God. There are five seminar sessions throughout the weekend, each with topics to help strengthen your marriage. There will be lots of time to enjoy the natural beauty of the camp and fellowship with other couples as you eat and worship together. For more information or to register, call Alyce at 517-316-1543 or email her at ablackmer@misda.org. You can also download an application at <http://www.misda.org> (Family Life Department).

Crystal Mountain Marriage Retreat, Nov. 9-11:

A beautiful setting, great food and fellowship, seminar sessions that help you grow, but, best of all, time alone with your spouse to nurture and renew your relationship. Our seminar presenters this year will be Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, Family Ministry leaders for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. They have much expertise and experience to share, and will be a real blessing. Along with meetings, food and fellowship, there is a pool and fitness center, hiking and biking trails, Traverse City a short drive away, and much more. For more information or to register, call Alyce at 517-316-1543 or email her at ablackmer@misda.org. You can also download an application at <http://www.misda.org> (Family Life Department).

Correction

On page 27 of the August issue, in a photo caption, Hans A. Diehl was inadvertently identified as a physician. His credentials instead are DrHSc, M.P.H., CNS, FACN.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26	Nov 2	Nov 9
Berrien Springs, Mich.	7:22	7:10	6:59	6:49	6:40	5:32
Chicago, Ill.	6:27	6:16	6:04	5:54	5:46	4:37
Detroit, Mich.	7:08	6:57	6:46	6:35	6:26	5:18
Indianapolis, Ind.	7:22	7:11	7:01	6:52	6:43	5:35
La Crosse, Wis.	6:40	6:28	6:16	6:05	5:56	4:47
Lansing, Mich.	7:14	7:02	6:51	6:40	6:32	5:23
Madison, Wis.	6:34	6:22	6:10	5:59	5:50	4:41
Springfield, Ill.	6:36	6:25	6:15	6:05	5:57	4:50

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

Weddings

Alisa Weimer and Aaron Hall were married June 17, 2012, in Hinsdale, Ill. The ceremony was performed by Richard Hall.

Alisa is the daughter of Bill and Barbara Weimer of Woodridge, Ill., and Aaron is the son of Richard and Patricia Hall of Conway, Ark.

The Halls are making their home in Hot Springs, Ark.

Jamie Alabata and Joseph McGovern III were married July 8, 2012, in Hinsdale, Ill. The ceremony was performed by Ron Schultz.

Jamie is the daughter of Bing and Eden Alabata of Hinsdale, and Joseph is the son of John and Deborah McGovern Jr. of Lynwood, Ill.

The McGoverns are making their home in Willowbrook, Ill.

Brittany M. Bailey and Adam M. Sias were married May 20, 2012, in Cedar Lake, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Mickey Mallory.

Brittany is the daughter of Robert and Rebecca Bailey of Cedar Lake, and Deborah and Shane Whipp of Traverse City, Mich., and Adam is the son of Mike and Kathy Sias of Edmore, Mich.

The Sias are making their home in Traverse City.

Obituaries

BALLAST, Ronald, age 60; born May 14, 1952, in East Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Aug. 3, 2012, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Joanne (Metcalf); daughters, Rachel, Julie and Laura Ballast; father, Donald; mother, Marguerite (Van Heest); and sisters, Suzanne Boltach, Nancy Zeilstra and Beverly Selvig.

Funeral services were conducted by Craig Harris, with private inurnment, Berrien Springs.

CARR, Mark, age 50; born Sept. 12, 1961, in Pontiac, Mich.; died June 28,

2012, in Flint, Mich. He was a member of the Fenton (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra (McComb); mother, Janet Carr; and brothers, Mack and Scott.

No memorial services were conducted, with private inurnment.

HICKS, Darrell H., age 71; born May 7, 1941, in Alma, Mich.; died July 10, 2012, in Tulare, Calif. He had been a member of the Twin Cities Church (Alma, Mich.), Pioneer Memorial Church (Berrien Springs, Mich.), Hinsdale (Ill.) Church, Downers Grove (Ill.) Church and Bolingbrook (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Melva D. (Rasmussen); son, Kristofer H.; daughter, Kirsten A. Crombie; father, B. Hubert; mother, Alita Mae (Braman); brother, William H.; sisters, Ardis Meyers and Nancy Shugars; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Chad Stuart, with private inurnment.

