

*Lake Union*  
**HERALD**

OCTOBER 2005

Strengthening the  
**KNOT**  
*Building Strong Marriages  
that Stand the Test of Time*



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**T**his issue is dedicated to improving our marriage relationships. We are very fortunate to have an experienced family ministries specialist as the managing editor of the *Herald*. Because of her expertise, I have asked Diane Thurber to write our main feature and serve as the editor of this issue.

Diane has pulled together a balanced and informative resource that I pray you will find useful and inspiring no matter what your circumstances or marital status.

*Gary Burns*  
Gary Burns, Editor



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## SWEETER *as the Years Go By*

“Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given you under the sun; for this is your reward in life and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun” (Eccl. 9:9 ASV).

This past June marked the 51st year Jacqueline Marva Cook has been my wife, and it is good to be reminded that she is my “reward in life.” She has blessed me with three fine sons, one beautiful daughter, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. My reward in life is far more than I deserve, but I praise God for His unmeasured grace and generosity.

Have you heard old folks say, “Our lives are sweeter as the years go by?” Well, let this old man say it again! We were so young when we started out together that there was no way we could have full appreciation for what a loving heavenly Father had done by bringing us into union. There were the days of testing the limits, struggling to merge cultures (yes, there are sub-cultural differences for two African-Americans coming from diverse family backgrounds), and finding oneness in Christ for an Adventist young man and a Baptist young woman. But it gets sweeter.

Soon the first of four children arrived, all of them born on the Sabbath. My dad liked to tease Jackie that she always “labored” on God’s holy Sabbath. What an adventure! You do not learn enough raising one child to make the others easy. Each little life is a separate case—each new, little soul a separate challenge. But it gets sweeter.

Suddenly, the Word of the Lord returns unto you again, and the calling you have run from for twenty years is again upon you. We uprooted our family from the lovely home we built on the Wright compound outside Germantown, Ohio, and moved into a cramped, but affordable apartment while I went off to the Seminary. I commuted weekends to pastor my church and see my family. But it gets sweeter.

Next came the “empty nest” syndrome as, one by one, our children left home. What if we had not built a loving, respectful relationship by that time? It would have been chaotic. But it got sweeter.

I was stricken with cancer, but my “reward in life” was there by my side to nurture and comfort me back to health. Now we look forward to life in the earth made new when Jesus shall take us home. It will be even sweeter than we can imagine.

# Welcome NEW MEMBERS

**Indiana** **Shaylee Prichard** is a soft-spoken, humble, and caring young lady with an ability to listen and give counsel to her friends. By nature, she has a deep belief in God and holds fast to her growing relationship with Him. However, she comes from a difficult background and by God's grace has overcome many challenging obstacles in her path.



Shaylee Prichard

When Shaylee came to Indiana Academy (IA) last year, she remembers being inspired by the first baptism program of the year. Megan Dupont, one of her school friends, had made the ultimate decision to follow Jesus and was baptized. Shaylee visited Luis Beltre Jr., IA chaplain, at his office, and strongly requested to begin a Bible study program to prepare for baptism. He was excited because he had never seen a student with more desire for baptism than Shaylee.

They began Bible studies once a week, then increased to two times a week, and near the end of her series, they were meeting three times a week. Shaylee was really into her Bible studies and wanted more than ever to publicly demonstrate her acceptance of Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. As she studied the Bible, Shaylee grappled with some of the challenges she had faced all her life. But it was also a rewarding time; the chaplain saw her place those painful memories in God's hands and move forward with her new life in Jesus Christ.

Shaylee's baptism took place during the Indiana Conference Youth Rally at the Cicero Church. There, many young people from churches all over the Conference were gathered to be inspired and trained to witness for Christ. As they heard Shaylee's testimony, and watched the result of her decision to be baptized, some were impressed by the Holy Spirit to make a decision about accepting Jesus into their own lives.

Shaylee became a member of the Cicero Church and successfully completed her fourth year at Indiana Academy. Today, she continues to bear a new light of hope and purpose as she witnesses for Christ in her daily life.

Luis Beltre Jr., IA chaplain, and Bruce Babienco, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

**Michigan** **Dolly (Leigh) Dimond** was raised in the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plymouth, Michigan. Dolly and **Bob Dimond** were united in marriage, but they were not united in their faith. Dolly prayed earnestly that Bob would some day join her in membership in the Adventist church.

After the birth of her second son, Dolly needed help with their two boys at church each Sabbath and Bob agreed to attend to lend assistance. On those Sabbaths, Bob listened, intently, to the sermons preached by Robert Stewart, Metropolitan Church pastor, and felt the Holy Spirit tugging on his heart.



Bob, Dolly, Bobby, and Ryan Dimond are now a united family through Jesus.

When the *Hope for Our Day* evangelistic series began, Bob attended and answered a call to learn more about the Bible and its truths. He began to study with the pastor. Dolly wanted to be a part of those studies as well, so Sandi Stewart, the pastor's wife and a Bible worker at the Metropolitan Church, joined the studies. The Stewarts met with Bob and Dolly weekly for about six months and immensely enjoyed watching them grow more in love with each other and with their Savior, Jesus. When the studies concluded, Bob expressed his desire to be baptized. Dolly also felt the tugging of the Holy Spirit and requested re-baptism.

Another huge answer to prayer for Dolly and her mother, Marguerite Richardson, was the fact that her father, Don Richardson, also asked to be baptized at the Blue Water Seventh-day Adventist Church in Port Huron, Michigan. Don was baptized two weeks prior to Dolly's re-baptism and Bob's baptism.



From left: Robert Stewart, Metropolitan Church pastor, and Sandi Stewart, Bible worker, present baptismal certificates and commemorative roses to Dolly and Bob Dimond.

Needless to say, Dolly's face beamed with delight while she stood in the baptismal waters on May 21, 2005, with her husband, Bob. They now look forward to raising their sons together in a home united in Christ.

Joy Hyde, Metropolitan Church communication secretary and church clerk

**Michigan** On March 26, 2005, **Suzette Massard's** long journey to find a church family that followed Bible truths finally ended when she was baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist.

Her quest for truth led her to become acquainted with many different religions. She was even baptized in several different churches, however, she never found the inner peace and relationship with God she was looking for.

She was eventually disfellowshipped from one denomination because she continued studying in her King James version of the Bible instead of the one they insisted on.

Discouraged, Suzette put down her Bible for five years. She did not go to church and, as she described, "lived in limbo." Eventually, through her mother's influence, Suzette attended another church. She went forward in tears in response to an altar call to accept Jesus as Savior. She was soon re-baptized and remained a faithful member there for 15 years.

Continuing to seek a more personal walk with Jesus, she ventured into a charismatic movement, but never felt truly comfortable or at peace there either. So she left and never returned.

After loud preaching turned off Suzette in another denomination, she began attending a different Christian church. She attended worthwhile seminars, which led to personal counseling to help deal with years of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Also at this time, the Lord delivered her from alcohol dependency through Alcoholics for Christ. She has been sober since July 7, 1985. Then her oldest son died at 21 from a cocaine overdose. Her grief was almost inconsolable.

When the Lord seemed the farthest away, He led Suzette to a prophecy study and the *Discovery* Bible studies series on the Internet. Through these studies, she learned of the Sabbath but could not find a Christian church that kept the Sabbath. It was at this time, without explanation, Sandi Stewart, the Metropolitan Church Bible worker, came to her door. Suzette pummeled Sandi with questions and demanded that any Bible studies be done only with the King James version. In the year-long study, Sandi took Suzette



Suzette Massard (left), studied the Bible with Sandi Stewart, who she calls her "angel."

through the *Amazing Facts Storicals of Prophecy* and an exhaustive study of Daniel and Revelation.

Suzette attended Doug Batchelor's *Prophecy Code* series, which led to her baptism on that eventful Sabbath day. To satisfy her continued thirst, Suzette continues to study the Spirit of Prophecy, the Sabbath school lessons, and attends class. Most enjoyable for Suzette is sharing her much-sought-after truth by doing weekly Bible studies with her husband Lee.

Joy Hyde, Metropolitan Church communication secretary and church clerk



**M**ay the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace  
as you trust in Him, so that  
you may overflow with hope by  
the power of the Holy Spirit.

ROMANS 15:13





# The Elijah Project

## Impacts Detroit's Inner City

BY KRISTINA PENNY

On April 23, with a unanimous vote, the Detroit City Temple youth church board agreed to take part in a new outreach effort—*The Elijah Project*, sponsored and funded by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

City Temple youth were to be in charge of an entire, three-week crusade scheduled in June and were the only church in the Lake Region Conference to participate in this endeavor. They were confident they could pull it off. One young lady, when asked if she was sure she could provide a sermon, replied, “Oh, I know I can.”

Details were worked out, support was drawn from all the City Temple youth, and they quickly volunteered to help with specific jobs. Over 500 fliers were distributed to their friends and surrounding community. After numerous meetings, phone calls, letters, and e-mails, the youth were ready to begin *The Elijah Project*.

On June 4, the City Temple main auditorium was filled with over 200 youth and adults. Members and guests were greeted by the youth hospitality committee and uplifted with beautiful songs directed by the *Youth Praise & Worship Team*. Gifts were given to those who brought guests and even to the guests themselves. Musicians and choirs rendered their talent in support of the crusade. The opening night program was blessed with the voices of the new *City Temple Youth Choir* and guest choir, *Remnant*.

When Aiesha Lanier, the first youth speaker of the crusade, came up to the podium she was slightly nervous. That didn't stop her from taking listeners away to Christ's second coming and asking if they were ready for that day. During the rest

of the crusade, other youth speakers challenged listeners with important questions, like: “Forgive or Fall Out, Which Will You Choose?”; “What's in Hell that You Want?”; and “Death, Where Is Thy Sting?” Appeals were made nightly for each listener to give their heart to God or to reconfirm their faith and recommit their life to serving Him.

Each night, “Teen Tips” were presented on subjects ranging from healthy relationships to a healthy body. They dealt with real issues that youth face every day.

After the second week, 28 youth were taking Bible studies—some for the first time and some to redefine what they believe. By the time the crusade ended, 13 had completed the course.

*The Elijah Project* finished with a bang. On Sabbath morning, in her sermon, “Don't Take My Word For It,” incorporated with song, Kristyn Joseph challenged youth to know Jesus Christ for themselves. In the afternoon a dynamic concert featured choirs from all over the city, with over 400 in attendance. It was truly a celebration.

Three were baptized Sabbath morning and more are scheduled to be baptized in the months to come. No one but God can measure how many youth and adults He touched through the City Temple youth who weren't afraid to let God use them.



Andrew King presented, “What's in Hell that You Want?”



Kristina Penny is a City Temple Church youth correspondent.

# BEYOND *our* BORDERS



SHARING THE GOSPEL IN PERU

## One of a Hundred and One

BY JOY HYDE

Into the land where llamas, alpacas, and vicuna freely roam, where the landscape is barren desert, towering mountains, and dense jungle, where cities have existed for centuries at extremely high altitudes or at sea level, and where a third of the nation's population resides—into this diverse, beautiful land forty adventurous, dedicated, hard-working individuals traveled to build a new house of worship.

These Maranatha volunteers traveled 250 miles north of Peru's capitol, Lima, to an oasis community, a suburb of Nuevo Chimbote, called Buenos Aires. After traveling past miles of huge sand mounds, a short distance inland from the Pacific Ocean, the Detroit Maranatha team took up residence in this town where the motor-scooter taxi is the main mode of transportation and shares the road with burro-pulled carts.

With the organizational skills of retired hospital administrator Richard "Dick" Lane, and the leadership of Arthur "Doc" Weaver, a retired surgeon, and a lot of muscle and perspiration, this group completed the church in five days. During this time, Don Horricks, a Canadian dentist, provided a dental clinic for hundreds of needy people in the area. Team members also presented a Vacation Bible School for 45 beautiful, well-behaved local children. None of this would have been possible without the fine culinary skills of Natalie Weaver and her kitchen crew.

This was the fifth Maranatha short-term missionary venture led by Dick and Doc. Doc and Natalie Weaver are members of the Plymouth (Michigan) Church and Dick is a member of the Metropolitan (Michigan) Church, also in Plymouth. Don, accompanied by his family, all from Wyoming, Ontario, Canada, made this an international team. Most of the remaining team members reside in Michigan, but there were also representatives from Nevada and

Washington, and John Harvey, the construction leader, hails from Tennessee. Though the majority of the workers were members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, all were fine, dedicated Christians who desired to share in the Lord's work.

The church in Buenos Aires is one of a hundred and one churches Maranatha Volunteers International (MVI) has slated to construct in Peru in the two years spanning 2004 and 2005. Dick and Doc were able to arrange this trip with the fine assistance of Manuel Brenes, MVI field representative. With guidance and direction by Manuel, and invaluable translating services provided by Iris Riethmeier of the Metropolitan Church, this was truly a successful trip.

This story would not be complete without mentioning the lovable, gracious, kind, friendly Adventist brethren of Peru—from the energetic, happy members of the Buenos Aires Church, to the colorfully-clad citizens from Adventist churches in the mountainous regions in the cities of Cusco and Machu Picchu. They love the Lord Jesus and serve Him with enthusiasm and sincerity.

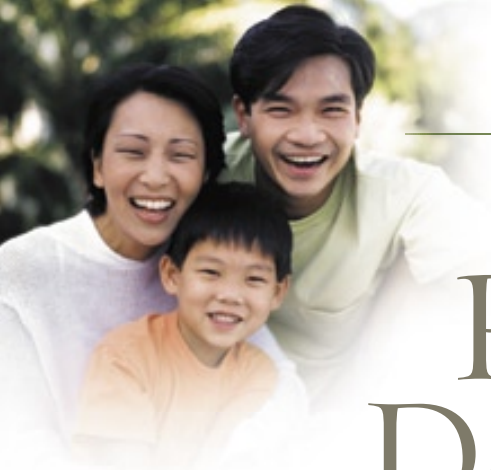
The Detroit Maranatha team left Peru confident the new church would soon be full of new, vibrant followers of Jesus because of the dedicated church members who are sharing the Gospel with the people of Peru. We all look forward to Jesus' soon coming. Maranatha!

Joy Hyde, a Maranatha volunteer, is a member of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan.



The Detroit Maranatha team was hard at work on day one at the Buenos Aires church site.





# Relationship DANGER SIGNS

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

According to the National Marriage Project\*, some 60 percent of young adults in their 20s agree that one of their biggest concerns about getting married is that it will end in divorce, and 52 percent of young adults say they see so few good or happy marriages around them that they question marriage as a way of life.



What a sad commentary on the framework God gave us, a gift that for most provides a foundation for building a fulfilled and meaningful life in adulthood.

While maturity and a healthy outlook are foundational to a good relationship, in their attempts to “find happiness,” many overlook danger signs in their relationships. I invite you to consider these danger signs in a relationship. Although not the “definitive list,” many who are in the throws of a difficult relationship after marriage, have told me some of these were issues before marriage. They wished they had paid more attention and been more realistic about these issues in the development of their relationship before marriage.

- ▶ Frequent arguments, especially over seemingly trivial issues
- ▶ Avoiding sensitive subject areas because of fear the discussion will lead to arguments or hurt feelings
- ▶ Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
- ▶ Lack of spiritual harmony and shared values
- ▶ Partner/self constantly giving in to what the other wants
- ▶ Signs of serious emotional disturbances such as extreme fears, unexplainable physical aches and pains, the inability to demonstrate affection, extreme jealousy, suspiciousness, or continuous feelings of depression

- ▶ Financial irresponsibility or inability to secure and hold a job
- ▶ Compulsive/addictive behaviors (such as eating disorders, drug/alcohol abuse, workaholism, etc.)
- ▶ Partner/self too perfectionistic, little unity, sarcastic
- ▶ Diminished areas of common interest, shared leisure activities, hobbies, etc.
- ▶ Partner/self unable to accept constructive criticism, finding it difficult to apologize when wrong
- ▶ Partner/self having increasing difficulty expressing feelings
- ▶ Having a general lack of inner peace about the relationship, nagging or disturbing feelings that something is not right, seeing signs that arouse suspicion and mistrust

When these danger signs are present in a relationship, it does not necessarily mean the end of the relationship. What is important is to recognize these signs for what they are, face them, determine to do one’s best to be a responsible, committed partner, at the same time striving to follow God’s will, which can involve counseling and possible medical treatment.

Susan Murray is a licensed marriage and family therapist. She and her husband, Don, co-founded *Adventist Engaged Encounter* which was attended by more than 1,500 engaged and newly married couples.

\*National Marriage Project at <http://marriage.rutgers.edu/>





**Stress, loss of sleep,  
and depression can  
negatively impact  
memory.**

## *Keeping Your Brain in* **TOP SHAPE**

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

**L**ifestyle habits can have a significant influence upon brain functions such as memory, learning, judgment, and mental acuity. Firstly, it is important to manage stress since chronic stress can negatively effect memory. Under stress, it is harder to remember things and to create memory files for new information.

