

Lake Union HERALD

MARCH 2006

VICTORY
IN JESUS



M. J. Frasier

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



Commissioned by the Herald, Army of Heaven is Nathan Greene's first watercolor illustration of the Apocalypse and is based on Revelation 19, © 2006. All Rights Reserved. For more information on the art of Nathan Greene, visit www.HartClassics.com; or call (800) 487-4278.



See the Quinquennial Session Special Report 2006 in this issue.

in every issue...

- 3** Editorial *by Walter L. Wright, Lake Union president*
- 4** New Members *Get to know some new members of the Lake Union family.*
- 6** Youth in Action
- 7** Beyond our Borders
- 8** Family Ties *by Susan E. Murray*
- 9** Healthy Choices *by Winston J. Craig*
- 10** Extreme Grace *by Dick Duerksen*
- 11** Adventism IOI *by Gary Burns*
- 12** Sharing our Hope
- 13** ConeXiones *en español by Carmelo Mercado*
- 14** Adventist Midwest Health News
- 15** Andrews University News
- 17** News
- 21** Mileposts
- 22** Classifieds
- 28** Partnership with God
- 29** Announcements
- 30** One Voice
- 31** Profiles of Youth

in this issue...

In light of current events, we thought it good to remind ourselves that we have "Victory in Jesus." This newest illustration by Nathan Greene is based on Revelation 19 and gives a sense of hope and courage. You may also notice that this issue has a second cover following page 16. "Share the Light" is the theme for the Lake Union Conference session report that is included as a special insert for our readers to review. This is the same report that is given to the delegates at the session to be held in Berrien Springs on April 2, 2006. We included the report because you are invited to be part of the discussion and process. "Share the Light" that we have "Victory in Jesus!"


Gary Burns, editor



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT, LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

A Quick Look BACK

It is session time again. The only way to approach a constituency meeting is to come assuming nothing. I was granted the privilege to lead this union on July 10, 2003, and the time since then has been spent restoring my physical health and restoring the spiritual and financial health of one of our local conferences, while maintaining the economic and spiritual well-being of the Lake Union Conference. It is a relief to know the Lord brought victory in each case.

My personal health is nothing short of a miracle from God. The Lake Region Conference, under its new leadership, is moving steadily toward full recovery, and the Lake Union Conference is meeting the goals and objectives set for it. Praise God for His mighty, keeping power!

That being the case, I would like to devote this column to thanksgiving for all who allowed God to use them over the past two and a half years. First, I wish to thank my two predecessors, Don Schneider and Gordon Retzer. Thanks to Don for calling me to the Lake Union Conference in the first place, and thanks to Gordon for the sharing and tutoring that have forged a wonderful, lasting friendship.

I am grateful for the administrative officers and the association we have enjoyed together. Carmelo, Glynn, Rodney, and their associates have done yeomen duties. They have often worked in difficult circumstances, yet they never flagged nor wavered. It has been a true joy to work with them. They have been loyal to this church, always espousing the principles she has set forth while living out the same.

Our departmental directors and support staff have done outstanding work, often in the absence of the administrative officers when we were preoccupied with other grave concerns. They are a valuable, classy group of people, and I thank each one for keeping focused, and for the many innovations implemented.

The Lake Union Conference Executive Committee and the Association met each challenge and opportunity to advance this territory with prayer and earnestly sought the will of God. They made our union a strong, tight ship able to aid and support local conferences in fulfilling their missions.

Without the support and dedication of our local conference presidents, not much could have been accomplished. And so my heartfelt thanks go out to Don, Gary, Jay, and Ken. These Christian gentlemen now welcome Jerome Davis into their fellowship as the new president of the Lake Region Conference. Each is to be commended for having the work of spreading the gospel as the top priority of their administrations.

And a special thank you to each constituent member for your faithfulness, generosity, and warm fellowship. You have given of your means and your personal time to share the good news about Jesus, both in our territory and in foreign fields. Jackie and I have thoroughly enjoyed serving in your churches while preaching and delivering seminars. You have been gracious and accepting, and delivered some very sumptuous potluck dinners.

May God's grace and inspiration abound as we seek for leadership to direct the great Lake Union Conference for the next five years. Maranatha.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Indiana **Monica Smith** had a neighbor who believed in the seventh-day Sabbath. After discussing the subject together, Monica was interested in attending services at the Huntingburg Seventh-day Adventist Church. One Sabbath afternoon, Monica's six-year-old daughter suggested, "Mother, let's go to the Adventist church." It was a miracle that the Huntingburg Church was meeting Sabbath afternoons at that time.



From left (back): Justin Childers, pastor; Monica Smith; Brian Wilson, church elder; (front) Katlyn, Monica's daughter

Mother and daughter were welcomed at the church. Following the services, Justin Childers, pastor, and his wife Sonia, made arrangements to visit with them at their home. The visit initiated a series of Bible studies that continued with the Childers and Brian Wilson, a church elder.

Within a short time, Monica asked how she could become a member and join the church. With that encouragement, they covered the rest of the material in the lessons and made arrangements for her special day.

"It was amazing," said the pastor, "that she never had any objections to any of the Bible's doctrines, or took an issue about what would happen when she obeyed [God]. I have never experienced studying with an individual who was so open and willing to accept whatever the Bible taught as a present truth." Monica was baptized on Sabbath, October 29, 2005.

Justin Childers, Huntingburg Church pastor, with Bruce Babienco, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent



Carson and Susan Brown became interested in the Adventist church after watching 3ABN on television.

Michigan In 2000, our family situation made it necessary for us to move into my in-laws' home. They had been Adventists for a few years and I (**Susan Brown**) soon learned that my mother-in-law's daily practice was to either study her Bible or watch the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) on television. Since I moved into their home, I was curious about why Adventists have a unique lifestyle. I wondered why they do what they do, and live as they live.

Since both my mother-in-law and I are "stay at home" people, we had lots of time to discuss Adventist's beliefs and watch 3ABN during the day. I enjoyed the seminars on 3ABN and became very interested in what Seventh-day Adventists believe.

I began attending the Adventist church and after a few months asked the pastor if I could be baptized. He studied with my husband (**Carson Brown**) and me, leading us to Christ and preparing us for baptism through an understanding of the Bible's teachings for Christians.

It is true 3ABN taught me how important daily Bible study is, and how faith in God is the only answer. I am thankful I am now an active member of the Three Angels Fellowship, an Adventist church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I praise God for the mission of 3ABN to help me and my husband grow spiritually, plus assisting to evangelize the world.

Susan Brown with Bruce Babienco, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

Michigan Some people begin attending an Adventist church simply because a family member invited them. **Jacqueline “Jackie” Stevens** was first introduced to the Adventist church in April 2003 when her son, Azibo, invited her to attend worship services at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Azibo became an Adventist through CAMPUS (Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students), an outreach at the university. Azibo wanted his mother to learn the Bible truths he had been taught. Jackie attended with her son, quickly became friends with several people, and visited more than a few Adventist churches in southeastern Michigan.