HOLDER, Marian C. (Boodhoo), age 77; born April 20, 1935, in British Guiana; died July 25, 2012, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her daughter, Denise Wright; sister, Dorothy Singh; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Dwight K. Nelson and Arne Swanson, and inurnment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

KUEBLER, David F., age 75; born Nov. 11, 1936, in Ann Arbor, Mich.; died May 6, 2012, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his son, Todd; daughters, Tammy Wellington and Michelle Kuebler; brother, Harold; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Richard Habenicht, Dwight K. Nelson and Skip MacCarty, and inurnment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

LAPHAM, Carolyn L. (Salmer), age 66; born Feb. 12, 1946, in Flint, Mich.; died May 25, 2012, in Holly, Mich. She was a member of the Holly Church.

Survivors include her husband, James P.; sons, John Hines and Arthur Lapham; daughters, Carol Ann Bass, Pam Whitten, Tina Lapham and Angela Delise; sisters, Barbara Van Wagoner, Lucy Lemon, Edith Jerigan and Mary McLain; 19 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by David Salazar and Phil Bass, with private inurnment.

LINDENSMITH, Clarence Warren, age 83; born April 20, 1928, in Detroit, Mich.; died Feb. 9, 2012, in Greenbush, Mich. He was a member of the Troy Church, Detroit.

Survivors include his wife, Velma J. (Cline); brother, Ronald; and sister, Trudy Haskell.

Funeral services were conducted by Bill Cowin, and interment was in Riverview Cemetery, Harrogate, Tenn.

SNOWDEN, Sandra A. (Ringwelski), age 57; born Sept. 20, 1954, in Wausau, Wis.; died Aug. 20, 2012, in Orlando, Fla. Before moving to Florida in 1980, she was a member of the Wisconsin Academy Church.

Survivors include her husband, Robert D.; son, Robert T.; daughters, Tracy Snowden-Gentes and Ashley Snowden; father, Jerome V. Ringwelski; mother, Josephine E. (Benaszewski) Ringwelski; brothers, Daniel and Mark Ringwelski; sisters, Valerie Smith and Janice Koerting; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Jodie Howell and Barbara McCoy, with private inurnment.

STANDEN, Phyllis, age 96; born April 2, 1915, in Milton, England; died Feb. 21, 2012, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her nieces, Linda Fox and Valerie Ang; and her dear friend and caregiver, Virginia Eakley.

Memorial services were conducted by Paul Pellandini and Bruce Hayward, with private inurnment.

SURDAL, Lorraine (Ludeman), age 84; born April 14, 1928, in Moore, Mont.; died July

16, 2012, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, F. Lars; sons, Ralph and Kelvin; daughter, Denise Fagala; brothers, Bob and Russ; foster brother, Larry Gore; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Dwight K. Nelson and Esther Knott, and inurnment was in Union Cemetery, Berrien Center.

TILLMAN, Claris, age 79; born July 2, 1933, in Ritzville, Wash.; died Aug. 14, 2012, in Wauwautosa, Wis. He was a member of the Fond du Lac (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Bonita "Bonnie" (Borg); sons, Tim and Terry; brother Philip; sister, Carol Seals; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by George Dronen, Bob Stauffer and Steve Aust, with private inurnment.

VANAS, Pamela M., age 58; born May 11, 1953, in Oceanside, Calif.; died May 1, 2012, in Jacksonville, Fla. She was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, William W. Peterson; son, William W. Peterson II; daughter, Haley J. Peterson; father, Arthur Vanas; mother, Opal (Bigford) Vanas; brother, Thomas Vanas; and sisters, Vicki and Kimberly Vanas.

Funeral services were conducted by Gene Hall, Daniel Towar and David Salazar, and interment was in Oakhill Cemetery, Holly.

WANDERSLEBEN, Daniel, age 88; born Jan. 1, 1924, in Cunco, Chile, South America; died May 24, 2012, in Cleveland, Tenn. He pastored the Gary, Hammond, Valparaiso, Logansport, Rochester, Plymouth, Seymour, Scottsburg, Madison, South Bend, Angola, Kendallville, Wolcottville and Glendale Churches in Indiana.

Survivors include his wife, Nelia (Soto); son, Elton E.; daughters, Nancy E. Lockwitz and Joyce I. Salyers; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Ted Dubbs and Jerry Arnols, with private inurnment, Cleveland, Tenn.

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$35 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$45 per insertion for all others. A form is available at <http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org> for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org>.

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Linda University, Nichol Hall 2031, 24951 N. Circle Dr., Loma Linda, CA 92350, or visit <http://www.adventisthealthstudy.org>.

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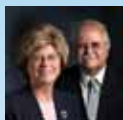
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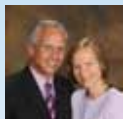
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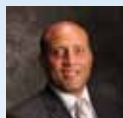
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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Stepping Out

BY GARY BURNS



I appreciate the spiritual mentors who have challenged me and provided encouragement as if God Himself was engaging my life. One of those individuals was "Uncle Lonnie" (Lorenzo Grant). He and Ed Peterson believed so much in what God was doing through the revival that swept across American campuses in 1970 that they made it possible for us to share our experience in churches nearly every weekend. It was on the bus where they would do their mentoring, often by just telling stories of their experience with God.