Getting sufficient sleep is important to maintain cognitive function. A regular loss of one to two hours of sleep a night can impair brain function. Other factors which can cause memory problems are depression, use of certain prescription drugs, headaches, and dealing with chronic pain.

Elevated blood pressure during mid-life can result in a loss of cognitive function in later life. A Swedish study found that persons who were obese in their 50's, and who had high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure, were up to six-fold more likely to develop Alzheimer's.

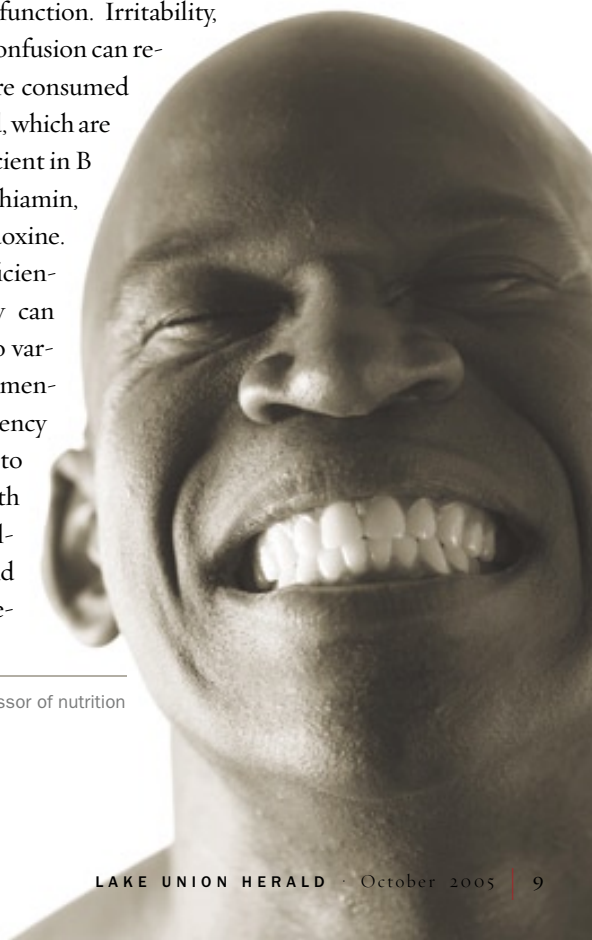
Impaired blood glucose metabolism impacts memory. Antonio J. Convit, an associate professor at New York University School of Medicine, Center for Brain Health, reported that persons with elevated blood sugar levels performed poorer on short-term memory tests than persons with normal levels. Regular aerobic exercise, such as brisk walking, can improve blood flow to the brain and enhance memory. Men over age 70 who remained as active as they had been earlier in life were found to stay more mentally alert.

Good food choices influence brain function and cognition. The flavonoid quercetin, found in rich supply in apples, protects brain cells from being damaged by free radicals. Red apples typically have higher levels than green or yellow apples. Other foods rich in quercetin include onions, blueberries, and cranberries. In rat studies, adding blueberries or purple grape juice to the diet improved short-term memory in aging neurons.

Aging women experienced less cognitive decline when they consumed higher amounts of green, leafy vegetables and cruciferous vegetables (cauliflower, cabbage, and broccoli) or lignan-rich foods such as sesame, flax, broccoli, and berries. The spice turmeric has shown great promise in reducing plaque levels and dementia in aging brains.

A deficiency of certain nutrients can play a detrimental role in brain function. Irritability, depression, and confusion can result when diets are consumed over a time period, which are substantially deficient in B vitamins such as thiamin, niacin, and pyridoxine. Vitamin B12 deficiency in the elderly can also slowly lead to various levels of dementia. Iron deficiency has been found to be associated with poor attention, altered learning and memory, and depression.

Winston Craig is professor of nutrition at Andrews University.





# EXTREME GRACE

SPORTS IS ABOUT STATISTICS. LIFE IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS.

## THE GREATEST EVER

BY DICK DUERKSEN

Each day's sports page is filled with charts and graphs showing who is winning and who is losing ... and by how much. Tony Stewart wins at the Brickyard, but Jeff Gordon is only 86 points out of tenth place with five races to go before the chase. Still a chance!

Call-in sports shows provide life-long dorm rooms for guys who must prove that Lance is "the best ever," or that Tiger is "not as good as the stats show." However, one player stands head and shoulders above them all. Gene Connely is clearly the best two-sport player ever! Consider his stats.

Major League Baseball, 1952–1963: Right-handed pitcher. Three-time All Star. Won 96 games, including 1955 All Star game. 3.82 ERA. One World Series ring with Milwaukee Braves, 1957.

National Basketball Association, 1953, 1959–1961, 1963–1964: Three championship rings with the Boston Celtics, 1959, 1960, 1961.

Thirteen professional sports seasons packed into six and a half years. The greatest two-sport athlete ever!

Not convinced? Then add some more stats to the picture. Married to Katie for 54 years. Father of three adoring children. Phone rings three or more times each day with, "Hi, Gene, and Hi, Katie," from old teammates, general managers, and coaches. Willing climbing pole for the kids in his Adventist church. Perfect "Aw shucks" smile.

When Gene and Katie fell in love it was a quick, long fall. Gene had just accepted a contract with the Milwaukee Braves and was pitching for their farm team in South Carolina. Katie was still in Washington when he called, "Come on out and let's get married."



Gene and Katie Connely

Katie's Seventh-day Adventist mother finally granted approval (even though she had never met Gene) "as long as you get married in a church." So Gene found a big church, and asked the pastor if he would perform their wedding. "Sure," he said. "Let's do it after the Sunday night meeting."

"Five hundred people came to our wedding," Katie says, "and we didn't know one of them!"

That was 1951—54 years ago. "Fifty-four wonderful years," Katie says. "She's the greatest wife ever," Gene interrupts. "Whether I was playing basketball or baseball I had to spend lots of nights on the road, but I called home every time I could. And I thought about her all the time. She is so honest, so kind, so loving. I love being with her."

"After awhile," Gene continues, "I realized that it was her love for God that made her so special. So, I got baptized and joined her!"

"We've had a lot of great homecomings," Katie winks.

"I'm the luckiest guy in the world," Gene says, as they snuggle on the couch.

Dick Duerksen is an assistant vice president for missions at Florida Hospital.



# Covenant, Commitment, and Christian Marriage

BY GARY BURNS

Marriage and the Sabbath, celebrated and blessed by God at creation, are two sacred institutions provided for our happiness. Christ honored marriage by performing His first miracle at a wedding feast and by making marriage a symbol of the union between Himself and His church. Both institutions are founded on love, honor, respect, faithfulness, and commitment.

Adventist Christian marriage is rooted in God's covenant with His people. Covenant love never fails. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Adventists believe this love is a product of God's Spirit and provides the power for couples to maintain their marriage covenants amid life's challenges.

"Issues related to marriage can be seen in their true light only as they are viewed against the background of the divine ideal for marriage. Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus Christ to be both monogamous and heterosexual, a lifelong union of loving companionship between a man and a woman. In the culmination of His creative activity, God fashioned humankind as male and female in His own image; and He instituted marriage, a covenant-based union of the two genders physically, emotionally, and spiritually, spoken of in Scripture as one flesh.

"However, the estate of marriage is not God's only plan for the meeting of human relational needs or for knowing the experience of family. Singleness and the friendship of singles are within the divine design as well. The companionship and support of friends looms in importance in both biblical testaments. The fellowship of the Church, the household of God, is available to all regardless of their married state. Scripture, however, places a solid demarcation socially and sexually between such friendship relations and marriage.

"To this biblical view of marriage the Seventh-day Adventist Church adheres without reservation, believing that any lowering of this high view is to that extent a lowering of the heavenly ideal. Because marriage has been corrupted by sin, the purity and beauty of marriage, as it was designed by God, needs to be restored. Through an appreciation of the redemptive work of Christ and the work of His Spirit in human hearts, the original purpose of marriage may be recovered and the delightful and wholesome experience of marriage realized by a man and a woman who join their lives in the marriage covenant."<sup>1</sup>

We are all affected by the wounds and scars of severed relationships and are called to encourage one another and to build each other up. We are called to be ministers of reconciliation, healers, and repairers of the breach. While upholding God's ideal, designed to protect us from the pain and loss that result from severing relationships, He designed to be permanent, we can love and embrace those who have suffered the agony of that loss.

"The presence of Christ alone can make men and women happy. All the common waters of life Christ can turn into the wine of heaven. The home then becomes as an Eden of bliss; the family, a beautiful symbol of the family in heaven."<sup>2</sup>

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Gary Burns is the *Lake Union Herald* editor.

1 "An Affirmation of Marriage," General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM), April 23, 1996.

2 Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 28.



RADIO MINISTRY ANSWERS LIFE'S TOUGH QUESTIONS

## Making Waves in Prison

BY DAVID GUERRERO AND BRUCE BABIENCO

Over the years, radio listeners were blessed by the ministry of Amazing Facts and the messages of the late Joe Crews. Ten years ago, a church family from the Eau Claire (Wisconsin) Adventist Church was impressed they should sponsor the broadcast for the cities in West Central Wisconsin. Soon, the fifteen-minute radio programs could be heard weekly.

The radio messages were appreciated not only by many area residents, but also by radio station management who broadcast the programs. Recently, when station ownership changed hands, employees at the station were concerned the broadcasts would be discontinued.

Fifteen members of the Menomonie and Eau Claire Adventist churches organized themselves as *Friends of Amazing Facts* to provide funds to continue the radio ministry. They funded three one-hour broadcasts each Sunday morning, which includes the Amazing Facts *Bible Answers Live* with Doug Batchelor on stations WWIS 99.7 FM and WWIS 1260 AM in Black River Falls, and WMEQ 880 AM in Menomonie.

Radio station personnel and the stations' management were pleased to learn the Amazing Facts broadcasts would continue. Steve Potter, director of sales for seven different radio stations, including WMEQ, believes the *Bible Answers Live* program is "an excellent program" and "very interesting."

Bob Gabrielson, WWIS station manager, broadcasts church services and a talk show, but says, "*Bible Answers Live* does something that the others don't. It provides an open forum for our listeners to inquire or hear answers that they've wanted to ask for years. And the best part is they get



Studio for WMEQ radio, broadcast out of Menomonie, Wisconsin

their questions answered along with a detailed explanation."

One WWIS listener admits he sometimes takes a break from work when *Bible Answers Live* is on. "He doesn't want to miss out on the answers to the questions... questions he has wondered about himself," said Gabrielson.

*Friends of Amazing Facts* meets once a month to share testimonies and explore new ways to alert the public about the broadcasts.

Providentially, they learned the broadcasts are also a real blessing to inmates at the Jackson Correctional Institution in Black River Falls, Wis. Literature evangelists operating a booth at the Eau Claire Trade Show met a prison guard who informed them that the weekly radio programs were aired for prison inmates. Although the guard is a member of another denomination, he signed a card requesting Adventist literature and requested an appointment to study with someone about the Bible Sabbath in connection with end-time events.

Since that encounter, literature and books are made available to inmates through the prison chapel library. *Friends of Amazing Facts* were granted permission from the chaplain to donate books and Bibles provided by church members. Three inmates have signed up for Bible studies.

This is another example of how honest listeners are hearing God's truths in locations where neither ministers nor laymen can enter. We praise Him for these radio messages, which are setting prisoners free through Christ's Word, and bringing them everlasting life.

David Guerrero is pastor of the Durand and Menomonie, Wisconsin, churches, and Bruce Babienco is a volunteer correspondent for the *Lake Union Herald*.





## Ejemplos de fidelidad

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Tan pronto como los jóvenes hebreos llegaron a Babilonia, el rey Nabucodonosor percibió que eran diferentes, y ordenó que se consiguiera de entre los cautivos de Israel a jóvenes en quienes "no hubiese tacha alguna" para instruirlos y colocarlos en puestos importantes en su reino. A pesar de no tener más de dieciocho años de edad ellos demostraban una madurez y una nobleza poco comunes. Al ver el potencial de esos jóvenes para ayudarle a mantener orden en su reino, el rey les ofreció completamente gratis lo mejor de la educación, la ropa y la comida. Sin embargo, había un precio que pagar.

Daniel y sus amigos notaron que la comida y el vino que el rey les ofrecía no eran adecuados para un hijo de Dios ya que habían sido ofrecidos a los ídolos, así que los jóvenes decidieron no contaminarse con la ración del rey. Y para demostrarle al príncipe de los eunucos lo que Dios puede hacer a favor de quienes decidan ser fieles a sus principios, ellos comieron legumbres y bebieron agua durante diez días. El resultado de su obediencia no fue sólo una mejor salud sino también un testimonio de cómo Dios bendice a quienes lo siguen fielmente.

Cuando pienso en este relato me maravilla la determinación de estos jóvenes de mantenerse firmes a los principios de Dios a pesar de la presión que sentían de conformarse al mundo babilónico. Cuán fácil hubiera sido aceptar lo que parecía un asunto tan insignificante y tener toda la aprobación de sus superiores. Otro resultado de su decisión fue que su relación con Dios se fortaleció, lo cual les ayudaría a hacer frente a pruebas mayores que tendrían que afrontar en el futuro.



*Michael Orlich y Melanie Towar, dos jóvenes de nuestra unión quienes como el profeta Daniel y sus compañeros, viven para poner a Cristo primero en todo.*

Yo recuerdo que cuando era estudiante misionero en Bolivia les di estudios bíblicos a dos jovencitas que eran hermanas. Cuando llegó el momento de hacer la decisión de bautizarse sus padres las amenazaron con expulsarlas de la casa si se unían a la Iglesia Adventista. Decidí no presionarlas, pero sí orar mucho por ellas para que decidieran hacer la voluntad de Dios. El siguiente sábado, ellas se acercaron a mí para decirme que querían bautizarse. Cuando les pregunté si estaban seguras de su decisión, una de las hermanas abrió su Biblia y me mostró Mateo 10:37-38: "El que ama a padre o a madre más que a mí no es digno de mí, y el que ama a hijo o a hija más que a mí no es digno de mí." Luego agregó: "Amamos a nuestros padres pero tenemos que poner a Dios primero".

Mi oración es que los jóvenes hispanos de nuestra unión mantengan siempre a Cristo primero en sus vidas.

### NUEVA FECHA PARA EL RETIRO DE JÓVENES: 11 AL 13 DE NOVIEMBRE

La Unión del Lago invita a todos los jóvenes hispanos para que asistan a ENCUENTRO, un retiro de jóvenes que se llevará a cabo del 11 al 13 de noviembre en el campamento Grace Adventures, un lindo campamento en Mears, Michigan. El costo para el fin de semana es \$75, lo cual cubre el hospedaje, las comidas y una camiseta. Para obtener más información llame a la oficina del pastor Mercado, al teléfono número (269) 473-8249.

Carmelo Mercado es el Vicepresidente general de la Unión del Lago.



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# Lake Union Family Ministries

BY WALTER AND JACKIE WRIGHT

**W**alter and Jackie Wright provide support and resources for family ministries in the Lake Union. As a team with the experience that comes from over 50 years of marriage together, they have developed *Marriage Maintenance Seminar*, in demand around the world. In addition, they have emphasis for men, women, and singles, and conduct weekends for each of those groups. For information about where and when these seminars and retreats are available, or to schedule one for your area, visit <http://luc.adventist.org> and follow links to the family ministries department.

## **A MESSAGE ABOUT FAMILY LIFE EVANGELISM**

Family life is a felt need in every community. By providing resources and assistance to members of your community, you can meet those needs. Since this is an area of interest, family life evangelism will be attractive to the average person, especially to one who has been to a number of evangelistic meetings and needs a new approach to reach the heart.

The secular-minded, and those in the upper classes of society, recognize their need for help in the area of family life, but may not recognize their need for God or the Bible. Many who would reject a traditional evangelistic series are interested in attending a professional seminar presentation on family skills and principles.

Since God is love and all the teachings of scripture describe His character, family life evangelism provides a

unique opportunity to see those teachings as valuable and relevant principles in the context of family. As families learn these principles together, a wider family fellowship develops, which gives a sense of belonging.

Churches who become involved in family life evangelism provide not only a great service to their community, but they benefit with their own enrichment and development. As members learn to live the practical principles from scripture, family and church life is enriched. Sharing those principles raises the standard of life within the homes and families of the community.

In a world so desperate for love, family life evangelism enriches our understanding of the love of God and fulfills one of His purposes for the family—a practical illustration of His divine love. The gospel takes on a new dimension and is seen in greater fullness.



## SPARKING A PASSION FOR FAMILY MINISTRIES

Since God is the giver of spiritual gifts and places each member in the body of Christ as He pleases, chances are you already have someone in your congregation who is just right to lead family ministries. There are also a number of people God has equipped to provide support. Put these people together and empower them to do the work God has called them to do. You may call them the family ministries task force.

The task force can assess congregation and community needs, formulate goals and objectives, coordinate ministries, and inform the congregation of issues related to family life. They should be representative of the families of the community with a vision for family life.