In June 2003, Jackie met Marie Victor through a friend at CAMPUS. Marie attends the Metropolitan Church (Metropolitan) in Northville Township, Michigan, and asked Jackie to come for a visit. Jackie accepted the invitation and really enjoyed the services and Bob Stewart, pastor, so she began attending the Metropolitan Church regularly.

In Spring 2004, Sandi Stewart, Metropolitan’s Bible worker, learned Jackie was not yet a member. When Sandi asked Jackie if she would like to have Bible studies, Jackie quickly accepted her invitation and was soon studying with Sandi. Within a few weeks after beginning the lessons with Jackie, Norman Cross, a church deacon, informed Sandi he would like to share in the excitement of bringing someone to the truth through Bible studies. Sandi asked Jackie if she would like to continue her studies with Norman, and Jackie gladly accepted. They set up an appointment each Sunday morning, at 11:00 a.m., to discuss the lessons over the phone.

Though Jackie was raised in a Christian home, she had not attended church with any regularity for many years. She had known Adventists over the years, but thought it peculiar they attended church on Saturday. As she studied week by week with Norman, for several months, and saw how the Bible interpreted itself, she was convinced of the Sabbath and other Bible truths cherished by Seventh-day Adventists.

Learning truth from the Scripture was not the only thing that drew Jackie into the Adventist church; she “just loves” the Metropolitan fellowship. Jackie says, “It is so good to be acknowledged every time I come to church. People hug me and show genuine interest in me.”

Jackie finished her studies with Norman in June 2005 and soon after moved to the far east side of Detroit. Though there are Adventist churches much closer to where she lives, Jackie developed a special bond with the Metropolitan family. Jackie wanted to continue attending there;



Bob Stewart (front right) baptized Jackie Stevens (left), assisted by Norman Cross, a deacon who studied the Bible with Jackie by phone.

however, Jackie does not drive. The Metropolitan deacons stepped right in and now several deacons take turns picking up Jackie and bringing her to church every week.

On November 12, 2005, Jackie became an official member of the Adventist church following her public commitment to her Lord Jesus through baptism, before Azibo, her CAMPUS friends, and her new Metropolitan family. Tears of joy ran down her cheeks. She is immensely grateful to Jesus and His life-giving sacrifice, and to the Metropolitan members for making her feel so much at home.

Joy Hyde is the communication secretary at the Metropolitan Church.

Share the Good News!

Do you know of someone who recently made a decision for Christ? We're always on the lookout for inspiring stories of how people have come into the church. Contact the *Lake Union Herald* staff by sending an email to herald@luc.adventist.org.

“I Think Jesus Is Coming!”

YOU ARE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO WITNESS

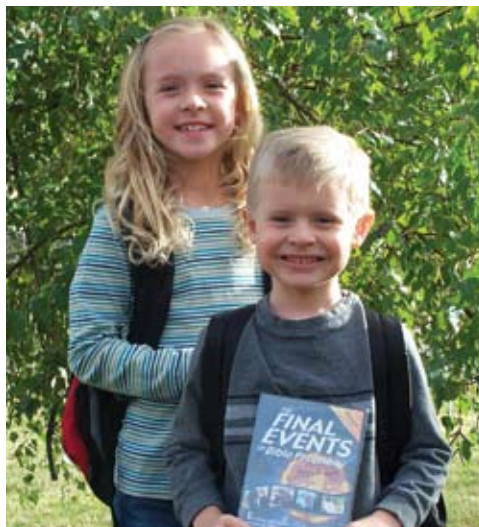
BY CRAIG HARRIS

Five-year-old Conner Nelson surprised his parents one day by telling them, “We should tell others Jesus is coming soon.” When asked how he wanted to do this, he replied, “I think I’ll just go to their door and say, ‘My name is Conner. You don’t know me, but I think Jesus is coming soon. Would you like a DVD that talks about it?’”

When Conner mentioned this to me, his pastor, I was very excited and we immediately worked out details to accomplish this task. Conner announced his plan to the church family during a worship service. In early September, we had a practice session, and then put our practice to work on a street right next to our church. Conner was the lead canvasser and I filled in any gaps. We found five people at home; two accepted a *Final Events* DVD. Conner and his family began praying for these two people (Cliff and Gail) each day.

Conner and I visited Cliff and Gail a few weeks later to see if they watched the DVD. Gail said she needed a new one because it didn’t work in her machine. So we gave her another one. Cliff was unable to watch the DVD due to health reasons.

Conner’s enthusiasm was contagious. Soon, his seven-year-old sister, Sheree, and their mother, Brenda, joined his special project. Together, we finished the street we started canvassing earlier. We knocked on thirty-seven doors. Even though many were not



Sheree and Conner Nelson were not afraid to hand out Final Events DVDs. Could you have turned them down?



Conner Nelson (center), from Cadillac, wanted to tell his neighbors Jesus is coming. With the help of his pastor, Craig Harris (left), he did just that.

home, we were able to pass out seven DVDs.

We always told those who accepted the DVDs that we would be back in about three weeks to see how they liked it. One person promised to watch the DVD and showed it to her college friends that weekend!

Conner and Sheree, along with the creativity of the personal ministries leader, George Corliss, have inspired many in the Cadillac congregation to share the DVDs with their neighbors and friends. To date, over 800 *Final Events* DVDs have been distributed in the greater Cadillac area. Now Cadillac members are starting to follow up on their “leaves of autumn” left at homes.

May we all have the faith and courage of Conner Nelson who said, “You don’t know me, but I think Jesus is coming soon.”

I was blessed by the witness of this young man and his care and concern for others to get ready to meet Jesus face to face someday, soon.

Craig Harris is the pastor for the Cadillac and Cadillac West churches.



New Friends Say Tearful Good-Byes in Cuba

BY DAWN HEEG

In 2005, ten Owosso (Michigan) Church members joined 150 others from the United States and Canada in Cancun, Mexico, to begin their 13-day mission trip to Cuba. The plane to Havana used the entire runway to take off. It was very heavy; we all brought extra things to give the Cubans.



We arrived in Havana tired, but also very happy. The next day we toured Havana and visited the Adventist Seminary. We spent several hours visiting with students. My husband Dave and I gave a student our Spanish/English Bible. He said it was the best gift anyone had ever given him. The next day we traveled nearly 17 hours across the island by bus.

On Sabbath we attended a worship service. The people were so friendly and kind. When they introduced us, they sang a welcome song while the children distributed gifts made from cow horns and shells. I almost started to cry. They sang with all their hearts. Though the Cubans have little, they do have an abundance of Christ's love to share with all.

We gave crayons, felts, and Bibles to the home churches we visited. One home church wants to build a new church for only \$6,000. Not fancy, but it will provide a nice building to meet in. Please keep these people in your prayers.