Lorenzo's story about showing up at college registration with the few dollars he was able to save was living proof to me of God's faithfulness. Just as they were about to turn him away for insufficient funds, someone asked, "What was your name again?" Hearing the hopeful

reply, "Lorenzo Grant," she eagerly said, "Just a minute, I think there's something here for you."

It appears that God had a partner who was impressed with Lorenzo's hard work, determination and undissuaded faith in God's purpose for his life, who sent just the right amount and marked the gift, "For Lorenzo Grant."

Living and working near Andrews University gives us opportunities to hear similar stories. We continue to be amazed at God's surprising ways of caring for His own. If we choose to follow Christ and are willing to give our lives in His service, we can step out in faith, believing He will provide as we work in partnership with Him.

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

Who Can Be Against Us?

BY ZACK PAYNE

Throughout my life, I have found myself in situations where I was with a group of Christian friends who were not making good decisions, and I was faced with a choice: to go with the flow or not? I mean, no one likes to rock the boat, right? And if you are with friends, at least you know you're in good company where you won't be judged. So, is there a good reason to go against the grain and stand up for what you feel is right? Or is it better to just go along with the crowd?

Daniel 3:16–18 tells us about three young Jews: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They are told to bow down to a golden image that is not their God, but they are brave and stand up for what they believe in: They don't bow down. King Nebuchadnezzar is furious with them and summons them for some talking to. He gives them another chance to bow, and they answer, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from you, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up" (NLT).

That's some crazy faith! But here is the part that really got me: They weren't the only Jews there that day. When Babylon conquered Israel and brought back young captives, these three and Daniel weren't the only ones; there were lots of them! But the Bible doesn't talk about anyone else standing up for what they believed in. So, these three Jews were with a bunch of other Jews who supposedly believed in the same things, but they are the only ones who refuse to bow.



Zack Payne

Needless to say, Nebuchadnezzar had them thrown into the fiery furnace. But when he looked into the furnace, he saw four people — not three. Jesus was with them in the flames!

When the king called them out, they were completely fine. And because of their decision to stand up for what was right, they emerged from the flames into a whole new

world — one in which a pagan king was praising the God of the Jews. *That* is the real miracle in the story. And it might not have been possible if three young guys didn't stand up for what they believed in.

So my question is: Will you stand up for what you believe in? I believe that by doing what we know is right, we are allowing God to work through us. And, as this story points out, Jesus will be right by our side the whole way. So if God is for us, who can be against us? No one. Jesus is just as real and alive today as He was in Daniel 3, and I challenge you to stand up for Him today. He will never let you down.

Zack Payne is the youth pastor for the Green Bay Church in Wisconsin.

Used by God

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” —Ephesians 2:10 NIV

“Open yourself up to be used by God, and He’ll use you in incredible ways,” says Enrique Serna III. “Sometimes, He’ll use mission trips... It’s very powerful.”



Enrique Serna III

Enrique has an obvious passion for ministry. The theology major at Southern Adventist University became excited about missions when he was a senior in high school. In 2009, he and his classmates at Wisconsin Academy went to Chile, South America, for a two-week mission trip where they built a church for the locals and worshipped with them.

The experience proved life-changing for Enrique. After seeing the people’s gratitude and having a sense of accomplishment, he considered ministry as a potential career.

“The mission trip made me think, *Wow, I really like this stuff!*,” he says. “It taught me a lot about myself.”

Enrique has since become involved in different mission outlets, particularly in Wisconsin. He spent the last three summers working at Camp Wakonda as a counselor and, most recently, boys’ director. He also is involved in the programming and is a ready aide to the boys’ counselors and campers.

Some of Enrique’s favorite things about working at camp were talking with the staff and seeing God work through them. It’s also powerful for him to witness how a week at camp can impact a young person’s life.

Enrique claims that one reason God led him to Camp Wakonda was to realize his interest in youth ministry. “Working at camp helped me know I’m being led by God to what I think I should be doing with my career,” he says. “It helped me see that I love this kind of work... This is what He wants me to do.”

This school year, Enrique continues God’s work as a student missionary at Wisconsin Academy, serving as an assistant dean in the boys’ dormitory and helping teach P.E. classes to students. The position is right in line with Enrique’s plans for the future: to get his certification in secondary education and work as a dean or chaplain to counsel youth.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is majoring in physical therapy at Andrews University.

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*"FOR GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."
-JN 3:16*

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