The director's role is to lead the task force in accomplishing its mission. Questions to be addressed include: What is family? What is the relationship of the church to the family? How should the church respond to the pain and trauma caused by divorce? What are the main features of a functional family? What does the Bible teach regarding respect, relationships, and roles of husbands and wives? What role should therapy have in the church's ministry? How will people be equipped to conduct family ministries training? What special family educational needs are in the community? Will the church work with other support groups?

The various family ministries offices of the conference, union, and division can provide valuable resources in the areas of communication skills, teaching Christian values in the home, parenting, marital conflict resolution, leading your children to Christ, problem solving, finances and money management, family worship, pre-marital planning, and more.

The family ministries task force can help bring an awareness of family needs and develop a sense of community. Those needs often include: lack of personal quiet time, marriage and family counseling, assistance relating to aging parents, issues facing single adults, vocational guidance, child-care, unemployment, alcohol and drug-related problems, and family violence or abuse.

Before attempting to meet these needs the family ministries task force should form a mission statement defining the scope and focus of family ministries. The purposes of family ministries should be defined and include words such as educate, equip, inform, support, interface, and extend. Determine goals and specific outcomes, stating objectives and devising programs.

From time to time, instruments should be used to evaluate the ministry. Provide those served the opportunity to respond and give feedback through interviews or questionnaires. Check attendance patterns and evaluate responses to the various presenters and materials. Share this information with the task force and incorporate what is learned into future programs and plans.

Walter and Jackie Wright are the Lake Union Conference directors for family ministries. They have conducted family life seminars in 16 countries on four continents. Walter Wright is a certified Family Life Educator (CFLE), certified by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) and Andrews University. The Wrights are members of the Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals (AAFLP). The couple has three sons and one daughter, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



### Family Ministry Events Featuring Walter and Jackie Wright:

**October 8, 2005**

**From This Day Forward**

South Bend, Indiana

Contact: [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) or (800) 732-7587

**October 21-23, 2005**

**Men's Retreat**

Soquel Campground

Sierra National Forest, California

Contact: [sflores@cccsda.org](mailto:sflores@cccsda.org)

**November 4-5, 2005**

**Family Seminar**

Cedar Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church

Cedar Lake, Michigan

Contact: Mickey Mallory, (989) 427-3876

**November 18-20, 2005**

**Family Seminar**

Maranatha Bible Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Contact: [dmesa@misda.org](mailto:dmesa@misda.org)

**Note: See page 29 for additional  
marriage strengthening events.**

# Learning the Ropes Before TYING THE KNOT

BY ELAINE & WILLIE OLIVER



Millions of Americans tuned in to watch the two-hour, prime-time show “Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?”, aired on national television the night after Valentine’s Day in the year 2000. The reactions of those watching ran the gamut from amusement to shock, disbelief, and indignation. The television show allowed a mystery millionaire to pick a bride—with the help of friends and family—from 50 women.

Each semifinalist was interviewed. Physical attributes were displayed as each woman modeled beachwear for the bachelor and viewing audience. The soon-to-be-husband selected his bride, and the couple wed a few moments later—right after the commercial break—without ever meeting each other and obviously without any type of premarital education. This couple tied the knot before learning the ropes and after a few days had their marriage annulled.

The show closely reflects the prevailing view of marriage in our society today. The parallel is almost too close for comfort—have beautiful wedding pageantry and then dissolve the relationship because of irreconcilable differences. According to the executive producer, the show itself was successful because of wish fulfillment—most people wish for a relationship.

God created us to be in a relationship—first with Him, and then with one another. And the need to belong and be a part of someone else's life is still one of our primary basic needs. Furthermore, most people want a satisfying marriage relationship that lasts a lifetime. The fact that almost 50 percent of all first-time marriages end in divorce has not deterred many from matrimony. Sadly, far too many couples enter marriage with as little preparation as did the two people who became husband and wife on the television show.

Most couples spend an enormous amount of time, energy, and resources preparing for a wedding day that lasts a few hours. Not as much time is spent getting the necessary relationship skills needed to build a marriage for a lifetime.

After the beautiful wedding and exotic honeymoon, couples are faced with the mundane matters of life. Such issues as remembering to balance the checkbook, which direction to put the toilet paper roll, or what brand of toothpaste to use and how to squeeze it are but a few. Then there are more serious issues, such as which spouse's family to spend Thanksgiving or Christmas with, balancing work and marriage, and handling previous friendships.

## **PREMARITAL EDUCATION AS PREVENTION**

Current research suggests the possibility of preventing marital distress through teaching couples skill-building in areas of communication and conflict management before problems develop. For those who want a lasting and happy marriage, premarital education is an absolute must. An ef-

fective premarital education program teaches couples specific skills, techniques, and ideas for maintaining and building a strong Christian marriage. It's an attempt to help a couple prepare for a happy, satisfying lifetime marriage and hopefully prevent future distress and divorce.

Couples who have had a positive premarital education experience are also more willing to participate in future marriage enrichment opportunities or counseling if necessary. If done effectively, premarital education prepares couples for inevitable disappointments and conflict in marriage.

Of course, teaching anything to a couple who is in a blissful state is very hard. However, this is when most couples usually ask for premarital guidance, after they are well into the wedding and honeymoon plans. Usually the pastor is consulted more as a courtesy, and pastors traditionally give a few courtesy premarital sessions and then a blessing on the wedding day. Ideally a couple should seek the guidance of the pastor or Christian counselor while deciding toward marriage and before setting the wedding date.

Many couples are so determined to be together they are afraid to get counseling for fear they will be told they aren't meant to be together. It's true a couple may dissolve a relationship because of issues that surface during premarital guidance, but such an experience is much less traumatic than going through a divorce.

Take Joe, 30, and Susan, 29, who had been dating for more than a year. This couple had already set their date and paid a \$1,000 deposit to reserve the reception hall. After taking a premarital preparation program at their church, they discovered many areas that needed to be resolved prior to marriage. They decided to postpone their wedding for six months. At first Susan was unhappy about the postponement, but knew that it was the right thing to do.

The most effective premarital programs focus on teaching couples how to make the transition from single life to

Many couples are so determined to be together they are afraid to get counseling for fear they will be told they aren't meant to be together.



married life. These programs make couples aware of the risk factors that will lead to divorce or marital distress. Communication, conflict resolution, and consensus building are the factors that are most predictive of future distress. What couples call “irreconcilable differences” often occur in areas in which a couple can make changes and be taught skills for handling their differences.

Couples must also discuss and assess other factors that are less amenable to change or not changeable at all, but that may have potential influence on the success of the relationship. These factors include each partner’s individual traits and behaviors, i.e., emotional health, self-esteem, neurotic behaviors, and dysfunctional attitudes.

Other areas for assessment are similarity of race, religion, values, age, and gender role expectations. Couples will also want to assess how background factors, including family of origin, socioeconomic status, and previous divorce history, might impact their relationship. If couples are aware of these factors prior to marriage and preferably before engagement, then they can make more informed choices, anticipate future problems, and sometimes, for their benefit, decide to dissolve a relationship.

## **NEW DIRECTIONS IN PREMARITAL EDUCATION**

As a denomination, we must be more intentional about preparing persons for marriage. First, we have to begin looking at premarital education as prevention, thus taking a long-term approach to the process. This approach clearly requires a big commitment from those who are providing premarital education. Each local church must be prepared to establish specific guidelines for engaged couples (see [www.adventistfamilyministries.org](http://www.adventistfamilyministries.org) for the North American Division policy).

In the past, the pastor has been solely responsible for premarital preparation of couples. Perhaps the time has come for us to take a community-oriented approach to the premarital effort. The church family must be willing to make a bigger investment of time, energy, thought, and prayer in preparing a premarital education program that supports and prepares couples and individuals in the church for marriage.

The family ministries committee of the local church can serve as a wonderful resource. Churches can use the

many tested instruments based on solid research, such as PREPARE, RELATE, and FOCUS, which help assess the strengths and weaknesses of couples. There are also many intervention programs that are ideal for use with premarital couples.

Local churches can collaborate to provide premarital or relationship-strengthening classes for groups of couples. The pastor can then meet with couples privately to discuss deeper issues, and, when ready, make plans for the wedding.

Christian counselors, therapists, and certified family life educators may also serve as an excellent resource in providing premarital education for couples. Some churches use trained mentor couples. These are couples who are committed to their own relationship and are interested in helping new couples have Christ-centered marriages.

## **KEEPING THE KNOT TIED**

Premarital education is a unique opportunity to influence the future of married couples, families, and society. Couples who participate in effective premarital preparation programs are reducing their risks of future marital distress and divorce and enhancing their capacity for a healthy, satisfying, and Christ-centered marriage.

Couples will need ongoing support to maintain the preventive effectiveness. Couples must take advantage of enrichment seminars and retreats as often as possible, and churches must provide these opportunities for couples.

Marriage isn’t an individual sport. It truly is a team effort. The effects of divorce are battering our society, and many eyes are appropriately looking toward faith communities to take the lead in making a turnaround.

Ellen White says it well: “One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached” (*The Adventist Home*, p. 32). We hope and pray that the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be in center court and not left sitting on the bench.

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Willie Oliver is the director of family ministries for the North American Division. Elaine Oliver is director of financial aid at Columbia Union College and a marriage and family consultant for the North American Division.

**For additional information on premarital resources, please contact the NAD department of family ministries, [www.adventistfamilyministries.org](http://www.adventistfamilyministries.org).**



FINDING DEEPER SPIRITUAL  
INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE

# Every KISS Is a PRAYER

BY JOSEPH AND CYNTHIA WARREN

Recently, I was blessed to see and hear Oral Roberts Sr. eulogize his wife, Evelyn, 88, after 67 years of marriage. I was moved to tears as he honestly and lovingly remembered his lifelong spiritual companion. He shared the many challenges common to Christian marriages but emphasized the spiritual meanings of kissing for Christian couples.

After 33 years of marriage to Cynthia, I am learning that the many ways of developing and restoring spiritual intimacy are best begun and ended with a kiss. The act of gently kissing can mean acceptance, appreciation, reassurance, and forgiveness.

Our contemporary Christian home with two wage earners is often hectic, rushed, and unpredictable. Schedules established for family worship, meal times, and recreation are overrun by the urgencies of health issues, job related demands, and sheer exhaustion. Without the Sabbath, I doubt our marriage could have survived 33 years. Faithful observance of the Sabbath reverses the world's attacks on our spiritual bonding and marriage.

In the best of times, our joint spiritual development includes hosting an in-home prayer group, sharing the Sabbath school lesson, worship services, and stimulating spiritual debates. Often we share revelations from times of individual devotion. Whenever one of us states, "Guess what the Spirit said to me today," there is a sense of expectancy. By miraculous changes in personal attitudes and behaviors, God continually moves our marriage to the "next same page."

Recently, the Spirit intervened on an irreconcilable issue. Rather than an "until death do us part" impasse, we

are in "one accord." As Oral Robert's eulogy implied, there are all kinds of kisses between married persons, but no kiss can compare to the joy and power captured in the "kiss of agreement." I agree.

In the worst of times, our spiritual growth is neglected for the "cares of this life" and television viewing. There seems no end to the needs of our three children, aging parents, and a host of friends and relatives. These obligations don't include two careers, two homes, six vehicles, and a collection of unused things. As the day starts, we are too rushed for spiritual bonding or a good-bye kiss. As the day ends, we collapse in front of televisions in different rooms with no desire for communication or spiritual renewal. On days like this, I recall Oral and Evelyn Robert's secret to lifelong spiritual intimacy: every kiss is a prayer.

Oral Roberts stated that he and Evelyn never went to sleep without a good-night kiss. Now I understand why. A gentle morning kiss invites God to do His will in the marriage. A little peck at midday, even over the phone, is God's assurance He will "build the home." The last kiss of the day is the prayer of faith that God will improve the spiritual intimacy and the relationship with "joy in the morning." Oral and Evelyn rooted their spiritual life in the promise that Jesus is present when couples agree and "seal it with a kiss."

As Evelyn slipped away in death, Oral gave his dearly beloved a "see you later kiss." A "prayer kiss" that Jesus will soon transport them from their graves to their eternal home.

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Joseph Warren is an associate professor of English at Andrews University and Cynthia is a junior high teacher in Coloma, Michigan. They founded Spring Hope Ministries, a resource group for family life and men's ministries. They may be contacted at warren@andrews.edu or (269) 471-5015.



## COUPLE COMMUNICATION:

# LET'S PLAY BALL!

BY BRENDA AND MIKE AUFDERHAR

**S**mack! The ball burned into my glove and I felt my arm rock back a little as my glove closed around the ball. It felt so good to know it was a good throw and a solid catch. The smooth leather of my glove felt good to my fingers as I reached in to grab the ball and throw it back to my teammate. I focused on the glove in the distance, wound up, and threw the ball hard. A moment later—smack! Good catch. How satisfying it was to play catch with someone who I practiced with often. When we heard that call, “Let’s play ball!” we were ready!

The simple skills of throwing and catching the ball successfully are essential to playing softball. In a similar way, good communication is essential to a successful marriage. When a person can’t throw the ball, and struggles desperately to catch it, playing softball can be miserable. When a couple has difficulty sharing their thoughts and feelings and can’t listen well, marriage can be miserable.

Examples of miserable marriage communication can be seen all around you. Just turn on your TV and listen to the discouraging dialog, or open your window and listen to the neighbors yelling at each other right next door. It could even be closer than that—when your own walls vibrate with sounds of angry and hurting voices.

Couples trying to be heard often throw their words at each other more like they’re in a vicious food fight, while ears and hearts are closed in a fearful-protective stance. Other times the picture of a couple’s communication looks like two cold and silent stones that coexist in the same house under a cloud of misunderstanding.

We have all either witnessed or personally experienced one or more of these pictures of broken-down communication, yet none of us really want it that way. We all crave the safety and comfort of a love that supports, cares, and understands. We long for what God designed—that we should “encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thess. 5:11). What does it take to have *that* kind of communication in our marriages?



## TWO INGREDIENTS FOR SATISFYING COMMUNICATION

Satisfying, effective couple communication requires two important ingredients: **1 An attitude of togetherness** and, **2 Communication skills**. It is possible to have an attitude of great caring for the other person that without communication skills ends up in a great deal of frustration. On the other hand, skill in communication alone can lead to what feels like a cold, heartless, and possibly manipulative communication. It is the blending of these two ingredients that will add up to the most satisfying delectable relational heaven. Put simply in a math sentence it would go like this:

**Attitude of togetherness + practice (listening + speaking)  
= satisfying communication**

Couple communication has several things in common with playing catch. In communication, speaking is like throwing the ball and listening is like catching with the glove. Consider for a moment the parallels. The one throwing the ball tries to throw the ball in the direction of the one catching, and in a way that it can be caught. It is also helpful for the speaker, the one sending the words, to do so with the intention that they will be caught by the listener's ear and understood. In playing catch, the person catching the ball attempts in every way to adapt to the incoming ball. This may take running, reaching, jumping, or just adjusting the position of the glove on the hand. So it is with the listener in the communication process. The person catching the words that have been spoken may need to adapt to the incoming words in order to catch the speaker's meaning. This adapting may require summarizing in long paragraphs or very short phrases, matching the emotions in the tone of voice, supporting with loving eye contact, or asking courteous questions to gather further understanding.

Consider playing catch with a person who throws the ball in the opposite direction of the catcher and then blames the catcher for not getting the ball. Or what about the catcher who refuses to move in any way or even open up the glove to catch the ball. Crazy you say? Yet how often do we think we're trying to communicate but we do not speak clearly or listen carefully?

Do you want a more satisfying delectable relational heaven? Here are some suggestions to help you strengthen both of the essential ingredients for good communication.

To strengthen the first ingredient, the attitude of togetherness, try:

- 1 Sharing with each other the first memories you have of each other.
- 2 Taking your wedding picture in hand, getting down on your knees, and praying for that couple in the picture.
- 3 Asking another couple in your church to pray that your marriage will better reflect His love.
- 4 Making a list of all the friction points between you and tape the list on the TV.
- 5 Cuddling up to each other in one chair and looking at the list that is no longer between you but out in front of you.
- 6 Committing the list to God, asking for Him to not let you place the friction points between you again, but to be a team working together to solve them.

If your spouse does not want to try any of these then share #1 with God, do #2 by yourself, and go ahead and do #3.

To strengthen the second ingredient, your speaking and listening skills, try:

- 1 Taking an item that is treasured by both of you and use it as a talking stick. The one who holds it speaks while the other one listens. Pass it back and forth.
- 2 Having the speaker take and hold a ball while speaking. The listener holds a glove while listening, making sure that every attempt is made to catch the speaker's message.
- 3 Sharing what you would each like to do personally to help improve your couple communication play.
- 4 Going to a marriage strengthening seminar like *From This Day Forward* that will help you polish your listening and talking skills.

If your spouse does not want to practice to improve talking or listening with you, consider how God might be bringing different safe people into your life at work or church to help you practice using your glove of listening or how you throw the ball of talking.