Many people who came to the evening meetings rode in "The Bus," a glorified cattle truck. They were happy to be there, even if they did not have a nice car or even a bicycle. With limited incomes, most Cubans do without many things we take for granted—shorts, extra shoes, children's toys, pictures for their walls, toilet paper, washers and dryers, stoves with ovens, gas for the stoves, and telephones. Many of us are blessed with things. Let's not forget to pass on these blessings with the family of God in other parts of the world.

One pastor's wife used a single kerosene burner to cook for her family. The pastor's family borrowed a stove top and tank for propane from a church member who did not have enough money (five U.S. dollars) to fill the tank so

they could cook the meals for us. When we discovered this, we pooled our money and purchased a stove with an oven and gave them enough money to purchase a tank and propane.

We spent the last day playing Cuban beach ball, swimming, talking, and exchanging addresses, e-mail addresses, and a few phone numbers with nearly 100 church members. We felt God's love from these people and made many new friends. We sang

"Shall We Gather at the River" and promised to pray for each other. Many tears flowed as good-byes were said to our new friends, not knowing when we could see them again.

We wish to thank everyone who helped with finances and prayers to enable us to serve God in Cuba. There is such great need in Cuba, but there is also great need in our own country. People everywhere need the Lord.



Many people traveled to the meetings in "The Bus," a glorified cattle truck.



The Owosso mission team met many new friends in Cuba.

Dawn Heeg is a member of the Owosso (Michigan) Church.



FAMILY TIES

Why Lying Can Make Sense PART I

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Children about the ages of six to eight lie when they are anxious to exert their independence and still need the approving love and security of their parents and others. Sometimes they think they can behave as they choose, as long as they cover their tracks ... by lying.

Lying becomes prevalent again with the onset of puberty. Teens are often insecure about their identity and think they aren't living up to the expectations of adults. They are also sorting through their bewildering emotions, new feelings, and changing bodies. Adults' responses often drive their children away from them and into the arms of their peers.

A friend of mine told me about an interesting experience. He was in a store when a mother rushed up to her daughter and demanded, "How many times do I have to tell you not to touch the toys?"

The child answered, "Eleven!"

The mother lost it right there, and yelled, "What do you mean eleven?"

"I don't know," said the child.

Sometimes "I don't know" is the only safe answer. This child already knew her mother wasn't interested in a thoughtful response. What her mother *really* wanted was to make her feel dumb, inadequate, and childish in order to control her behavior.

At the checkout stand, my friend saw another encounter when a boy about thirteen heard this from his father. "Why are you angry?"

Stephen said he really wanted to give this father an honest answer on behalf of the boy. He wanted to say, "Because a passing frontal system has upset the pressure gradient in ways that are producing subtle changes in your son's limbic system. That, together with the overabundance of highly processed starch, sugar, fats, and carbohydrates that

he was saturated with at lunch and the frustration of trying to contain all those ambient calories without moving, wiggling, or fidgeting through three hours of classes, created a lot of pent-up energy and frustration that he carried onto the school bus. There he was told to, 'Sit down. Shut up. Close the window. Pipe down. I'm going to tell your parents. You are going to get a suspension for this.' Your son then stepped off the bus with all that going on and added a dose of caffeine and sugar from a Pepsi plus theobromine from a brownie, which went roaring up through the inherited instability of his hypothalamus from three generations of alcoholics in his pedigree—not to mention the normal instability due to puberty. All of this turbulence then bounced off a massive dose of testosterone flowing through him, which greatly magnified the frustration of trying to meet and anticipate adult expectations all day. In short, it was more than he could handle."

The boy himself said simply, "Because!"

The father said, "What do you mean, because?"

And the boy gave back, "I don't know"—the only safe answer.

In the next column we'll explore some other ways these parents could have handled these situations.



Susan Murray is an associate professor of family studies who teaches behavioral science and social work at Andrews University. She is a certified family life educator and licensed marriage and family therapist.

Laughter is a form
of internal jogging.

LAUGHTER

May Lengthen Your Life

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

A hearty laugh may be good for your health and protect you against heart disease. A good burst of laughter can increase heart rate, improve blood circulation, increase respiration and better oxygenate your system, and reduce the level of stress hormones. Laughter is a form of internal jogging, providing benefits to the heart similar to that obtained from an exercise routine.

But there are also psychological benefits of laughter. A good laugh can help a person improve their outlook on life, and may even lift a person out of depression. Laughter is a useful factor for combating the negative effects of stress and illness, and enables a person to relax. Humor helps to minimize one's worries and fears, and enables an individual to confront problems with greater creativity and flexibility, and relieves a tense situation.

Humor is the spice of life. It adds life and color to a conversation, and helps a person connect with the listener and keep the listener engaged. Since it can be contagious, laughter has a way of creating a bond between people in a room.

Health professionals know the value of laughter to reduce pain, foster recovery, and brighten the outlook on life. Hospital patients who received humor therapy by watching comedies, *Candid Camera* reruns, and reading jokes are more relaxed and responsive, sleep better, and make fewer demands on the hospital staff. Lee Birk found that people who regularly watch comedy videos have a marked decrease in cortisol (the stress hormone), lower blood pressure levels, fewer heart attacks over time, and a significant increase in the activity of disease-fighting immune cells.

Humor therapy can improve the quality of life for patients with chronic problems. Norman Cousins claimed

ten minutes of solid belly laughter relieved his inflammatory condition and gave him two hours of pain-free sleep. Kathleen Dillon found those who used humor as a way to cope with difficult life situations had the highest immunoglobulin A (IgA) levels. She concluded that a consistently cheerful attitude bolstered the body's disease-fighting forces. There is also real health-promoting value in remembering pleasant and humorous events from the past.

After interviewing more than 50 centenarians recently, Dan Buettner reported there was not a grump among the whole bunch. Those who lived a very long life were happy people with a good sense of humor. Christians should be joyful (Ps. 68:3), and recognize there are appropriate times for laughter (Eccl. 3:4). Laughter is just one way to experience cheerfulness. Solomon, years ago, wrote that cheerfulness can do a lot of good like a medicine (Prov. 17:22).

Winston Craig is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.

Laughter helps reduce pain
and promotes recovery
from illness.





THE PRAYER

BY DICK DUERKSEN



“Do you pray before your meals?”

“Yes.”

“Always?”

“Yes.”

There was a pause as Dr. Yuen thought how to phrase his next words.

“Do you sometimes pray out loud?”

“Yes.”

“Could you pray out loud now?”

“Certainly.”

Dr. Yuen looked across the table at our other eating companion, Dr. Leu, as if securing affirmation of a pre-planned commitment. Both smiled, and then Dr. Leu touched the back of my hand.

“Make it a long prayer,” he said with a wink.

Both physicians closed their eyes and waited for me to begin.

We were in a private dining room deep in Beijing’s Military Medical University. My companions were leaders and administrators at the university, friends I had come to respect as we worked together to provide English language classes for the interns and residents in the university hospital. Though both had asked questions about my Christian faith away from their workplace, this was the first time they raised religion at the university.

Servers waited to meet our needs and armed guards stood at a discreet distance from our table. All appeared busy as I bowed my head.

“Lord, this may be my only chance to share the Gospel with my friends.” I prayed silently. “Help me pray the right words.”

I have no idea how long I prayed, but I tried to carefully cover the essentials.

- ▶ God loves you and has a plan for your life.
- ▶ His greatest desire is for you to join Him in living the best life possible.
- ▶ Since you cannot do that without Him, He sent Jesus to show you the way.
- ▶ When you accept Him as leader in your life, He gives everything necessary for you to live life as He lives it!
- ▶ The greatest joy is living as one who is loved by God.

I said “Amen,” and looked into the beaming eyes of two very satisfied listeners.

Maybe every prayer is evangelism.

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



United to SERVE

BY GARY BURNS

Every five years, Lake Union Conference constituents have an opportunity to review how the Lord has led the church in our territory. Delegates are chosen from among lay members, pastors, educators, and administrators to assess the work of the church, to evaluate how faithfully and efficiently the church carried out its mission, to give direction for how the work will be conducted in the future, and to choose leadership to oversee the work for the next five years.

The Lake Union is one of nine unions in the North American Division of the World Church. The union's purpose is to serve the local church and conference by providing resources, training, and guidance to help advance the work throughout our territory. In addition, the union helps coordinate the work so we can accomplish more through our cooperative effort. This is especially evident in the work of evangelism and education.

The union helps build a sense of unity in mission and purpose by providing a setting where our diverse and varied needs, concerns, hopes, and dreams can be shared. Even in apostolic times, much effort was expended uniting the various churches throughout the different regions in a shared mission. Before Paul's travels, representatives met in Jerusalem to consider the needs of various churches and groups. Through their cooperative effort, the entire Body of Christ functioned as a family; each part took an interest in the other and provided assistance, support, and direction where needed. Later, during Paul's travels and through his many letters, more information was shared and the people responded. It is in that apostolic spirit of love and cooperation the Seventh-day Adventist Church organized its work.

The union makes possible evangelism initiatives beyond the scope or resources of a local church or conference. In addition, the network of elementary and secondary schools

are strengthened through union certification and guidance. The union also makes possible preparation of our young people for a lifetime of service through a college degree program. In our case, it is provided by a cooperative effort between the Lake Union and the General Conference through Andrews University.

Probably one of the most significant contributions made by the union of local churches and conferences is the opportunity for fellowship. The union office is where our territory's leadership gathers to pray, to encourage and build one another up, and to create a sense of teamwork. In addition, thousands of members from our territory's farthest corners have gathered for evangelism and ministry training. Those who took advantage of these opportunities were blessed, encouraged, and inspired to new heights. These gatherings were unprecedented celebrations of our diversity, and many grew in their understanding of how God uses so many different methods, styles, and people to accomplish His purpose.

We pray the Lake Union will facilitate the fulfillment of Jesus' desire when He prayed, "Father, may they all be one so that the world will believe that you have sent me" (see John 17:21).

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director and *Lake Union Herald* editor.



SHARING *our* HOPE

WITNESSING on the Trail

BY MEL WADE

My son, Keith, and I went on an adventure this last summer. At the end of General Conference Session, we loaded up our bicycles with camping gear and peddled off, following the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. During our three-week trip, we traveled 1,020 miles and made it as far as Chamberlain, South Dakota.

One of the biggest challenges of the trip was heat. We rode early in the day as much as possible, and drank a lot of water. On our second Friday riding, we planned to stop at Stone State Park just outside Sioux City, Iowa. The next day was to be a true “day of rest” to give our bodies a break and to enjoy the Sabbath. After a stop in Sioux City for supplies and some bike adjustments at a bike shop in town, we made it to our campsite late in the afternoon. The day turned out to be one of the hottest we experienced so far and we were glad to get off our bikes and set up camp in the shade. We talked with the rangers, set up our camp, and headed for the showers to cool off. By 8:00 p.m.,

we were sitting in the shade—and still sweating. We just couldn’t seem to cool down. Listening to our weather radio, we

learned the temperature was still in the 90s, the heat index was 117, and it wasn’t going to drop until around 2:00 a.m.

The next day, Sabbath, was going to be even hotter. I began to get concerned, not just for our comfort, but for our safety in the heat.

Just as we were deciding to pack everything up and head for the nearest motel, the rangers drove up to see how we were doing. I explained our situation and plans. One



Keith (left) and Mel Wade rode their bikes on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail last summer. They were able to share their faith with a camp ranger. This picture was taken at Chamberlain, South Dakota, at the end of their trip.



Keith Wade celebrated the end of their bike trip in Chamberlain, South Dakota.

of them said, “I live just a quarter mile from here. I’m a bachelor and I’d love to have you stay with me.” He apologized that his guest room was not air conditioned, but offered us his couch in the living room. We had planned on camping, so even the floor in an air conditioned room was good for us.

Keith and I gratefully accepted the ranger’s hospitality as he opened his home to us. Over the weekend, we spent several hours talking and sharing. We talked about our lives, our beliefs, and about how God was guiding our lives. On Sabbath, we were able to get a ride to church where we met some friends who were there for a family reunion. They shared with us how some members of their family had decided to come to the reunion at the last minute and tried to get a motel room the night before but found all

the motels in town were full; they ended up spending the night with friends.

We were again amazed at God’s providence. He provided a way out of a dangerous situation and also provided the opportunity to be witnesses to someone we would never have met otherwise. What could have been a low point turned out to be the highlight of our trip.

Mel Wade is the information technology director for the Michigan Conference.





La función de la Unión

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Quiero confesarles algo. En este año de 2006 cumpla 30 años de trabajar para la iglesia adventista como pastor. Los primeros 15 años trabajé exclusivamente para mis iglesias asignadas, haciendo lo que todo pastor acostumbra hacer. En ese período llegué a conocer la función administrativa de la iglesia solamente a nivel de nuestra asociación local. Yo sabía que había otros niveles administrativos como la Unión del Lago y la División Norteamericana pero no tenía ningún contacto directo con ellos. Así que les confieso que en esos primeros años mi actitud hacia esos niveles era más bien negativa. La pregunta que hacía con más frecuencia cuando hablaba con colegas ministeriales era: “¿Para qué sirven las uniones?”

Mi relación con los otros niveles cambió cuando llegué a ser coordinador hispano para mi Asociación y luego cuando me eligieron para ser miembro del comité ejecutivo de la Unión. Al ver personalmente la obra de la Unión veo más claramente la razón por la cual la hermana White dijo lo siguiente: “La división de la asociación general a uniones fue un arreglo dirigido por Dios” (*The Publishing Ministry*, page 145).



Letrero de la Unión del Lago

La unión tiene capacidad para prestar fondos para la construcción de templos y escuelas. Nuestro departamento hispano tiene acceso a fondos especialmente designados para apoyar a las iglesias hispanas en la construcción o la compra de templos. Además, nuestro departamento ofrece becas para estudiantes universitarios

hispanos que pasan por momentos de aprietos financieros.