The good communication skills of speaking and listening are essential to healthy relationships, just as throwing and catching the ball are essential to playing ball. Even with the best of skills, don't forget the attitude of togetherness that must be present to bring the heart of caring into each interaction. Go for it! You don't have to be perfect even when you play ball. Do your best and God will bless. "Let's Communicate!"

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Mike Aufderhar is the senior pastor of the Wenatchee, Washington, church district. He and his wife Brenda are active teaching couple communication skills across North America and in other parts of the world. They are passionate about Family Ministry not only at home with their two teenagers, but also in their church and community.



# WHEN POLLY'S PLACE: A SHELTER FEAR IN THE TIME OF STORM CALLS BY DIANE THURBER

**T**he phone rang, interrupting our peaceful slumber. Gary, my pastor/husband, answered and I leaned close to hear who was calling so late. We both recognized the strained voice on the other end of the phone; it was Becky\*, a friendly, intelligent, young woman who attended my husband's evangelistic meetings. She and her fiancé had moved across the country, shared an apartment together, and had aspirations of landing dream jobs after grad school.

"Pastor," she whispered, "I need help. John\* and I are fighting, and I'm afraid. He just threw a knife at me." Her voice trembled as she spoke. Gary glanced at me to see if I heard her plea. I had, and my eyes were wide with concern. What should we do? What could we do in the middle of the night? Call the police? Intervene?

Becky had no family members to contact within at least three days' drive. We knew her problem was now our problem. We had an extra bedroom and believed God prompted her to call our home for help that night. And she did receive help—from us and from a very loving church family she came to treasure during the five months before she went back to her parents' home. Her fiancé also received sup-

portive care and counsel. Though they decided to part ways permanently, each found a Heavenly Father who loves them through relationship struggles and life challenges.

Maybe you know someone who needs help, or maybe you will receive a call for help one day like we did. The solution may be to take them in and love them through their trials, but perhaps that is not possible or even the best solution. Challenges in relationships come from a variety of causes and domestic violence is found across every socio-economic level, in every religion, and culture. It is prevalent in newlyweds, empty nesters, and the aging. Domestic violence even occurs in pastors' homes. The good news is God has hope and healing for broken and troubled relationships. And He

promises, “Your hope will not be cut off” (Proverbs 23:18 NIV). Battered spouses should not suffer in silence. Pastors need to know where to find help for his or her troubled marriage or those in the church.

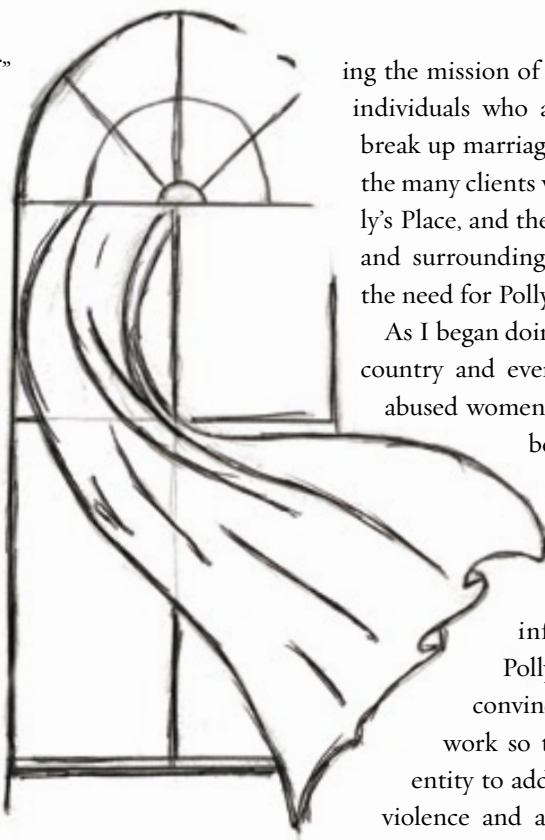
Where can you turn when you, your family, or your friends are experiencing distressing relationships? In the Lake Union, one place to call is Polly’s Place—Niles, located in Niles, Michigan. Polly’s Place—Niles is an Adventist shelter and counseling center co-founded by Polly Westman and Mable Dunbar (currently president of Polly’s Place Network) in 1997. Both of these ladies are still very involved in its ministry.

I recently interviewed Polly, Mable, and Alina Baltazar, Polly’s Place—Niles’ executive director, to learn more about this wonderful center for hope and healing. I invite you to read their responses so you will understand better the history and ministry of Polly’s Place—Niles.

**Please share the journey you have experienced since first opening the doors to Polly’s Place in 1997.**

**Polly:** It was one of the happiest days of my life when my husband and I donated the property and buildings for a faith-based shelter for battered/abused women and children—a place where they could find shelter, love, peace, safety, and acceptance by receiving Christian love and counseling. It fills my heart with joy and thanksgiving to God to see these precious lives change and their happiness and peace return ... by bringing our Lord and Savior into their healing process.

**Mable:** Since opening Polly’s Place in 1997, God has blessed this ministry. There were many challenges because the concept of domestic violence occurring in our church was a surprise to many members. Some of these challenges included fear of exposing the church as having problems, “airing dirty linen,” lack of funding, misconceptions about the dynamics of domestic violence, misunderstanding regard-



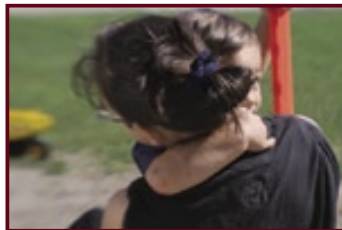
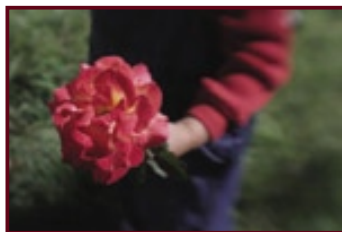
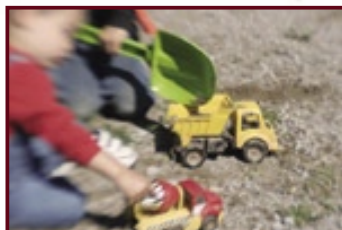
ing the mission of Polly’s Place (There were individuals who accused us of wanting to break up marriages.), etc. But as a result of the many clients who were sheltered at Polly’s Place, and their testimonies, the church and surrounding communities recognized the need for Polly’s Place.

As I began doing presentations across the country and even overseas, the stories of abused women and men in our churches began to surface. More and more churches, women’s ministries organizations, family life educators, and pastors requested information and support. Polly and I prayed and were convinced we should begin a network so there would be a primary entity to address the issue of domestic violence and abuse in a compassionate, professional, and biblically based manner.

Polly’s Place Network was established in 2003 to parent existing as well as new programs that want to address domestic violence and abused, pregnant teens. We continue this journey to end the intergenerational cycle of abuse, confident in God’s leading and faithfulness.

**Alina Baltazar is the new executive director at Polly’s Place—Niles. I understand she has a background in counseling, social work, home health care, research, and grant writing. How did Alina become associated with your ministry?**

**Mable:** I am absolutely thrilled Alina is the new director. Not only is she qualified, efficient, and professional, she is also passionate about the ministry and is an effective administrator and team player. She initially became involved with Polly’s Place Network when she was hired to evaluate Cookies Retreat in Spokane, Washington, another affiliate shelter program. Doing so gave her knowledge of the operating aspect of Polly’s Place shelters and a broader scope of the mission and philosophy of the Network. ... It was an easy decision to hire her. Alina and Peggy Cain, who





is the new board chair for Polly's Place—Niles, are a dynamic team and they report they have an extremely competent and active board.

**Please share with our readers the services offered at Polly's Place—Niles.**

**Mable:** Polly's Place—Niles offers safe shelter, Christian counseling, legal advocacy, support services (food, clothing, transportation, medical assistance), referrals, community awareness presentations, and more. When I was executive director there, my husband/pastor and I taught a colloquium at the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Topics included discussion on domestic violence, abuse, divorce, homosexuality, and other practical issues pastors would face in their ministry. We also counseled and mentored many pastoral couples. Even though we are now working in Upper Columbia Conference, we still get calls from pastors seeking advice, especially regarding domestic violence and abuse issues in their congregations. Recently we were at General Conference Session and two pastoral couples, whom we taught and mentored, came up to us and told us they were happy in ministry and having a fruitful marriage because of the help we gave them when they were dealing with issues of abuse.

**Alina:** We offer group therapy four times a week and individual therapy twice a week. We also offer workshops on various topics such as relaxation techniques, budgeting, Bible study, and parenting skills. We provide referral to financial and employment resources, and housing. Women and their children can stay up to two months, twice as long as most shelter programs. We have 12 beds in six bedrooms. We also educate the community and church leaders on the topic of domestic violence.

**Do you shelter men at Polly's Place?**

**Alina:** We offer referral to area treatment programs for men who are involved in domestic violence.

**What are your dreams for the future of Polly's Place?**

**Polly:** My dream has always been to shelter and help abused/pregnant teens during this difficult time in their lives. The suicide rate is so high in our precious pregnant teens. I want to help these young girls feel God's abundant love for them and help them understand He has a plan for each one of them—whether they keep their baby or adopt it into a loving, Christian home (see Jeremiah 29:11).

**Mable:** Our children need direction, and information about alternatives to abortion. They need to develop skills and re-



*Mable Dunbar, co-founder of Polly's Place Network*



*Alina Baltazar, executive director of Polly's Place—Niles, Mich.*



*Polly Westman, co-founder of Polly's Place Network*

ceive education that will help them become effective parents, positive role models, and productive citizens for this world and the next.

**Alina:** In the near future we want to open Mary's Inn (a home for abused, pregnant teens) ... this has been in the plan all along, but there were not enough resources to start the program. In spring 2006 we will aggressively pursue funding and program planning to open that program as soon as possible. We also hope to develop a transitional housing program for women who need more time to establish themselves if they want to be on their own.

**Mable:** We have many dreams, and they might seem unrealistic to some. Our larger vision includes ending domestic violence in our homes, churches, schools, and communities. We dream our churches, schools, and institutions will become healing centers where individuals (especially our children) will find acceptance, safety, freedom from condemnation, and the opportunity to exercise their individual rights (*Education*, p. 17). ... We dream that every union will establish a Polly's Place program. We dream to develop an international training program where pastors, church leaders, church members, and other religious or-

ganizations can find resources and be educated to deal with domestic violence and teen pregnancy in a redemptive manner for both victims and perpetrators. We dream that one day Polly's Place—Niles and the Network will be financially stable so we can fulfill Christ's mission in Luke 4:18. We dream that our church will be at the forefront (on a global basis) addressing these issues from the religious perspective because we are concerned about people, not only church membership, lawsuits, or financial returns.

Many individuals have said that they are impressed that the Adventist church is finally addressing the issue of abuse, and that there are shelters where they can find safety and healing. They are surprised to learn many of the services offered by our programs are free. Some have even been baptized as a result of their connection with Polly's Place. We therefore dream that Polly's Place and the Network will continue to be evangelistic tools to help our church lead individuals to Heaven.

**Polly:** It is my prayer that our Lake Union Conference, the women's ministries departments, and all the other churches will embrace, adopt, and support this ministry, so very much needed in our churches and community.

**I'm sure you have many testimonies from individuals who have experienced hope and healing at Polly's Place. Could you share one?**

**Mable:** One of my favorite stories actually comes from a pastoral couple. Because the husband was verbally and physically abusive, she drove 14 hours with her two children to get to Polly's Place—Niles. She completed the two-month program and returned home. Weeks later I received a call from her husband—"What have you done to my wife?" I braced myself; I dealt with many irate husbands and had to be careful how I answered. After a quick prayer, I said, "At Polly's Place we teach individuals how to value themselves. We also help to empower them to live their full potential in Christ. We teach them that they belong to God and that He does not want them to be abused by anyone." I waited for a response, and after a long pause, he said, "I want to thank you and Polly's Place for helping me and my wife. I am a pastor and I am an abuser. My wife came back from Polly's Place changed. She stood up to me, and I realized that she meant every word. I was afraid that I would lose her. Her strength has made me see that I need to change. Thank you. I am in a treatment program now, but someday I hope that I can repay you for what you have done."

**How do individuals contact Polly's Place?**

**Alina:** They may phone us at: (269) 687-9822; or call toll free: (866) 889-6636. We can provide information over the phone, or your readers may e-mail us at: pollysplaceniles@yahoo.com.

**What should callers expect when they contact the center?**

**Alina:** If someone is interested in coming to Polly's Place—Niles, they should call us and we will do a confidential intake over the phone to see if our program is right for them. The staff will discuss their case and will let them know that same day if they can come to our center. We often have a waiting list, so the person may need a safe place to stay until we have an opening. We have information on other domestic violence shelters if that information is needed.

**How can our readers help the Polly's Place ministry?**

**Alina:** Polly's Place has partnered with God to extend the healing ministry of Christ, who "heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3 NKJV). Please pray for the leadership team, the ministry taking place there, and consider partnering with us financially to help our dreams become a reality and to bring the hope of Christ to individuals around the world and right here in the Lake Union.

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Diane Thurber is the *Lake Union Herald* managing editor.

\*Not their actual names



## THE REALITY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- ▶ By the most conservative estimate, each year one million women suffer nonfatal violence by an intimate.
- ▶ Nearly one in three adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.
- ▶ In 1993, approximately 575,000 men were arrested for committing violence against women. Approximately 49,000 women were arrested for committing violence against men.
- ▶ Women ages 19–29 reported more violence by intimates than any other age group.
- ▶ During the six months following an episode of domestic violence, 32 percent of battered women are victimized again.
- ▶ Forty-seven percent of men who beat their wives do so at least three times per year.
- ▶ In homes where partner abuse occurs, children are 1,500 times more likely to be abused.
- ▶ Forty to sixty percent of men who abuse women also abuse children.
- ▶ Violence against women occurs in 20 percent of dating couples.
- ▶ Twenty-six percent of pregnant teens reported being physically abused by their boyfriends. About half said the battering began or intensified after he learned of her pregnancy.
- ▶ Only about one-seventh of all domestic assaults come to the attention of the police.

Source: [www.dccadv.org/statistics.htm](http://www.dccadv.org/statistics.htm)



# Voices of Experience

TRIED AND TRUE ADVICE FOR MARRIAGE HAPPINESS



**Jackie and Walter Wright, Married June 25, 1954**  
Never take each other for granted. Continue to do the little niceties that you started during courtship. Date (time together alone) at least once a week for the rest of your life.



**Glynn and Donna Scott, Married March 23, 1980** The goal of marriage is to blend two lives together as one in Christ. The following principles have been both rewarding and beneficial in helping us to achieve our goal:

1. Study the Sabbath school lesson together daily
2. Commit difficult situations to prayer three times a day for seven days
3. Develop open and often communication
4. Seek quality time together as often as you can



**Jim and Gail Micheff, Married 5, 1978**  
**Tip #1:** If you find yourself being irritable with each other, you need to spend more quality time together.  
**Tip # 2:** Before any major purchases, it is best to consult with each other.



**Maryann and Gary Burns, Married June 3, 1973**  
After knowing each other for 40 years, the one word that emerges to describe our relationship is friendship. There is an intimacy experienced in marriage that goes beyond romance when a couple perceives themselves as true friends. Unfortunately, some couples go from attraction, to romance, to marriage without ever becoming real friends. For many, the bonds of romance are more easily established and broken (although not without devastating results), than the bonds of friendship. A true friendship ("a friend sticks closer than a brother") implies a deep level of unselfish commitment, while romance can often be based on self-serving feelings. And so, some mistakingly conclude that friendship and romance don't mix. Romance that follows the principles of self-sacrifice and devotion, however, enhances friendship and vice versa. There's something very special about being best friends—best friends who just happen to be head over heels in love!



**Rose Ann and Rodney Grove, Married August 25, 1968**  
When two people are joined together in marriage they become one. Don't try to change who your spouse is. Enhance who they are. That helps you become a complete person.



**Amy and Jeff Deming, Married May 26, 1991**  
As a youth pastor I love using acronyms and this one, I would say, is the best advice we have to share and has been an incredible ingredient for our marriage:  
**P Play together**—take time to run in the rain, swing at the school playground, run up a hill, and watch the sunset.  
**R Remember**—take time to reflect upon the journey God has led you on, both the good and the difficult times. Remember what drew you together.  
**A Apologize**—this one is the most important. Make sure the connection between you stays free of bitterness and hurt. Apologize when you have hurt your friend's heart  
**Y Yes!**—When all else seems to fail, a simple "Yes, dear!" will work. The most important advice we could give is to put these together and make a daily commitment to PRAY. God bless, and keep looking up!





**Demetra and Niels-Erik Andreassen, Married Sept. 5, 1965** What kept our marriage going in spite of the fact that we came from two quite different cultural backgrounds, Danish and Greek, was our commitment to our Christian beliefs and the strong and very traditional families we came from. We learned little by little to accept some of our differences, that happiness comes from within, and we also waived some unrealistic expectations of each other.