3. Ofrece apoyo a pastores y laicos para evangelismo

Sé que hay hermanos que se han hecho la misma pregunta: “¿Para qué sirven las uniones?”. Permítanme mencionarles algunos beneficios de la función de la unión:

1. Ofrece apoyo a las asociaciones en asuntos administrativos

Cada asociación tiene sus desafíos distintos y muchas veces estos desafíos requieren la intervención de los otros niveles. En el caso de la crisis por la que atravesó la Asociación Regional del Lago, el comité de la Asociación pidió ayuda a la Unión y la Unión prestó la ayuda que necesitaba en su momento de dificultad.

2. Ofrece apoyo a las iglesias, escuelas y a los estudiantes

En cierta ocasión la iglesia que yo pastoreaba necesitaba fondos para un proyecto especial para nuestra escuela y la Unión pudo darnos los fondos que necesitábamos.

La misión de la iglesia es la de hacer discípulos, y la Unión del Lago tiene como objetivo prioritario el de apoyar a las iglesias para que puedan cumplir con este mandato. Gracias a programas de entrenamiento como “Comparte la Luz” y “Esperanza para Nuestra Tierra” cientos de laicos y pastores de las cinco asociaciones de esta Unión han podido recibir apoyo para mejorar la eficacia de evangelismo en las iglesias.

En I Corintios 12, el apóstol Pablo compara la iglesia con un cuerpo que tiene diferentes miembros, y dirige al lector a la conclusión que todos tenemos una función importante para cumplir. Mi oración es que cada miembro en cada nivel de la iglesia sea fiel en cumplir su misión para que podamos juntos apresurar la venida del Señor.

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



Centennial Book Tells Volume of Whole-Person Care

Traditions, history, and reflections of 100 years of healthcare service at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital have been packaged in a hardbound centennial book, *Century: Hinsdale Hospital 1904-2004*, thanks to the dedication of Kathryn Sieberman. Ronda Klocko, managing editor, and Ginny Richardson, a freelance writer, assisted her.

For Sieberman, who worked at the hospital for 48 years of its history, this was a labor of love. She served in many roles during those years—a customer service representative, a vice president, and a liaison with the Hinsdale Family Practice Residency—and came out of retirement to work on this project. According to Klocko, Sieberman was a wonderful resource to bring this 266-page coffee table book to fruition.

Sieberman noted she is richer for the acts of faith made by David and Mary Paulson, co-founders and physicians. “I got more out of preparing this book than I put into it,” she said. “I saw a real picture of the pioneers of healthful living and what went into how they provided care. David Paulson would say, ‘I don’t have the money but the Bank of Heaven is full.’”

Her research led to details she says, “I never knew” as she poured through copies of *Life Boat* magazine from the early 20th century to glean information on the Paulsons. “It was a very enriching experience to learn their personal history, their ministry together, and how they dealt with social, physical, and mental problems,” said Sieberman. “This work reinforced my beliefs. It showed me what I believe [is] the same as they believed, and it was good then and it is good now. Just how we do things are different.”

Klocko said working on this book illustrated for her the wonderful history behind Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.



Ronda Klocko (left) and Kathryn Sieberman select photos for the 100-year history of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.

“We always had a strong community education program. We’ve been committed to whole-person care for over a century. We were the first hospital in DuPage County, the first Chicago-area hospital to promote a ‘stop-smoking campaign’ in the 1960s, the first hospital to offer heart screenings to the community in the 1970s, and so many other firsts. I was impressed by the longevity of service of so many people and the significance of the Kettering family influence during the polio epidemic that led to community funding for high tech equipment.”

This commemorative book was made possible through interviews with former staff and physicians, files from the Hinsdale Historical Society, employee newsletters, the *Hinsdale Doings* newspaper, and Andrews University.

The style of the book features a running timeline through the pages, lots of photographs, and reader-friendly copy that is personalized with quotes from administrators, cooks, staff, and physicians. It covers the polio epidemic of 1949, the nursing school, growth of services, and advances in technology. *Century* notes the spiritual side of illness through a chapter on the pastoral care department.

“Our strong Adventist foundation was the basis that enabled Adventist Hinsdale Hospital to become the

state-of-the-art, technically-advanced facility offering whole-person care that exists today,” said Klocko. “This book showcases that history.”

Lynn Larson, Adventist Midwest Health public relations specialist

***Century: Hinsdale Hospital 1904-2004* is dedicated to a beautiful woman whose strength, dignity, and compassion are seen in her every deed and gesture. Her influence on Adventist Hinsdale Hospital is impossible to measure because it is so profound and enduring. She walks the halls with a sense of purpose, authority, and dedication to an institution she loves deeply. The number of people she has influenced is incalculable, and the list of those who cherish her goes on and on ... just like her work toward the greater good. That woman is Kathryn Sieberman.**

Tribute by Akram Y. Razzouk, M.D., medical director of psychiatric services at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital and a member of the executive board

Andrews Offers Increased Financial Aid Beginning Fall 2006

Andrews University has invested millions of dollars during the past four years, through the Andrews Partnership Scholarship (APS) program, to help undergraduate students achieve their dream of receiving a quality education at a Christian university. Beginning in Fall 2006, Andrews is helping to make those dreams even more affordable. With the new and improved APS, new students will now have the opportunity to receive up to \$32,000 (\$8,000 a year) in scholarship money, an increase of \$1,000–\$2,000 a year.

Previously, incoming freshmen have received between a total of \$4,000 and \$24,000 (\$1,000–\$6,000 a year) in scholarships, based on a combination of their GPA and ACT or SAT scores. Now freshmen can expect to receive between \$8,000 and \$32,000 (\$2,000–\$8,000 a year). Transfer students, who previously could expect to receive between \$1,500 and \$4,000 annually, based on their transfer GPA, can look forward to receiving between \$2,500 and \$6,000 annually.

For example, under the expanded APS program, a freshman with a 3.0 GPA and an 18 composite ACT score receives \$16,000 (\$4,000 a year); and a freshman with a 3.75 GPA and 28 composite ACT score receives \$32,000 (\$8,000) a year. A transfer student with a transfer GPA between 2.5 and 2.99 receives \$2,500 a year; between 3.0 and 3.49 will get them \$4,000 a year; a GPA over 3.5 guarantees them \$6,000 a year.

“The Andrews Partnership Scholarship is an exciting and significant investment in our students as they make an investment in a Christian university education that will help them fulfill God’s calling for their lives as they

fulfill their career and life goals,” said Stephen Payne, enrollment management vice president. “As the program expands next school year, it can bring significantly more money to nearly every single one of our new undergraduate students.”

Students can log on to connect. andrews.edu/invest/aps and plug in their test scores and GPA into the APS calculator to find out exactly how much they can expect to receive.

Beverly Stout, University Relations news writer



The Andrews website received a silver Pride of CASE award at the Dec. 11–13, 2005, CASE District V conference in Chicago, Ill. From left: Lindsey H. Loftus, 2005 CASE V Conference chair; Martin Lee, Andrews Web coordinator; Rebecca May, University Relations director; and David Faehner, Andrews vice president for advancement

Andrews Website Wins Awards

Since its launch in mid-Apr. 2005, the new Andrews University website has received a lot of attention, from more than just future students checking out the campus, or faculty and staff looking to download an expense report. The site’s crisp design and user-friendly layout won two awards this fall and took its designer, Martin Lee, to the nation’s capital to present at a conference.

The university received its first award in late Aug., when Lee received news Andrews won an award of excellence in the category of “Entire

Website” in the University & College Designers Association’s (UCDA) 35th Annual Design Competition. Winning entries were displayed at the association’s annual conference in San Diego, Calif., in Sept.

Most recently, Andrews received a silver Pride of CASE V award for Best Institutional Website this past Dec., competing against other colleges and universities in Wis., Mich., Ind., Ill., Minn., and Ohio. The award was announced at the CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) District V Conference in Chicago, Ill.

“It’s nice to see us win something, because it shows we’re being recognized and that our work is paying off,” stated Lee, Andrews Web coordinator.

Lee’s hard work also took him to Washington, D.C., where he presented at the Serena Xchange 2005 Global User Conference,

held Sept. 18–21. Serena, the vendor of the university’s content management system (CMS), was impressed with the site’s online calendar and asked Lee to demonstrate how to create one at the conference.

Serena also invited Lee to be on their product advisory board, where he’s able to share his opinions and make suggestions on future product versions and features.

“The Andrews Web presence has come a long way since its inception,” said Lee. “With more and more people going to the Web for their information, it’s become important for us to make the Web a priority as well. We’re a small office with limited resources, so we’ve had to learn to work smarter to accomplish our goals by doing things right with technology and design. And, we’re happy to see that we’re getting good results.”

Beverly Stout, University Relations news writer

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you'll have no trouble finding the degree that's right for you. You'll also connect with one of the most culturally diverse student bodies in America and a spiritual environment that is both authentic and tangible. Best of all, paying for this unique educational experience just got a lot easier with the Andrews Partnership Scholarship (APS). With everything you can look forward to at Andrews University, it's tough not to connect!

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Quinquennial Session Special Report 2006

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE



SHARE THE LIGHT



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Table of Contents

- 2** Report from the President
- 4** Secretariat Report
- 6** Treasurer's Report
- 10** Hispanic Ministries Report
- 11** ASI Report
- 12** Communication Report
- 13** Education Report
- 15** Information Systems Report
- 16** Native Ministries Report
- 17** Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Report
- 18** Trust Services Report
- 19** Women's Ministries Report
- 21** Youth & Young Adult Ministries Report
- 24** Adventist Midwest Health Report
- 26** Andrews University Report
- 28** Illinois Conference Report
- 31** Indiana Conference Report
- 34** Lake Region Conference Report
- 36** Michigan Conference Report
- 38** Wisconsin Conference Report
- 40** Delegate List

REPORT FROM

TO THE DELEGATES AND CONSTITUENT MEMBERS PRESENT:
I believe the true joy of a quinquennial session is to recount the blessings of God, and to envision a God-inspired future. I am privileged to make an attempt at both during this meeting. It is not a difficult task because God's blessings have been bountiful in the Lake Union, and the future is bright as long as we continue to trust Him and seek His counsel at every turn.



Walter L. Wright, LUC president, family ministries

In accepting the mantle as president on July 10, 2003, it was without fear or trepidation; however, it was with eagerness to see just what God had in mind and which way He desired to lead this great territory. In His mercy, God does not reveal all His plans up front nor the pathways He will choose for us to accomplish His plans. But little by little, step by step, He points the direction and opens the way before us.



Jackie Wright, family ministries, shepherdess

I am happy to proclaim that the Lake Union is on solid ground, both financially and in the fulfillment of its mandate to The Great Commission. The faithfulness of our members in returning tithes and offerings has provided economic stability in the midst of the economic downturn nationwide. Because of your faithfulness, we have been able to stand with our conferences in the building and buying of churches, and in the support of the elementary and secondary schools throughout the Lake Union.



Z. Kathy Cameron, executive assistant to Walter L. Wright

We have continued to train and equip our clergy and laity for evangelism as the Lake Union census edges ever closer to 80,000 members. Each of the 548 churches and companies that make up this union were encouraged to participate in some form of evangelistic outreach, and your response has been heartening. Of particular note is the involvement of the youth from the grade schools and academies.

The various ministries have done an outstanding job nurturing our people. Women's ministry has continued to thrive, and the ladies have displayed extraordinary divine gifts as they serve. We have seen innovations in health and fitness programs to encourage us all toward better health. Our youth continue to amaze us as they involve themselves in mission trips and local evangelism.

THE PRESIDENT

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT, LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



This union is blessed with many qualified family ministry practitioners to fight the enemy of our homes and relationships. My wife, Jackie, and I are privileged to support these dedicated leaders. The singles are not forgotten, nor are those with challenging disabilities. We are fortunate to have good leadership in all these ministries, and I commend them for a job well-done.

I am grateful to God for the expansive growth of Adventist Midwest Health in this field. They continue to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ through hospitals, nursing homes, and home health. A brand new 138-bed hospital is being built in Bolingbrook, a Chicago suburb. And then there is the always-inspiring, ever-supportive work of the Lake Union Chapter of Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries. Thank you for partnering with us.

Have we completed our mission? Are we ready for the "Well done, thou good and faithful servant?" No, my brothers and sisters; we are far from it. We still have the challenges of the large cities in this field. Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis-St Paul continue to cry out: "Come over to Macedonia and help us!"

We must devise ways to shore up lagging enrollments in our elementary and secondary schools. That means preaching Christian education as never before. We must embolden ourselves in outreach and evangelism to reach not only the large metropolises, but also every village and hamlet that is unwarned of the soon-coming Savior of the world. We must do more to reach and nurture the various ethnic groups in this field. We are blessed with cultural diversity. Let us exploit it for the Kingdom of Heaven.

There are still churches to plant and ministries to develop. There exists a huge opportunity to reclaim the vast numbers of former members who have fallen away. Warmer, friendlier congregations will facilitate that effort. While we continue to build and strengthen the home front, we must not neglect to involve ourselves in relief and suffering around the world through various mission projects.

How will we accomplish the daunting task ahead of us? We continue to call on Him for direction. We continue to pull together as one big family, loving and uplifting each

other. We continue in faithful stewardship, and I mean time, talent, treasure, and temple.