**Phyllis and Don Corkum, Married August 15, 1965** After experiencing our fortieth anniversary this summer we reflected on qualities that have enriched our marriage. We feel marriage is best experienced as a friendship, with God being the bonding agent. It is a life journey that is rewarding when founded on deep commitment to each other. Our marriage has been kept vibrant with the attentions that initially won our hearts, and has been deepened by caring that lets each other know he/she is important and special. Our marriage is energized when we study ways to enrich each other's happiness, and steadied and strengthened when meaning and purpose is shared in life's goals. When the challenges of life come upon us, we have found that our greatest source of strength and courage is when we are on our knees, together, seeking God's wisdom.



**Roseann and Carmelo Mercado, Married June 1, 1986** We were married six months when it happened. On our way to a Christmas social we were struck by a pickup truck that forced me (Carmelo) to stay an entire month in intensive care. Our first Christmas and New Year's holidays were spent in the hospital, with me hooked up to a respirator and a feeding tube. Initially when we met we saw the Lord's hand gradually guiding us together. When the accident occurred, it seemed like our faith was being severely tested as in the case of Job. During this time God taught us the value of supporting each other. He ultimately answered our prayers; six months later my wife and I were back in full-time ministry in our church district. From that time on we have so appreciated EACH DAY we have together as a precious gift from God. Our marriage advice is to never take your spouse for granted, but rather thank God DAILY for the special gift of love He has planted by giving you your lifelong companion. When you do this, the stresses that often test a couple's commitment seem very small indeed.



**Collene and Ron Kelly, Married June 2, 1985** Keeping an ongoing relationship with Jesus keeps us close together. We are very committed to making our relationship warm and strong "till death do us part." We especially like to walk together.



**Diane and Gary Thurber, Married June 7, 1981** One of the five love languages identified by author Gary Smalley is "Acts of Service." When we unselfishly choose to assist one another with difficult or undesired tasks—typing a paper as it is dictated over the phone, preparing the house for unexpected guests, detailing the car, letting the dog out at 4:15 a.m. to name a few—we experience a deepened joy in our marriage. It brings us great satisfaction to see the smile on each other's face when we jokingly say, "Let me serve you," as we help one another.



**Debbie and Ray Young, Married January 18, 1985** Set aside at least one day a week to do something special together. Whether you do something as small as cook dinner together or go out on the town, it will be special because it was reserved time just for the two of you.



# LIFESPRIING

## M I N I S T R Y

RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PRAYER

BY DOROTHY AND BRUCE HAYWARD

**M**artha was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor after serving in the mission field for not quite a full term. Coming home was not an easy decision because there had not been time to find employment and become established again. Several months later, with the immediate medical challenges resolved, Martha and her husband Mike found themselves without fulfilling employment and financial needs unmet. Crying out to God many times a day for His guidance, they both struggled to know God's will for their lives. Their marriage, which had survived more than 30 years, was now in deep trouble as Martha sunk deeper and deeper into a black hole of despair.

Seeking help from various professional sources proved frustrating and fruitless for Martha, and when she heard of a biblical prayer counselor they arranged to spend some time. Had she realized the baggage of her childhood and the deep emotional healing Jesus longed to give her, she might have avoided much stress. Mike, too, was plagued with life patterns that were self-defeating, not understanding the source.

While the lay prayer counselor gently cared for the hearts of this emotionally fragile couple, Jesus became very real as the Healer of their pain. Through prayer and waiting on God's answers, this couple found insight to many mysteries and family dysfunctions that had plagued them from childhood. A new hope and joy dispelled the depression and gave new direction to their lives. Excitedly Mike responded, "We are now experiencing the message of righteousness by faith made very practical."

It is seven years since God led in the formation of the WellSpring Family Life and Counseling Ministry at the Berrien Springs Village Seventh-day Adventist Church. During that time we have constantly encountered families in crises, many finding no long-term positive resolution for

their issues. The Bible makes it clear that God hates divorce, and yet the statistics within God's church are not very different than those of the world. This has caused us to plead with God for His method to resolve relationship challenges in last day Christian homes.

After much prayer and searching, God led us to a biblically based model for guiding individuals and couples to the experience of restored delight in all of their relationships and a deeper connection with God than they ever could have imagined. In April 2005, WellSpring Ministries gave birth to a focused marriage and relationship peer counseling ministry called LifeSpring Ministry. "It's all about Jesus, not about us." Jesus is the counselor and He alone can change hearts and heal relationships.

In contrast to the traditional psychological approach, the role of a biblical peer counselor is to demonstrate Christlike love, acceptance, and forgiveness. In a quiet, unhurried, and non-judgmental environment, we invite people to connect with Jesus and identify the source of the pain that plagues their hearts. Then, rather than focus on ways to resolve it, we simply bring it to Jesus in prayer. We be-



lieve all relationship problems are really spiritual problems—bitterness, pride, and moral failure to name a few. Even though we may prefer to bury our pain, Jesus wants us to identify our personal and relational issues and then take them to Him for healing and victory. Jesus is eager to bring our lives into complete harmony with Him. He is preparing a people whose sole purpose in life is to reflect Him and take the good news of restored lives, marriages, and families, through Heaven's grace, to the dying world.

Personal freedom encourages marital harmony. Marital harmony is the backbone of family agreement. When the families in our churches are in one accord, God's Spirit will be poured out and our churches will become the presence in our communities God designed them to be.

It is our dream that this practical and basic lay ministry becomes available to everyone in our churches and communities. We are also envisioning a retreat center where hurting people and couples can come for relational, emotional, and lifestyle healing—God's way. This center would also be a place where individuals and couples are trained as prayer facilitators for their own communities.

Jan and Jim had been friends for many years. Their friendship grew to the place that they knew they wanted to join their lives, but the pain and dysfunction from their childhoods and courting years were a roadblock to the intimacy God intends for a marriage relationship. Generational sin and destructive family patterns (family violence, divorce, etc.) inhibited their ability to be emotionally healthy. Choices made early in their relationship, including an abortion, left deep scars.

After recommitting their lives to Jesus, Jan and Jim decided to spend the time with a prayer counselor. They did the work necessary to prepare for an intensive week so they could find freedom before they were married. The week with their prayer counselor was the worst and best week of their lives. They came with much fear, but by the end of the week discovered a peace they had never known before. They are now married and experiencing an emotional connection they never dreamed possible.

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, you may contact us via the ministry website, [www.lifespringministry.org](http://www.lifespringministry.org), or write to: LifeSpring Ministry, 14547 Main St., Buchanan, MI 49107.

*"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?" (Jeremiah 32:27)*

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Dorothy and Bruce Hayward are on the pastoral staff at the Village Seventh-day Adventist church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and are the founders of LifeSpring Ministry.



## Marriage Strengthening Resources

### Marriage Counselors

Ask your pastor for a trusted professional counselor in your area, or visit [www.adventistfamilyministries.org](http://www.adventistfamilyministries.org) to search the North American Division family ministries counselor database.

### Helpful Websites for Domestic Violence

**Family Violence Prevention Fund:** [www.endabuse.org/dvmonth](http://www.endabuse.org/dvmonth). This site contains activities to highlight October as domestic violence awareness month.

**National Coalition Against Domestic Violence:** [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org). Contains links to other related sites, ways to protect yourself, how to create a safety plan, statistics, advocacy, cosmetic and reconstructive support, and much more.

**National Domestic Violence Hotline:** [www.ndv.org](http://www.ndv.org). Contains links to other related sites.

**Plusline:** [www.plusline.org/resourcesearch.php](http://www.plusline.org/resourcesearch.php). Contains links for stories, support group curriculum, help hotlines, research, videos, educational institutions, Spanish resources, and newsletters.

**Polly's Place Network:** [www.pollysplacenetwork.com](http://www.pollysplacenetwork.com). Contains links to a list of professional counselors who can provide consultation, counseling, training, and seminar presentations. You will also find: books, workbooks, audio series, articles, devotionals, newsletters, and brochures.

### Marriage Conferences and Retreats

**October 8, 2005, From This Day Forward**, South Bend, Ind.

Visit [www.plusline.org/events.php](http://www.plusline.org/events.php) or call (800) 732-7587 for registration information.

**November 11-13, 2005, Married Couples Get-Away**, Crystal Mountain, Mich. Call Lyn White at (517) 316-1570 or e-mail: [lwhite@misda.org](mailto:lwhite@misda.org).

**February 10-12, 2006, Romance at the Ridge**, Timber Ridge Camp, Spencer, Ind. Call Collene Kelly at (317) 984-4376 or e-mail: [Pastkelly@aol.com](mailto:Pastkelly@aol.com).

**March 3-5, 2006, Marriage Retreat**, Camp Au Sable, Grayling, Mich. Call Lyn White at (517) 316-1570 or e-mail: [lwhite@misda.org](mailto:lwhite@misda.org).

**November 17-19, 2006, Marriage Maintenance Seminar**, Place to be determined. Call Collene Kelly at (317) 984-4376 or e-mail: [Pastkelly@aol.com](mailto:Pastkelly@aol.com).





# Adventist Faith and MARRIAGE

THE STATE OF OUR UNIONS

BY NORMA AND MONTE SAHLIN

**S**eventh-day Adventists place a high value on marriage. A higher percentage of Adventist households are headed by married couples than is true for the general population in the U.S. and Canada. In a survey we conducted, two-thirds of respondents agree that “keeping a life-long commitment to another person is vital, no matter how painful it becomes.”

Americans are waiting longer to get married than at any time since the U.S. Census started collecting the statistic more than a century ago. The median age at first marriage is now 26 for men and 24 for women. Instead of marrying shortly after high school, as was the norm for many decades, Americans now are more likely to attend college, live on their own, or move in with someone for several years.

This is a trend that Adventists appear to be ignoring. In the most recent age cohort among our survey respondents, there is no rise in the median age at which they married. This may indicate that Adventist teachings about the sanctity of sexual relations within marriage are actually moving a significant number of young women and men to marry earlier and not “live together” as do many of their generational peers outside the church.

“I was raised an Adventist and was a member in good standing at the time of my marriage,” say two out of five of our respondents. Only a third say the same about their spouse.

For both spouses, one in eight were reared in an Adventist home but were not active church members when they married. Respondents who later divorced are more likely to report that they or their spouse were church dropouts at the time of their wedding.

One in twenty joined the Adventist Church within a year of their wedding. One in four indicate that it was more than a year before they joined the church. A significantly lower percentage of their spouses joined after the wedding—only about one in eight. Twenty-five percent report that their spouse never did join the church.

## STRENGTHS IN ADVENTIST MARRIAGES

The high value placed on commitment may be the major strength in Adventist marriages. Five in six feel strongly that their spouse is “loyal to our marriage.” Individuals who have gone through a divorce are less likely to agree.

Only a bare majority of Adventist couples report each of the other strengths in their marriages as expressed in the following statements: “My spouse has a strong religious commitment,” “My spouse is warm and affectionate to me,” “My spouse often expresses love to me,” “We talk with each other often. We talk about a wide range of topics,” and “My spouse is willing to work through problems.”

## IMPROVEMENT NEEDED

Even with many strengths, most married couples could improve their communication. Only two in five strongly agree that “My spouse keeps our communication channels open.” Only a third agree strongly with, “My spouse usually

understands what I say.” One in four say their husband or wife “is not very supportive.”

There is plenty of room for improvement in interpersonal skills among Adventist couples. Learning to be more sensitive and supportive, listening better, and developing cooperative instincts are all elements of Christian character growth. Unfortunately, these are not often seen to be as important as the study of Bible facts and abstract theology. We agree with George Knight, seminary professor at Andrews University, “Sanctification is becoming more loving. Period. If theology makes you mean, it’s wrong theology. Even if you’re right.”

Nearly half of our respondents say, “My spouse resists changes in our life.” This is a significant barrier to improvement in Adventist marriages.

## GENDER ROLES IN MARRIAGE

The egalitarian marriage is a well-established pattern among Seventh-day Adventists in America. Two out of three couples report that both spouses are “the chief decision-maker” in their home.

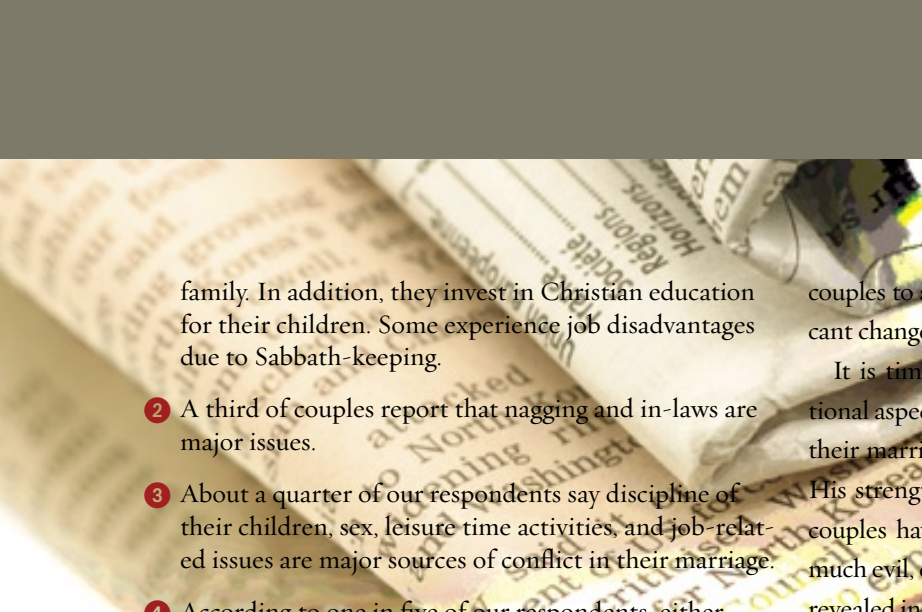
It is unlikely that either the male-dominate model of the “traditional family values” movement or the female-led model of the “radical feminists” will be adopted widely. Not only is the egalitarian model well-entrenched in the Adventist community, it enjoys strong support from both theologians and family life specialists.

## MARITAL CONFLICT

Conflict is a part of every marriage, and each couple handles it differently. Some are quite verbal, while others primarily use nonverbal communication. Some get angry and express much emotion, often including an equal amount of feeling in the “making up” that comes when the fight is settled. Others settle their differences through quiet, reasoned discussion. Some are very sensitive to the needs of their spouse, even while they disagree, while others are quite selfish.

### What do Adventist couples fight about?

- 1 Money tops the list, with economic issues having a greater impact than on the general public. One of the reasons: Adventist couples contribute to the church and other charities far more than the average American



family. In addition, they invest in Christian education for their children. Some experience job disadvantages due to Sabbath-keeping.

- 2 A third of couples report that nagging and in-laws are major issues.
- 3 About a quarter of our respondents say discipline of their children, sex, leisure time activities, and job-related issues are major sources of conflict in their marriage.
- 4 According to one in five of our respondents, either housekeeping or religion is a major source of discord. Respondents who were members less than five years are most likely to indicate conflict over religion. In one-fifth of Adventist households, one spouse is not a church member. Other than occasional articles and a book on the topic, the unique needs of “divided” families have not been addressed by the denomination. What type of evangelistic strategies win both spouses at the same time?
- 5 About one in seven couples say jealousy causes tension.
- 6 At the bottom of the list are issues that emerge in the most dysfunctional marriages—use of alcohol and drugs, mental cruelty, physical abuse, adultery, and lack of financial support for the family—are reported by about one in ten or fewer of our respondents. (Note: We asked about the number of households where there is conflict on this topic. Other studies have sought the number of individuals who have used alcohol or drugs.)

Respondents who indicate they are currently separated from their spouse, but not divorced, are much more likely to report all of the items on the list except for conflict about in-laws. It appears that separation occurs when there is a cluster of several major problems between spouses, rather than a single issue.

## INCREASE IN MARITAL CONFLICT

There has been an enormous increase over the last two decades in the number of Adventist couples who admit major marital conflict. Our surveys included the same question used in surveys in 1974–75. On every item a comparison of our data reveals two or three times the percentage as compared to responses in the mid-1970s.

The rank order of the issues is largely unchanged, indicating that the change has more to do with the willingness of

couples to admit that they have problems than with a significant change in the social dynamics or context of married life.

It is time for Adventist spirituality to embrace the relational aspect of life. We must help believers bring Christ into their marriages in a way that helps them face their needs in His strength and with His values. The reality that married couples have conflicts is not sin. However, it can result in much evil, especially if the church turns its back on the reality revealed in this data and perpetuates the myth that if a couple will just spend more time in prayer and Bible study, they need not be concerned about conflicts in their marriage.

## SEX IN MARRIAGE

Sexual difficulties in one’s marriage are cause for concern among Adventists, but this concern does not rank very high among potentially worrisome life events. Seven in eight Adventist respondents say that an unfaithful spouse would cause them great concern. A little more than half express concern about sexual problems with their spouse. It may be that the high value Adventists place on the marriage commitment actually reduces the degree of anxiety about sexuality.