I am thankful to God for the officers and staff He has placed with me. You will hear their own stirring reports, but let me just make quick recognition of each leader. The secretary, Rodney Grove, in addition to his normal duties in Secretariat, has handled ministerial and evangelism with tireless energy. The treasurer, Glynn Scott, has done a yeoman's job keeping the finances on track, and thus enabling many positive accomplishments. The vice president, Carmelo Mercado, has proved himself to be a spiritual giant as he has been forced to lead through trying circumstances. Education is well on track under the able leadership of Gary Randolph. Harvey Kilsbey continues to develop the very best church software program in North America, LUCIS. Gary Burns has developed the *Herald* into the best union magazine in the North American Division. And then there is Myrna Earles, Gina Vander Veen, Ron Whitehead, and the awesome support staff who make us all look good. Last but not least, I must acknowledge the tireless, efficient, spiritual commitment of my executive assistant and partner, Kathy Cameron. During times of stress and crisis, as well as the calmer times, she has rendered invaluable service to the Office of the President.

I would also like to thank the Lake Union Conference presidents—Don Corkum, Jerome Davis, Ken Denslow, Jay Gallimore, and Gary Thurber—for their loyal support and valued counsel.

It is still true: "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" (*Life Sketches*, p. 196).

Thank you, one and all, and thank you, the constituents of the Lake Union, for the privilege you have granted me to serve for the past two and a half years. Victory in Jesus!

Walter L. Wright is the Lake Union Conference president.

This Little Light

BY RODNEY GROVE

Through the glass in the door, I saw the lights go out in the Kindergarten room. Then they began flickering. I looked in to see what the problem was. As I opened the door, the singing began.

*“This little light of mine,
I’m going to let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I’m going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine.”*

Every child in the class had a flashlight and the flickering was the shining of their lights “all around the neighborhood” while they sang. As I left the church parking lot after the services, I found myself humming the tune and wondering if people saw a light shining when they looked at our church. Then I wondered if people saw lights shining when they looked at our members. Next a thought came to me that really got my attention. Did they see a light shining when they looked at me?

I am glad to say that lights “are” shining in the Lake Union. During the past quinquennium, the membership of our collective local conferences has grown to 79,525. That is a net increase of 6,797. Last quinquennium the increase was 4,217. When you consider economic woes across our territory have caused more people to move away than to move here, that number takes on added significance. All you can say is “Praise the Lord!”

As the keeper of the records, I could bore you with statistics—but I won’t. (Somebody just shouted, “Amen!”) Two areas, however, caught my attention. The first is bad news/good news and is more general than specific. Because our larger churches tend to be in areas more highly impacted by the economic slump, their growth, if any, has been extremely slow. During the next five years helping these memberships adjust to their changing demographic conditions will be one of our priorities. However, smaller congregations are growing at an excellent rate overall. There is something to be said for the warm, family atmosphere of smaller groups.



Rodney A. Grove, LUC executive secretary, ministerial director



Cyndi Baskin, administrative assistant to Rodney A. Grove, receptionist

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Lake Union Consolidated Five-Year Clerk's Report

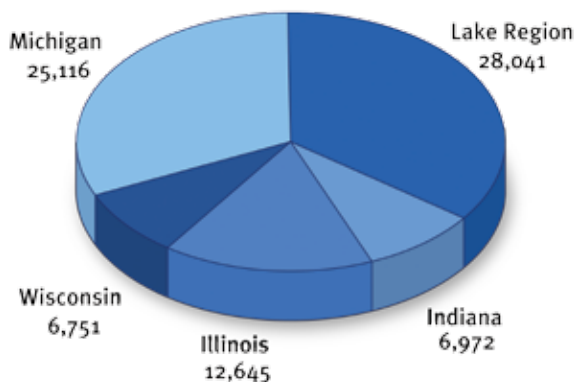
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Beginning membership	72,728	74,174	76,026	77,418	78,625
Added by baptisms/prof. of faith	2,855	2,952	2,611	2,527	2,157
Transfers in/out—net gain or (loss)	-57	21	-25	-73	-168
Deaths	553	529	635	550	544
Apostasies and missing	799	592	559	697	545
Percentage of apostasies to baptisms	28%	20%	21%	28%	25%
Ending membership	74,174	76,026	77,418	78,625	79,525
Net gain or (loss)	1,446	1,852	1,392	1,207	900
Net percentage gain or (loss)	1.99	2.50	1.83	1.56	1.14

AVERAGE BAPTISMS PER PASTOR

Lake Union Consolidated Five-Year Comparative Report

Conference	2001			2002			2003			2004			2005		
	Pstrs	Bap/PF	Avg	Pstrs	Bap/PF	Avg	Pstrs	Bap/PF	Avg	Pstrs	Bap/PF	Avg	Pstrs	Bap/PF	Avg
Illinois	60	499	8.32	62	474	7.65	59	528	8.95	69	346	5.01	55	400	7.27
Indiana	38	247	6.5	34	262	7.71	33	232	7.03	38	272	7.16	38	222	5.84
Lake Region	65	1,031	15.86	63	986	15.65	63	900	14.29	73	971	13.3	74	509	6.88
Michigan	119	815	6.85	122	896	7.34	122	743	6.09	123	710	5.77	124	800	6.45
Wisconsin	24	263	10.96	28	334	11.93	30	208	6.93	28	228	8.14	31	226	7.29

CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP



The second area is more clearly defined. As a union, we now have more churches to shine a light than we did five years ago. Today, we have 503 established churches compared to 485 at the end of the year 2000. When you add to that 45 companies, more neighborhoods in our largest metropolitan areas and the remotest counties of our territory are glowing for Jesus.

In my mind I can still hear the Kindergarten children with their flashlights singing,

*“Let it shine till Jesus comes,
 I’m going to let it shine.
 Let it shine till Jesus comes,
 I’m going to let it shine,
 Let it shine,
 Let it shine,
 Let it shine.”*

Rodney A. Grove is the Lake Union Conference executive secretary and ministerial director.

TREASURER'S REPORT



Glynn C.W. Scott, LUC treasurer



Douglas L. Gregg, LUC associate treasurer



J. Richard Terrell, LUC associate treasurer, stewardship director



Elisa Flores, administrative assistant to Glynn C.W. Scott

Showers of Blessings

BY GLYNN C.W. SCOTT

WITH J. RICHARD TERRELL

This quinquennial report is being written from financial data that is managed by a highly professional and spiritual treasury staff. I would like to, up front, express my sincere appreciation to each one for their commitment to service and tireless efforts in maintaining complex and sophisticated accounting records, all of which make this reporting possible.

In May 2001, an executive committee was elected to serve as the governance board for Lake Union Conference (LUC). This board consists of a highly-committed and actively-engaged group of leaders and lay people. The performance over this past quinquennium is directly

attributable to their candid and unabashed review of financial detail, together with their creative input for new ideas. To each member, I express my heart-felt thanks for your dedication and service.

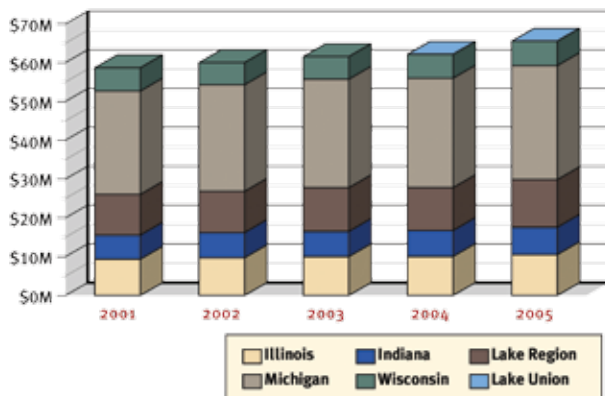
This report is one of three presentations that will be used to communicate to you as a constituent concerning financial performance over the past quinquennium. This report will be the least complex and technical of the three presentations. My goal

for this report is simply to share some key high points of our financial performance over the quinquennium.