## GOD’S GRACE

In a tangible sense, even more than as a theological principle, married love is a conveyor of God’s grace. Sociologist Andrew Greeley’s research has demonstrated that “after the first five years of marriage the spouse becomes the most powerful influence” on the spirituality of their husband or wife—literally conveying the image of God to each other. When a husband or wife says that their spouse is God’s gift to them, they speak truth in a most concrete and real way.

For Seventh-day Adventists, there is a mingling of strong elements of spirituality, companionship, and sexuality in successful marriages. Married love and the Sabbath are often highlighted by Adventist preachers as two of God’s original creations memorialized in Genesis—possibly the two most powerful assets in the Adventist community in America today.

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Monte Sahlin is vice president for the Columbia Union and Norma Sahlin is communication director for the Center for Creative Ministry. The Sahlins are authors of *A New Generation of Adventist Families*.



## Andrews Volunteers Bring Relief to Hurricane Katrina Victims

Disasters the magnitude of Hurricane Katrina leave behind a wake of heartbreak and devastation, but also the opportunity to respond to a call to serve. One of the most inspiring responses to this call came from the campus of Andrews University. Within four days of the disaster, a crew of over 100 students, faculty, and staff were en route to the Gulf Region to provide disaster relief. The convoy, which included two buses, a van, and a truck full of supplies, arrived at Bass Memorial Academy, just outside Purvis, Mississippi, and approximately 50 miles from the Gulf Coast, on Friday, September 2.

Despite the extensive media coverage devoted to the hurricane, the Andrews relief team was unprepared for the total devastation that welcomed them. Frances Faehner, Andrews vice president for student services, recalls, "I assumed you'd have to get within 50 miles of New Orleans for it to be that bad. There were road signs, wires, and telephone poles just lying every which way. You could see rows of 50 trees just snapped off." Needless to say, the



Volunteers served nearly 5,000 meals each day to community residents impacted by the hurricane.

Andrews students had their work cut out for them. Three buildings at Bass Memorial Academy sustained major roof damage during the hurricane, and the campus was littered with debris.

Though exhausted from the 20-hour drive, students went to work as soon as their feet hit the ground, joining forces with a group of 40 students from Southern Adventist University, to clear debris and remove carpet, tiles, and insulation. Despite less-than-ideal conditions—sleeping in a gymnasium with a gaping hole in the roof, for example—the relief force made incredible gains during their brief stay at Bass Memorial Academy.

Dave Gillis, third-year architecture student and licensed roofer, headed the roofing team, which in three days managed to completely re-shingle a home in the community and three-quarters of the Bass Academy boys' dormitory. The 26-member crew worked over 10-hour days in 100 degree heat, and even set up a generator and lights to continue roofing after dark. "We knew we were leaving soon, and wanted to do as much as we could before we left," Gillis explains. "We probably saved them \$12,000-\$18,000 in labor alone, never mind the vulnerability of further damage from rain."

Students' efforts were not confined to the campus alone. The Andrews workers teamed up with Adventist Community Team Services (ACTS), a volunteer disaster response team from Florida in charge of food distribution centers at Bass Memorial Academy and in nearby Purvis, Mississippi. Workers in the two mobile kitchens served approximately 5,000 meals per day to a community desperate for food. Youth ministry student Andrew Moreno found himself thrown into the role of



Student volunteers sorted food for distribution to Hurricane Katrina victims.

head cook in the Bass Academy kitchen, where he spent nearly three straight days "just cooking, all day." "We were always scrounging for food, but I was amazed at how everything kept multiplying itself," Moreno recalls. "I kept saying 'we're going to run out of this,' but whenever we needed something, a semi would show up with more."

Andrews students also joined ACTS volunteers at a makeshift distribution hub on the Bass Academy campus, where cars lined up for over a mile to spend the day waiting in the heat for much-needed supplies. "People would drive through with their trunks open, and we would literally stuff them full of supplies," says Erica Slikkers, senior public relations major. "Anyone we helped was so grateful—people were crying all the time. It was a huge blend of people, not only from poverty situations, but driving new SUV's and convertibles. All of a sudden they didn't have anything—their world was turned upside down."

Hurricane victims weren't the only ones touched by the tireless efforts and self-sacrifice of the students. Glenn Russell, associate professor of religion and one of the project coordinators, states, "To me the most inspiring thing was to see students meeting real needs and the incredible job they did—their energy, their skills, and their commitment—was inspiring to me as a teacher."

Andrews University press release

# Hurricane Relief Update



Debris littered the Bass Memorial Academy campus.

## Student's Life Impacted by Hurricane Katrina Relief Trip

I just returned from a third world country a mere twelve hours ago, and the irony is that I never left the United States. My trip to Lumberton, Mississippi, with a group of almost 100 other people from Andrews University was an earth-shattering experience to say the least. Now I struggle to adjust back into my everyday life of studies and work. The world has not changed in the least since I left for the Gulf State on Thursday, the first day of September—I have. My outlook on life has been altered. I owe this to Hurricane Katrina, and the five-day mission trip at Bass Memorial Academy.

While serving hot meals in Purvis, Mississippi, it occurred to me how we, as



Adventist Community Services erected an emergency distribution center at Bass Memorial Academy.

Americans, have everything we need. We isolate ourselves from our neighbors because we don't have any source of dependency on them. The crisis at hand seemed to change this for the people of this community.

I was so blessed to see a reaction to desperation in a totally different way than the rioting, car jacking, and looting that is all too common in the

news in New Orleans right now. We were warned by the skilled workers of the Adventist Community Services and the Adventist Community Teams Services to always be mindful of our safety. However, no one warned me that I was about to see Americans interact in a way so foreign to our culture. People collecting their hot meals would request extra meals for their neighbor with no gasoline or an elderly neighbor. I was expecting a "cut throat" environment, but instead I witnessed neighbors looking out for the needs of one another.

What made the biggest impact on me was the simple realization that these people in cars lined up, eagerly waiting to receive canned goods and hygienic supplies every morning, were people like me. They weren't all poverty stricken families. They were individuals who were living a normal life just a week before I met them. But, in just a matter of one day, their lives had been turned upside down.

Civilized, everyday people told me stories, from inside their newer-model sedans, of bathing in the creek behind their homes, due to lack of running water. They broke down in tears at the promise of having food to eat. They described to me the massive pine tree now resting in their living room where the wall once stood. They bounced a baby wearing only a diaper in temperatures reaching the upper 90s as they waited in line for food. They cried as



Donations for Hurricane Katrina victims were dropped off continually at the academy campus.

they recounted the seven hours they endured 100-mile-per-hour winds. They sat in the nursing home across the street from the academy, in the sweltering heat, watching their elderly friends be taken away by ambulance due to the conditions, sometimes four or five times a day.

This could be my grandmother, my parents, or people from my home church. This could even be me. I can muster up some thankfulness when I pump gas into my car now, regardless of the price, because I did not have to stand in a line with 100 other people just to put the three gallons of gas or so in my tank that is allowed. My home is air-conditioned. I have never once worried about having enough water to make it through tomorrow. I am truly blessed.

Erica Slikkers, an Andrews University student from Holland, Mich.



Despite tremendous damage to Bass Memorial Academy, its faculty and staff opened their hearts to community residents who needed help and offered the campus for hurricane relief efforts.





Cars, filled with families hoping for food and supplies, were lined up for hours before the relief supply lines were opened.

## Andrews Relief Trip Overview:

### Project Participants

- ▶ Ten Andrews University faculty/staff
- ▶ 85 Andrews University students
- ▶ Four students and two sponsors from Broadview Academy (La Fox, Ill.)
- ▶ Two students from Great Lakes Adventist Academy (Edmore, Mich.)
- ▶ Andrews University president Niels-Erik Andreasen visited on Sun., Sept. 4.

### Project Financing

Participants were responsible for covering the \$250 per person cost. Andrews faculty, staff, and students unable to go donated money to participants.

### Destination

Bass Memorial Academy (an Adventist secondary school), four miles south of Purvis, Miss., approximately 50 miles from the Gulf Coast

### Transportation

Two buses, one van, and one truck full of supplies

### Hours in Transit

Approximately 21 hours arriving and 18 hours returning

### Work Performed

- ▶ Campus cleanup and renovation—debris clearing, carpet and tile removal, re-shingling
- ▶ Food and water distribution to community—thousands of boxes of foodstuffs daily, supplied by Andrews and other donors
- ▶ Meal preparation and distribution to community—helped provide meals to over 2,000 people per day from two kitchens
- ▶ Unloading and sorting—nonstop influx of semi-trucks carrying equipment and supplies

### Andrews Alumni

170 in Alabama, 46 in Louisiana, and 27 in Mississippi

### Duration of Trip

Departed Andrews at 8:00 p.m. Thurs., Sept. 1, and returned to campus at 8:00 a.m. Tues., Sept. 6

### For Information on Upcoming Hurricane Relief Trips

Contact Patrick Murphy at (269) 471-6284 or visit [www.andrews.edu/cm](http://www.andrews.edu/cm)

### How to Donate

Adventist Information Ministries\* (AIM): (800) 467-6442  
Campus Ministries: (269) 471-3211

### For more Project Katrina Information

Visit the Andrews University website, [www.andrews.edu](http://www.andrews.edu), and click on the link for Project Katrina.

### Project Contact Info

- ▶ Glenn Russell—Assistant Professor of Religion: [glenn@andrews.edu](mailto:glenn@andrews.edu), (269) 471-3188
- ▶ Patrick Murphy—Campus Chaplain for Outreach: [murphy@andrews.edu](mailto:murphy@andrews.edu), (269) 471-6284
- ▶ Andrews University Relations: [pr@andrews.edu](mailto:pr@andrews.edu), (269) 471-3322

Rebecca May, University Relations director

\*AIM, located on the Andrews University campus, is answering and processing calls for Adventist Community Services.

## Youth Organize for Hurricane Katrina Response

Just like the 676 Adventist youth who responded to New York City's 9/11 call for help, the Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE), once again, has plans in place to involve youth in service evangelism.

At the request of several conferences, schools and emergency relief agencies, a thoughtful, safe, and well-organized response plan is in place to invite youth from all over North America to participate.

For \$199, basic, primitive lodging, food, secondary insurance, medical support, T-shirts, and relief project supplies are provided with supervision for seven days. It is up to adult youth leaders to transport their groups to various service evangelism sites.

For more information, or to sign up for a specific date, contact Ron Whitehead, CYE executive director, and/or Brit Steele, We Care Domestic Mission Trip and Katrina Response director, at (800) YOUTH2U, Fax (269) 471-8385, or e-mail: [PastorRon@andrews.edu](mailto:PastorRon@andrews.edu) or [steeleb@andrews.edu](mailto:steeleb@andrews.edu), or visit: [www.adventistyouth.org](http://www.adventistyouth.org).

Ron Whitehead, Center for Youth Evangelism executive director





## Nurse Externs Gain Confidence

### Learn by Experience in Adventist Midwest Health Facilities

Hospitals that help train the next generation of nurses make a valuable contribution to the students as well as the communities they serve. The 2005 nurse extern program of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital and Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital helped transition 22 students into their future roles and further prepare them for their chosen profession.

“The externs gain from working one-on-one with a preceptor, but they also benefit from sharing the experiences of other nurse externs,” says Donna Kanak, clinical nurse educator. “Being able to provide care and comfort to other people makes me feel I am in the right profession. Through my extern experience, I gained a great amount of confidence while doing procedures on a patient, interacting with patients and family members, and better knowledge of procedures and tests done to patients,” says Azucena Cornejo, one of six students from Andrews University in the program. Another Andrews University student,



Preceptor Christine Bulthuis, RN, CEN, works with nurse extern Gretchen Azcarraga of Andrews University in the emergency room at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.



Nurse extern Soha Dharani (left) consults with her supervisor Sara Crescente (right) and Adventist Hinsdale Hospital vice president and chief nursing officer Jann Marks.

Clara Bernstein, who wants to pursue a career in labor and delivery, says she gained a desire to emulate “her preceptor’s energy, professionalism, and caring.”

Externs attended weekly lectures and had shadowing opportunities in various departments. The seven-week training focused on whole-person care, and the externs wrote about what they learned each week to aid in the physical, emotional, and spiritual comfort of patients. They also discussed challenges they faced with ethical matters, diagnosis, or the unknown, and they reflected on how they made a difference.

Gretchen Azcarraga of Andrews University had such an experience. She said hearing a patient say “Thank you for taking care of me” gave meaning to her desire to become a nurse. For Shurree Torgerson, her time as an extern peaked her interest in family practice or emergency room care. The Andrews University student says, “My preceptor has been diligent in ensuring the variety of my learning experiences and has encouraged my independence and confidence in my abilities.”

“Watching physicians and nurses work together to make healthcare decisions and provide care for their pa-

tients energized my desire to become a nurse,” says Faith Kimburi of Andrews University. “I gained confidence in my nursing care skills while experiencing autonomy in caring for patients.”

The extern program has benefits for the hospital as well. “We recognize the opportunity for nurse externs to learn about the hospital. We provide a real life opportunity to see the inner-workings of the emergency department, a Level III nursery, pediatrics, and more,” says Jann Marks, vice president and chief nursing officer of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. “The students are exposed to a wide selection of specialties with hands-on experience in areas that they may not see in school. If they like you and you like them, you have an easier transition (in hiring). Since they know the hospital, you have taken away the anxiety.”

“The key to success is giving the externs a great experience that builds loyalty. The program has a far-reaching impact on the students in their senior year, our hospital, and the future of nursing,” notes Sheila Horner, chief nursing officer, Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.

Lynn Larson, Adventist Midwest Health  
writer/media liaison

## New-Student Welcome Is Warmer Than Ever

If Dwight Nelson, Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC) senior pastor, ever sprinkles a spoonful of complimentary Fruit Loops on your sundae, chances are you're enjoying the *All Fired Up 2005*, "We Scream for Ice Cream." With its fusion of fun, food, friendship, and the formation of vital connections between incoming students, campus services, and student organizations, the lip-licking event hallmarked the spirit of Andrews University's new student orientation week.

Designed to equip new students with the tools necessary to succeed in college, this year's *All Fired Up 2005* ran from Aug. 21 to 28—beginning with *First Stop* on Sun. and concluding with the beach party and alumni BBQ the following Sun. While new students' parents and siblings were encouraged to participate in initial events, including *President's Welcome Luncheon* on Mon., most left by Tues. But thanks to family groups, co-mentored by pairs of student volunteers and coached by staff members, students were hardly left to succumb to homesickness in their dorm rooms. Steve Yeagley, assistant to the vice president of student services and orientation coordinator, remarked, "Not only do [family groups] launch crucial connections, they also foster friendships students often maintain throughout their college experience."



Student family groups launch crucial connections and foster friendships students often maintain throughout their college experience.

While *All Fired Up 2005* featured the usual events, Friday's itinerary included new family group service projects, ranging from riverfront clean-up to playground refurbishment. "[The projects] were a chance to introduce incoming students to what Andrews is all about—service," Yeagley reflects.

The week culminated with a special worship service at PMC and a lasagna dinner sponsored by church family members. Following Sabbath afternoon activities, students enjoyed a concert by Christian recording artist Shaun Groves before heading to Blossom Lanes in the evening for an extreme bowling party DJ'ed by Pulse-FM, a local Christian music radio station.



Parents of new students were invited to the President's Welcome Luncheon.

*All Fired Up 2005* proved to kindle a warmer welcome than ever for incoming students.



Elizabeth Lechleitner, University Relations student news writer

## Business Teachers Embrace Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service at Summer Conference

July 14–16 saw Andrews University's Chan Shun Hall suited up and bustling with business teachers eager to subscribe to comprehensive excellence during the fifth biennial Adventist business teachers summer conference, "Commitment to Scholarship, Spirituality, and Service: Business Education Today." Jointly sponsored by the Andrews University School of Business and Adventist Midwest Health, the conference drew a global representation of Adventist business faculty.

Morning plenaries jump-started each of the conference's three days and regularly drew audiences in excess of the forty officially registered attendees. Plenary presenters David Neff of Christianity Today International, and Samford University's professor of ethics, Wilton Bunch, urged attendees to anchor their business interactions in a solid biblical vision.

After morning plenaries, each day featured several breakout sessions led by faculty from nine schools. According to Ann Gibson, School of Business dean, these personal research presentations "provide an opportunity for [Adventist] business teachers to network and discuss issues of common concern."

The conference's first day culminated with a Thurs. evening banquet for attendees, their spouses, and various members of Andrews University's faculty and staff. Following the dinner, banquet attendees benefited from Sybil Jordan Hampton, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation president, whose life experiences illustrated the conference's dictum and encouraged attendees to actively pursue spirituality, scholarship, and service in the face of an increasingly secular business environment.

One attendee shared this about the conference's impact, "Attendees walk away with many benefits, not the least of which is a total re-commitment to excellence in business higher education in the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

Elizabeth Lechleitner, University Relations student news writer



## [ EDUCATION NEWS ]



### Motorcycle Rally Raises Money for Worthy Students

Wisconsin—The weekend of July 22–24 proved to be the perfect time to host Wisconsin Academy’s (WA) First Annual Motorcycle Rally. Approximately 40 alumni and friends from all over Wisconsin gathered on WA’s campus for the fun-filled adventure.

After the bikers concluded their ride on Fri., they enjoyed a special vespers program presented by David Scofield, a pastor and motorcycle enthusiast from Richland Center. He spoke about discovering God through strangers and how bikers have so many opportunities to meet new people and share God’s love.

On Sabbath morning, participants were met with slightly cooler weather than expected, but everyone had hopes of a beautiful day behind all the clouds that loomed above. After breakfast, the motorcyclists made their way to the grove for the morning worship service. John Glass, a pastor from Waukesha, presented the message, “What I’ve

Learned from Things that Go Vroom!” After his message, the bikers enjoyed a nature hike through the woods behind the campus.

That afternoon, as the bikers prepared for their ride, the rain came down hard. “It put a little bit of a damper on our afternoon plans,” said Sandy Magary of Green Bay, “but it was also a great opportunity for us to get to know each other better.” Eventually, the rain let up and the riders were able to hit the road.

Wendy Peck, of Chippewa Falls, facilitated a lively discussion of various motorcycle stories among the participants for the evening’s entertainment. Several individuals shared their musical talents, rounding out the evening with song.

The bikers awoke to a cloudless blue sky on Sunday morning. After gathering for a group photo, the riders bid farewell and separated to head home.

“The weekend was a huge success,” said Sally Johnson, event chairperson. “I was thrilled with the turnout and everyone had a great time. We raised several thousand dollars for the academy’s Worthy Student Fund, and look forward to the event growing next year.”



John Glass, a pastor and motorcycle enthusiast from Waukesha, was animated as he presented his message Sabbath morning.



Bikers gathered in front of the WA sign before they headed out for their ride.

For information, please contact Michelle Shufelt at (920) 623-3300 ext. 18, or email: [development@wisacad.org](mailto:development@wisacad.org).

Michelle Shufelt, Wisconsin Academy development director

## [ LOCAL CHURCH NEWS ]

### Graduating With a Sense of Calling

Indiana—A special graduation program was held at the Indianapolis Hispanic Church on Sabbath afternoon, Feb. 26, for twelve members who had experienced a strong desire to tell others about Jesus’ love and the spiritual truths found in the Bible. The graduates were honored for completing the Advanced Lay Bible Worker Course with Hernel Hernandez, associate pastor and class instructor.



From left (back): Julio Caliz, Jose Caballero, Luis Andrade, Anthony Nix, Jose Luis; (center): Samuel Acosta, Francisco Chavarria, Fernando Satiago, German Nolasco, Josue Torres; (front): Neuzza Nevez, Hernel Hernandez, and Doris Hernandez

Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union Conference vice president and Hispanic ministries coordinator, challenged the graduates to be diligent in their work for the Lord. They were then presented with photo credentials from the Indiana Conference.

Archie Moore, Indiana Conference secretary, reports that all twelve are giving Bible studies. On June 25, the Bible workers brought their Bible study students to Indianapolis Junior Academy for a special program. May the Lord continue to bless the Bible workers’ outreach endeavor.

Judith Yeoman, Indiana Conference correspondent



## Kids Trek Through the Bible

Michigan—One could almost hear the roar of the lion, screech of the monkeys, and trumpet call of the elephant from the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Mich., June 27–July 1, 2005. Children came to the Metropolitan Church to go on “safari” with the Serengeti Trek Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Rula Karapatsakis, Metropolitan VBS leader, with the help of 25 willing volunteers, took children on a jungle journey through the Bible. Daily themes helped the children get to know more about God by talking to Him, telling others about God, working for God, and ultimately learning what it means to love God. These lessons were demonstrated through singing, crafts, games, snacks, a life application video, discussions, and enactments.

On day two, the theme was to talk to God. During snack time the children sat in a circle with their “crew” leader who asked the daily challenge, “From what you learned today, how would you talk to God?” The children’s responses included: “Pray all the time”; “Pray with a friend”; “Pray with a sick friend”; and “Pray at restaurants before we eat.”

Besides the learning activities, the children went on a special mission called “Operation Kid-to-Kid Offer-



Heather Connor enjoyed leading the children in the “Sing and Roar” activity.

ing.” Here, the children assembled 20 school-supply kits for needy children in Africa. Where possible, each child contributed one school-supply item. Each kit included one full-color Bible workbook, pencils, pens, notebook, eraser, sharpener, and a ruler.

As many as 65 children attended; 20 were from non-Adventist families and 24 were pre-school age.



Joy Hyde, Metropolitan Church communication secretary and church clerk

At VBS, the children assembled 20 school-supply kits for needy children in Africa.

## Investing in the Gospel

Indiana—The Adventist church has a plan to help its members raise support for overseas missions. It is called investment. Each Sabbath school department is encouraged to plan investment activities to contribute to the church’s investment goal. Members are also encouraged to participate with individual investment projects.

In my earliest recollections, my mother grew things for investment. I remember one year she purchased ten ducklings and intended to raise them to sell for investment. We had a gully washer one day and the small ducks were washed down the creek, never to be seen again. It is only reasonable to assume not every investment project will be a smashing success. It reminds us that we are dependent on God; God is not dependent on us.

Through the years at the Cicero Church, God has blessed our efforts in a variety of projects. Our main effort, as a combined church, is a garage sale each spring and fall. We start advertising weeks ahead, people drop off their items at a designated place, and workers begin pricing and sorting.

On the day of the sale, which is usually held in the parking lot of the Indiana Academy gymnasium and the Adventist Book Center, a number of volunteers arrange sale items attractively. Several stay through the day to

help sell, and then another group helps pack up and load the remaining items to take to the local auction house.

At our sale this spring, a co-worker was adding up some items for a lady. When it was discovered that the tally had mistakenly resulted in an overcharge, it was immediately corrected. The buyer smiled, and said, “I know that on the grounds of the Seventh-day Adventist Book Store, I will be treated fairly!” The yard sale gives us another opportunity to meet members of our community.

Through these efforts, and many individual projects, the return on the investment of Cicero members amounts to about \$3,000 a year. It is a labor of love, and those contributing and working help further God’s gospel around the world.

Ramona Trubey, Cicero Church investment secretary



The Cicero Church raises about \$3,000 a year for investment. One investment project is the annual spring yard sale.

## [LAKE UNION NEWS]

## Report of the Lake Region Conference

### Background

On Apr. 18, 2004, the audited statements for the years 2001, (qualified for inadequacies in the plant fund), 2002, and 2003, (both receiving disclaimers), were presented to the Lake Region Conference Constituency Session in South Bend, Ind. One of the recommendations by General Conference (GC) Auditing Services, who conducted the yearly audits, was to implement an accounting practice to include in the statement properties held by the Lake Region Conference Association, along with scheduled depreciation, in order to provide a clearer picture of the financial worth of the conference. The conference property, although accounted for, had not been entered in this way since the conference was formed in 1946, nor is there any requirement or regulation to do so. The recommended accounting practice has now been implemented and appears in the 2004 year-end statement as \$18 million in property assets under scheduled depreciation.

### Detailed Financial Review

In response to concern over the status of the aforementioned audits, the Lake Region Conference administration, under the direction of Norman Miles, entered a request to the Lake Union administration for special assistance on Oct. 21, 2004, to further review the financial audits and records for the years 2001–2003. Union administration conveyed Miles' request to the Lake Union Executive Committee at their Nov. 17, 2004, meeting.

At the recommendation of GC Auditing Services, Union administration secured the services of an independent auditor to begin a detailed financial review, pending the completion of the 2004 audited statement. The audited statement for 2004, which also carried

a disclaimer, was presented at a special Lake Region Conference Executive Committee meeting Mar. 6, 2005.

The detailed financial review began in Apr. 2005. As the review continued, a number of anomalies were revealed and conveyed to conference administration. The conference administration then responded to the information and reported to the Lake Region Conference Executive Committee, who took official actions.

### Legal Implications

Following the guidelines of the working policy of the North American Division, Lake Region Conference administration, through the services of legal counsel, submitted the initial findings of alleged illegal activities to the authorities on July 26, 2005. Since that time, the Lake Region Conference has turned over additional evidence and will continue to do so during its ongoing detailed financial review.

Following is a statement released on Aug. 23, 2005, by the office of Barclay-Dixon, legal counsel for the Lake Region Conference:

“Currently, there is a detailed financial review being conducted relative to the employment and financial issues raised at the July 24, 2005, constituency meeting. Based upon the seriousness of the allegations, the Executive Committee has taken appropriate action to ensure the integrity of the Lake Region Conference. Due to the sensitive nature of certain matters, further investigation is warranted in order to safeguard and protect the rights of all parties involved. We solicit your prayers that God will continue to provide wisdom and strength during this challenging time.”

### Perspective

As with each organizational unit of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Lake Region Conference operates under its own jurisdiction. Conference offices in the Seventh-day Adventist Church are managed by officials, elected by local church delegates,

operating under a constitution and by-laws of that particular conference. These elected officials, also known as the conference administration, report to the conference executive committee. The conference executive committee, made up of representatives from local churches and church employees who are elected under the provisions of the constitution and by-laws, is ultimately responsible for the operation of the conference.

Local conferences in North America are organized into nine union headquarters by geographic location. Five conferences (Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan, and Wisconsin) are banded together to form the Lake Union Headquarters. These five conferences, though operating independently and accountable to their own constituents, form an administrative counsel under the direction of Lake Union officials to optimize effectiveness in accomplishing their missions.

In this capacity, the Lake Union administration, specifically the departments of treasury and Hispanic ministries, is giving additional support to the Lake Region Conference staff. During the ongoing detailed financial review, Lake Union administration will continue to report the findings of the review to conference administration. To date, all actions taken by the conference executive committee, as a result of the review, were taken under the chair of the acting conference president. The Lake Union Executive Committee is also being apprised of the progress and outcome of the review—the most recent meeting being Aug. 17, 2005.

### Objective

“Our desire,” comments Walter Wright, Lake Union president, “is to provide requested assistance to help stabilize the Lake Region Conference so that it can get back to its mission to inform people of the love of Jesus Christ and His soon return.”

Gary Burns, Lake Union Conference communication director



[NAD NEWS]

## Official NAD Statement on Hurricane Katrina

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America joins with this nation in praying with and for the individuals affected by the disaster caused by Hurricane Katrina. In times like these, we as a nation need to band together to help those who are in great need.

Adventist Community Services Disaster Response is working along with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to set up a multi-agency warehouse nearby the devastated areas in La. In the warehouse, volunteers will sort and package donated goods, pull orders and load trucks for delivery to the affected areas. Volunteers are also helping to provide 40,000 meals a day to those affected in Miss.

For more than 100 years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has provided emergency relief through Adventist Community Services Disaster Response. Working in more than 200 cities across North America, Adventist Community Services Disaster Response operates in partnership with FEMA and is a member of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters.

To join ACS Disaster Response in helping the survivors of Hurricane Katrina, please make a donation online by visiting [www.communityservices.org](http://www.communityservices.org), calling (877) ACS-2702, or mail to: NAD ACS Disaster Response, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904.



Don Schneider, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America

## Sue and Don Murray Receive Distinguished Service Award

On Sun., July 24, 2005, at the Adventist Family Conference closing event, a recognition ceremony and banquet, held on the campus of Andrews University, Susan and Don Murray received the "Distinguished Service Award" in family ministries. This is the highest award presented by the department of family ministries of the North American Division. It is awarded to individuals who have made a substantial contribution to family ministries, and their contributions have impacted North America.

Don and Sue entered into an agreement with God to use their marriage as a form of ministry at a turning point in their relationship after ten years of marriage. Through the years, they have developed and shared their expertise in both the U.S. and abroad. They developed *Adventist Engaged Encounter*, an enrichment weekend for engaged and newlywed couples, which served over 1,500 couples over a twenty-five year span. They have each held leadership positions in several professional organizations, are published authors, and long-time training seminar directors for Life Innovations, Inc.

Don and Sue have trained many counselors and pastors to do effective premarital and marital counseling using the PREPARE-ENRICH inventories. Both are certified family life educators with the National Council of Family Relations (NCFR).

Sue holds faculty positions in the behavioral sciences and social work departments at Andrews University. She was responsible for the affiliation of the family studies degree in the behavioral sciences department at Andrews University with NCFR. Students receiving their undergraduate degree are eligible for provisional certification as family life educators. Andrews University is the first Seventh-day Adventist program to be affiliated with NCFR. She is also a licensed marriage and family therapist.

Don has used his residence hall ministry as an ongoing opportunity to educate his staff and students regarding important family life issues and has always emphasized the importance of family and schools working together in harmony for young people.

Celebrating their 42nd anniversary in August, Sue and Don have lived, loved, laughed, and learned together. They find special joy today in enjoying their two adult children Marci and Ryan; their spouses, Michael and Kara; and grandchildren Cassandra and Alexander Hales and Hana Makena Murray.

Willie Oliver, North American Division family ministries director



Don and Sue Murray (left) were presented the "Distinguished Service Award" for their substantial contributions to Family Ministries, which impacted North America. Willie and Elaine Oliver presented the award.

Don Schneider, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America



# MILEPOSTS

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 [luc.adventist.org/mileposts](http://luc.adventist.org/mileposts). Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 51.

## Anniversaries

**Hal and Phyllis Veldman** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 17, 2005, by having a picnic with friends and family at their daughter Sandra's house in DePere, Wis. They have been members of the Green Bay (Wis.) Church for seven years.

Hal Veldman and Phyllis Labrenz were married July 17, 1955, in Oxford, Wis., by Pastor T. Herr. Hal has been an accountant for several companies, retiring in 1994. Phyllis has been a secretary and housewife.

The Veldman family includes Sandra and Tony Paulsen, and Colleen Veldman of DePere; Carrie Veldman of Portage, Wis.; and two grandchildren.

## Weddings

**Angela K. Herold and Jared M. Dana** were married July 3, 2005, in Sauk Cty., Wis. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Fred Dana.

Angela is the daughter of John and Kay Herold of Dalton, Wis., and Jared is the son of Fred and Lorrie Dana of Pine Bush, N.Y.

The Danas are making their home in Pardeeville, Wis.

## Obituaries

**ARMISTEAD, Peter R.F.**, age 35; born Sept. 1, 1969, in Dalton, Ga.; died June 17, 2005, in Hartford, Mich. He was a member of the Glenwood Church, Dowagiac, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth M. (Sands); son, Thomas; daughters, Kristina and Cassandra; and sisters, Elizabeth Kohlfarber and Josephine Armistead.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Dan Rachor, with private inurnment.

**BLOCK, Janice G. (Hill)**, age 67; born Aug. 19, 1937, in Chicago, Ill.; died June 11, 2005, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Berrien Springs Village Church.

Survivors include her husband, Bruce R.; sons, Gregory and Brian; daughter, Robin Goodridge; brother, Richard Hill; and five grandchildren.

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

**BROWN, James**, age 68; born May 16, 1937, in Bradford, Ark.; died July 11, 2005, in Dowagiac, Mich. He was a member of the Glenwood Church, Dowagiac.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley (Whorral) Weaver; sons, Charles L. Delmon V., and Ricky A.; stepsons, David W. and James C. Weaver; daughters, Sheila A. Miller and Sherry L. Roden; brothers, Wayburn, Odell, and Nathan; sisters, Carolyn L. Creasy, Sue Drake, and Karen L. Petersen; 18 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Harry Sponseller, head elder, and interment was in Harrison Cemetery, Decatur, Mich.

**CHILSON, Adriel D.**, age 85; born Dec. 21, 1919, in Takoma Park, Md.; died July 26, 2005, in Spokane, Wash. He pastored in Sheboygan, Marinette, Superior, Richland Center, and Wautome, Wis., from 1955-74.

Survivors include his sons, Bob and Don; daughters, Carol Lewis and Eileen Chilson; sister, Louise Chilson; and eight grandchildren.

Inurnment will be in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Glendale, Calif.

**HAYDEN, Sherry L. (Hetherington)**, age 41; born June 3, 1963, in Saginaw, Mich.; died Feb. 23, 2005, in Cheboygan, Mich. She was a member of the Cheboygan Church.

Survivors include her husband, Jonathan D.; sons, Franklin and Tomas Noha; stepson, Turahn S. Hayden; daughter, April Noha; stepdaughter, Jannie S. Hayden; brothers, Rod, Dennis, and Curtis Hetherington; sisters, Deborah Schnesinger and Sandy Story; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Greg Timmins, and interment was in Lakeview Cemetery, Trout Lake, Mich.

**NUTT, Joan B. (Holm)**, age 70; born June 8, 1935, in Ottawa, Ill.; died June 11, 2005, in Salem, Ore. She was a member of the Hinsdale (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Bruce E.; son, Tom W.; sister, Jean Anderson; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Kenneth Denslow, and interment was in Oakwood Memorial Cemetery, Ottawa.

**OSBORNE, Nancy N. Louise**, age 55; born Dec. 12, 1949, in Ionia, Mich.; died Apr. 18, 2005, in Cedar Lake, Mich. She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church.

Survivors include her mother, Shirley (Rutherford) Osborne Siems; brothers, William, James, and Ken; and sisters, Suzan Herrick and Patricia Gleason.

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

**PITTS, Lillian (Zittel)**, age 85; born Sept. 15, 1919, in Middleton, Mich.; died July 11, 2005, in Fulton Twp., Mich. She was a member of the Carson City (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her brother, Wayne Zittel; and sisters, Mary Selig, Lena Ely, and Edna Vaughn.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder James Micheff Sr., and interment was in Fulton Center Cemetery, Fulton Twp.

**POKORNY, Helen M. (Schneider)**, age 76; born Aug. 20, 1928, in Chicago, Ill.; died July 18, 2005, in Rice Lake, Wis. She was a member of the Rice Lake Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Vassili Khrapov, and interment was in Orchard Beach Cemetery, Rice Lake.

**RENDEL, Vivian "Peggy" M. (Johnson)**, age 71; born May 17, 1933, in Sagola, Mich.; died Feb. 16, 2005, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the St. Joseph Church.

Survivors include her son, Thomas; daughter, Lynda Elie; mother, Mildred (Magray) Johnson; brother, Wayne Johnson; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder David Schmidt, and interment was in Deepdale Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Lansing, Mich.

**REVELLO, Lori (Carlson)**, age 38; born Nov. 11, 1966, in Long Beach, Calif.; died Aug. 2, 2005, in Fitchburg, Wis. She was a member of the Madison (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Steve; daughters, Jerrin and Lauren; father, Vern Carlson; and mother, Sylvia Carlson.

Funeral services were conducted in the High Point Church, and interment was in Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison.

**SMITH, Leslie A.**, age 99; born Aug. 7, 1905, in Liberty Twp., Wis.; died July 8, 2005, in Lancaster, Wis. He was a member of the Lancaster Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Scofield, and interment was in St. Paul's United Church of Christ Cemetery, Liberty Twp.

**STOIA, John E.**, age 68; born Mar. 11, 1937, in Dearborn, Mich.; died May 5, 2005, in Berrien Center, Mich. He was a member of the Dowagiac (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Bernice M. (Zdun); daughters, Marie R. Joseph, Christina A. Hollis, Lisa M. Stoia, and Mariellen Stoia; brothers, Elie Jr. and Joseph P.; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Chet Dameron, and interment was in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich.

**THOMAS, Cleveland J.**, age 82; born May 3, 1923, in Ewarton, St. Catherine, Jamaica; died May 19, 2005, in Mandeville, Jamaica. He was a member of the Ann Arbor (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Celestina (White); sons, Donovan, Cordell, and Horace; daughters, Pauline Lowe, Nadine Thomas-Speaks, and Karen Peterkin; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Neil Reid, Peter Campbell, and Kenneth Henry, and interment was in Oaklawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Hatfield, Manchester, Jamaica.

**WYMAN, Theodore A.**, age 71; born Apr. 16, 1934, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; died June 21, 2005, in Scotts, Mich. He was a member of the Portage (Mich.) Christian Fellowship Church.

Survivors include his wife, Joan D. (Geroles); sons, Ted, Tom, and Troy; brothers, Dan, Mick, Russ, and Pat; sisters, Jean Brizendine and Virginia Elliott; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Keith Phillips, and interment was in Boughton Cemetery, Scotts.

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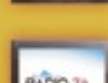
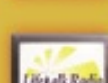
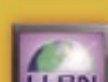
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## Miscellaneous

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# PARTNERSHIP *with* GOD

## A Marriage Partnership

BY GARY BURNS



Couples often face decisions with implications that makes praying through an otherwise no-brainer decision rather difficult. It takes a degree of faith to do what you believe God is leading you to do when it may have negative consequences to your career or personal finances.

Maryann and I have faced this issue a number of times in our thirty-two years of marriage—the most significant was the morning I called her at work and arranged to meet for lunch at a nearby restaurant. I had been struggling for some time with my work at the studio.

I felt God had something different in mind for me than commercial advertising, but hadn't a clue what that might be.

I had spent the night in turmoil—praying about my career, my wife, and our 18-month-old daughter. Morning came with no prospects. I went to the studio, told my secretary

I didn't want to be disturbed, sat down at the typewriter (this was 1984), and wrote my letter of resignation.

I sat across the table from the beautiful wife I had promised to provide and care for. I sensed she could tell this was not just a normal lunch date. After we ordered, I produced the letter for her to read and watched for some indication of her reaction.

"Well, what do you think?" I finally broke the silence as she stared at the page. "Well, you've got to do something," she confessed, sensing my dilemma. "If you believe this is what God is leading you to do, I'm ready."

It wasn't until much later that I realized the depth of her commitment to God—and to me. Taking that incredible risk transformed our partnership and moved us to a new spiritual dimension. It was one of the best decisions we ever made.

Gary Burns is the *Lake Union Herald* editor.



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 [luc.adventist.org/announcements](http://luc.adventist.org/announcements) and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change.

## Historic Adventist Village

For more information on the events, contact Stanley Cottrell, Village director, at (269) 965-3000; or visit website: [www.adventistheritage.org](http://www.adventistheritage.org).

**Oct. 1:** 150-year anniversary, speaker: Merlin Burt—Move to Battle Creek—First Publishing House; 145-year anniversary of choosing the name “Seventh-day Adventist,” organizing the publishing work, and “Time to begin the Sabbath” (sunset to sunset).

**Oct. 16, 2:00 p.m.:** Historical play—“Men of Vision.”

**Dec. 10 and 11, 4:00-7:00 p.m.:** Victorian Christmas—carols, choirs, Village lantern tours, Food Bank offering, Chet Damron as the Story Teller.

## Indiana

**Indiana Academy (IA) Homecoming Weekend:** All alumni, attendees, friends, and former faculty are invited to the IA campus for Alumni Homecoming, **Oct. 7 and 8**. Honor classes are 1955, '80, and '95. In addition, the classes of 1965, '75, and '85 will receive special recognition. The weekend begins with the *15th Annual IA Alumni Golf Classic* which will be held Fri., Oct. 7. For information regarding the golf event, contact Jimmy Arnett, tournament director, at (219) 629-1177; or e-mail: [Jimmy\\_Arnett@vfc.com](mailto:Jimmy_Arnett@vfc.com). Lamar Young is putting together the Sabbath afternoon musical program. If you would like to participate, e-mail Lamar at [lwckcy@juno.com](mailto:lwckcy@juno.com). For any other information, call Marjorie Driscoll, alumni president, at (812) 526-5856; or e-mail: [marjoried@iquest.net](mailto:marjoried@iquest.net).

**Muncie (Ind.) Church Dedication:** Former pastors, members, and friends of the Muncie Church are invited to a special church dedication Sabbath, **Oct. 15**. Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president, will be the speaker for the worship service at 11:00 a.m. Visitors are invited to stay for a fellowship dinner following church service. For further information, contact Dwight Kruger, Muncie pastor, at (765) 754-7052; or e-mail: [dkruger@indianaadventist.org](mailto:dkruger@indianaadventist.org).

mation, contact Dwight Kruger, Muncie pastor, at (765) 754-7052; or e-mail: [dkruger@indianaadventist.org](mailto:dkruger@indianaadventist.org).

**Pathfinder Leadership Weekend:** Training for all Adventurer leaders, Pathfinder leaders, Master Guides, and Teen leaders will be provided at Timber Ridge Camp, **Oct. 14-16**. Merlin Burt, from the E.G. White Estate at Andrews University, will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Dean Whitlow at (812) 829-2507; or e-mail: [dwhitlow@direcway.com](mailto:dwhitlow@direcway.com).

**Disaster Response Training:** The Indiana Conference community services department invites all community service leaders and disaster response volunteers within the Lake Union to come and enjoy a weekend full of blessings, **Nov. 4-6**, at Timber Ridge Camp, Ind. Sung Kwon, NAD executive director for community services, will speak on the subject, “Community Services and Disaster Response: Making an Impact in the 21st Century.” There is a cost for the weekend which includes all meals and lodging. For more information, call Julie Loucks at (317) 844-6201; or e-mail: [communityservices@indianaadventist.org](mailto:communityservices@indianaadventist.org).

## Lake Union

### Offerings:

- Oct. 1** Local church budget
- Oct. 8** Voice of Prophecy
- Oct. 15** Local church budget
- Oct. 22** Local conference advance
- Oct. 29** Local or union conference designated

### Special days:

- Oct. 1** Children's Sabbath
- Oct. 2-8** Health Ed. Week (*Vibrant Life*)
- Oct. 15** Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath
- Oct. 22** Pathfinder Sabbath

**Vengan al retiro “ENCUENTRO”** Invitamos a TODOS los jóvenes hispanos de nuestra Unión al retiro llamado “ENCUENTRO”, que se llevará a cabo **del 11-13 de noviembre de 2005**, en GRACE ADVENTURES, un lindo campamento en Mears, Michigan. Este evento es auspiciado por la Unión del lago. El costo para el fin de semana es \$75 por persona si se matricula antes del 14 de octubre, u \$85 si lo hace después de esa fecha. Esto incluye hospedaje, comidas y una camiseta. Haga su reservación con tiempo ya que el espacio es limitado. Para más información llame a la oficina del Pastor Mercado, al teléfono (269) 473-8249.

## North American Division

**The National Association of Seventh-day Adventist Dentists (NASDAD)** will be holding its 62nd annual meeting, **Oct. 12-15**, in Washington, D.C. NASDAD officers and members enthusiastically invite all dentists, dental hygienists, and their families interested in the world-wide dental mission outreach of NASDAD to join them for a weekend filled with spiritual, educational, and recreational activities. Reservations at the J.W. Marriott will need to be made early! For more information, please contact the NASDAD office at (909) 558-8187, or e-mail: [nasdad@llu.edu](mailto:nasdad@llu.edu).

**Oregon Conference 2005 NW Men's Conference:** Men and their sons are invited to *It's All About Him* on **Oct. 14 and 15**. This event will be held at the Gladstone Holden Conference Center, 19800 Oatfield Rd., Gladstone, Ore. Fri. registration is from 4:15-6:15 p.m.; supper runs 6:30-7:30 p.m.; and the first session, “Jesus,” presented by our main speaker Lee Venden, begins at 8:00 p.m. The weekend concludes on Sabbath at 6:30 p.m. Please pre-register at [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org); or call (800) 732-7587 before Oct. 4 to receive the discounted price. For more information, call Oregon Conference Family Ministries at (503) 654-6054.

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**Oregon Conference 2005 NW Singles Conference:** All singles are invited to *Single, But Not Alone* on **Nov. 4 and 5**. This event will be held at the Gladstone Holden Conference Center, 19800 Oatfield Road, Gladstone, Ore. Fri. registration is from 4:30-6:00 p.m.; supper runs 6:15-7:15 p.m.; and the first session with Sharon Hart Morris, our main conference speaker, begins at 7:30 p.m. The conference concludes on Sabbath at 6:15 p.m. with evening activities from 7:15-10:15 p.m. Please pre-register at [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org); or call (800) 732-7587 before Oct. 20 to receive the discounted price. For more information, call Oregon Conference Family Ministries at (503) 654-6054.

**Granger (Wash.) Church** is celebrating its 100th anniversary, **July 28-29, 2006**. Yakima Valley Academy and Granger Junior Academy reunion to be held in conjunction. For information, write: Granger Adventist Church, P.O. Box 460, Granger, WA 98932; phone: (509) 854-1132 or (509) 837-4092; e-mail: [patchild@aol.com](mailto:patchild@aol.com); or visit website: [www.grangersda.com](http://www.grangersda.com).

# Sunset Calendar

	Oct 7	Oct 14	Oct 21	Oct 28	Nov 4	Nov 11
Berrien Springs, Mich.	7:19	7:07	6:56	6:46	5:38	5:30
Chicago	6:24	6:13	6:01	5:52	4:43	4:35
Detroit	7:05	6:53	6:43	6:32	5:24	5:16
Indianapolis	6:19	6:08	5:58	5:49	5:41	5:34
La Crosse, Wis.	6:37	6:25	6:13	6:02	4:53	4:45
Lansing, Mich.	7:10	6:58	6:47	6:36	5:27	5:19
Madison, Wis.	6:30	6:18	6:07	5:56	4:47	4:40
Springfield, Ill.	6:33	6:22	6:12	6:02	4:55	4:47

# Learning to TRUST GOD

BY MALCOLM NIGGL

When I was nine years old, my dad was in Indonesia preparing for heart surgery. I prayed with him on the phone and we shared our thoughts until there was nothing more to say except, “Good-bye, I love you.” That was the last time I ever talked to my dad. He never woke up from surgery.

“Why God? I trusted You and asked You to take care of my father. How could You allow this?” The more “whys” I asked, the more I fostered resentment toward God. Was I not good enough to receive His favor? Did He really care about me and my dad? I didn’t know where to place the questions or hurts that rapidly turned into anger.

Another significant time in my life occurred when my mom became sick and nothing seemed to fix her problem. She got weaker and more out of breath. Finally, we discovered she had tuberculosis. I was so angry at the doctor’s misdiagnosis of the one person on Earth I cared so deeply for and who cared for me.

Mom ended up in the hospital for weeks, and was off work for more than a year. Statements like “I’ll pray for your mom” seemed like nothing more than, “Good luck.” Did anyone *really* care about my mom and me? I held the anger inside.

At times I felt I could blow up at even the smallest things. I hurt myself and others by deliberately choosing degrading movies and music, cutting others down, and disregarding school rules. I felt my friends didn’t really care about me.

My downward spiral got dangerously low; I contemplated suicide. I wanted to end my hurt and the uncontrolled outbreaks of anger crushing my life. I ached for someone to understand and care enough to show me how to free myself from my hurt and anger instead of judging me. “God, please help me,” I cried.

Almost imperceptibly, God began to change me through situations and people. Faculty members at Indiana Acad-



emy (IA) realized my anger and came to me as friends instead of disciplinarians. Through these conversations I realized I was at IA not for what I could get out of it, but for what God wanted—to use me there.

I traveled to Brazil on a mission trip and witnessed contentment among the people, despite their having so little of this world’s “goods.” I wanted to give myself for others and experience the true happiness I saw there.

Returning home, I began to share my experiences as a chapel speaker. When I opened up and shared what happened to my dad, although it was very hard, I experienced encouragement and support from my friends. Now I speak at chapels frequently and try to encourage others to avoid my mistakes and to come to God now—not waiting until something goes wrong.

I’m a social person and enjoy being involved. If I were at public school I would still be outgoing, but I know my involvement would be in things that do not bring peace and true happiness. At IA, I have the privilege of being involved in activities that are in my best interest. IA has been a true encouragement in a positive direction.

Malcolm Niggel is a junior at Indiana Academy. He is a member of the Bloomington (Indiana) Church.



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**Joanne Cross**, age 17, is a member of the Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church and a senior at Broadview Academy. The daughter of Gevin and Shona Cross, Joanne was born in Edenvale, South Africa. In the United States just six years, Joanne wants to become a registered nurse. She also wants to continue studies in music, with an emphasis in instrumental music.



Joanne Cross

Joanne finished her junior year with a 3.73 GPA and was winner of the Carl Jorgensen Memorial Scholarship. She has served her school as yearbook editor, student association secretary, and vice president of the junior class. She would like to win her bid this year to become senior class president.

"Dependable, completely dependable," Joanne's teachers say about her. Willing to take on just about anything, Joanne is not only dependable, she is optimistic and has a terrific attitude. Leadership and prayer conferences are important to Joanne, especially when she can represent her school, Broadview Academy, like she did at the Pathfinder camporee in Oshkosh, Wis., and most recently at the General Conference Session in St. Louis, Mo.

From running the sound booth to working on the grounds with tractors, Joanne enjoys everything she finds to do. "Things happen," she says, "it's how you respond to them that makes a difference."



Alex Grozdic

**Alex Grozdic**, age 15, is a member of the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church. He attends Morton West High School in Berwyn, Ill. The son of Dean and Heidi Grozdic, Alex is serious about his studies and his relationship with God and His church.

An energetic young man, Alex finished his sophomore year not only as vice president of his class of 900 students, but with a 4.6 GPA in all honors classes. His favorite class is math. "Numbers are interesting, and it is challenging to figure out problems," he remarked.

Not only is he involved in scholastic activities, the student council, and class cabinet, Alex also finds time for sports and church activities. "Being involved in church keeps me closer to God," explains Alex when he talks about all the things he does with his church. A few of those things include being actively involved in *Praise Sing*; participating as teen staff for the *Hinsdale Trailblazers* Pathfinder club; serving food at the local soup kitchen; and many other things. His most memorable experience came in Oshkosh, Wis., where he gave prayer before 30,000 people at the Pathfinder camporee.

"The most important thing I've learned," states Alex, "is to, no matter what, stick up for what you believe; just don't follow the crowd."

These students were selected and profiled by faculty members at their school. To recommend outstanding students for recognition, speak with your pastor or a faculty member. Visit [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org) for selection criteria.

Address Correction

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