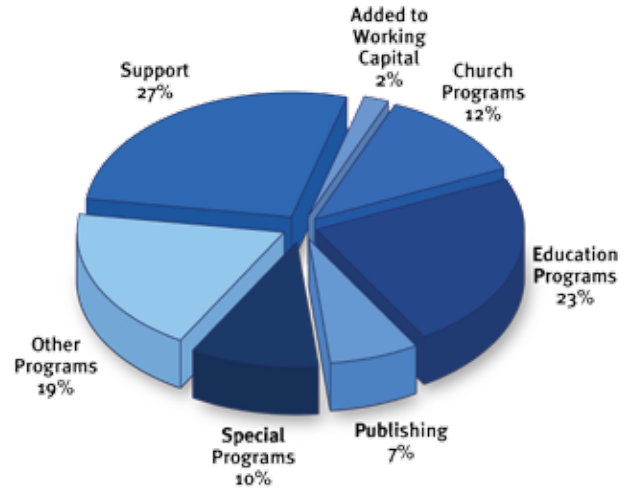
At the session on April 2, a digital media presentation will be made to cover greater technical aspects of our financial performance. Additionally, a full General Conference audited report will be provided to you having the highest level of detail in a technical accounting format that will comprehensively cover our financial performance during the quinquennium.



Graph A: TOTAL TITHE RECEIVED



Graph B: PORTION OF TITHE USAGE 2001-2005



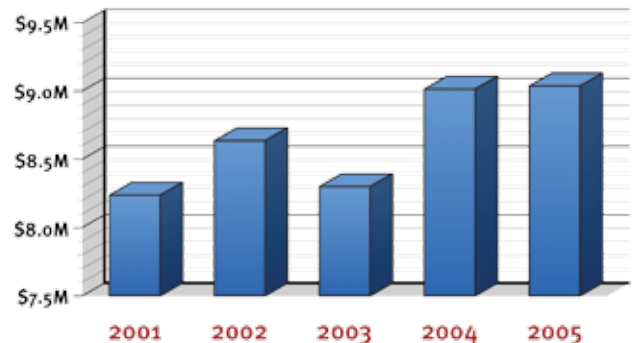
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The first financial highlight I would like to share is total tithe received (see Graph A). Total tithe received at the beginning of the quinquennium (2000) was \$56,750,851 versus \$65,564,311 at the end of the quinquennium (2005). This represents an increase of \$8,813,460 or 15.5 percent over the five-year period. This increase includes 2005 having 53 Sabbaths as compared to 52 Sabbaths for all prior years in the quinquennium. If you equalize the year 2005 by deducting one Sabbath, the overall increase is adjusted to \$7,644,042 or 13.5 percent over the five-year period.

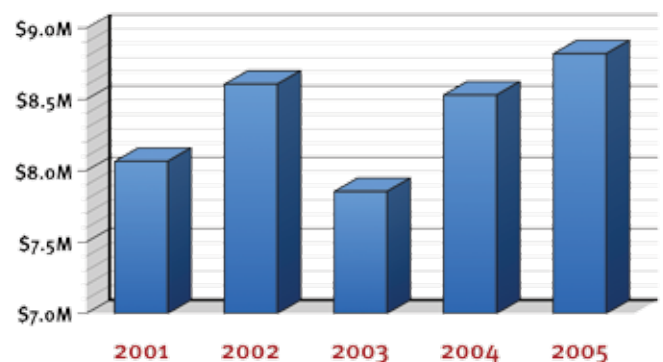
Our Lake Union territory experienced significant economical hardship during this quinquennium; nonetheless, the members of our constituency have been faithful. On behalf of this administration, please accept our appreciation to each one of you for your faithfulness. In exchange, we pledge to you to be fiscally responsible in using the resources entrusted to us to hasten the soon and second return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Lake Union retains nine percent from the total gross tithe received by the five local conferences. During the quinquennium an average of \$5 million was retained by the Lake Union and used for local programs and support (see Graph B). Total tithe usage within the Lake Union can also be better understood by reviewing total income and total expense (see Graphs C and D). Total income and total expense includes appropriations from the North American Division (NAD) for programs that directly/indirectly support our local conferences.

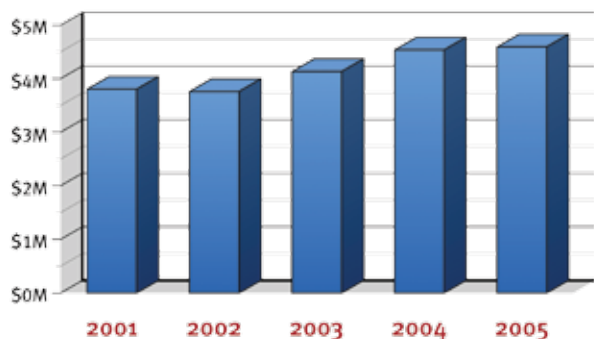
Graph C: TOTAL INCOME



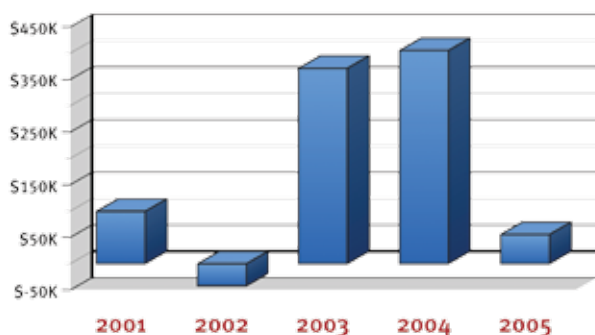
Graph D: TOTAL EXPENSE



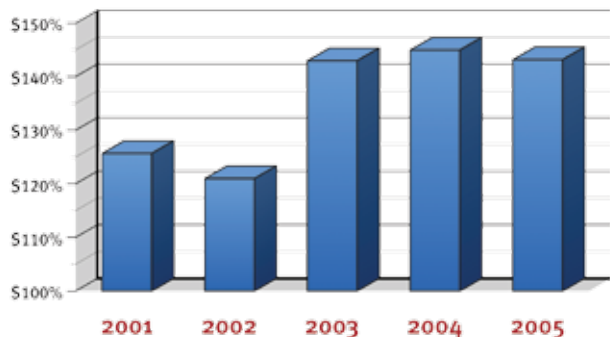
Graph E: NET WORTH



Graph F: NET GAIN



Graph G: REQUIRED WORKING CAPITAL



Total income for 2002 is higher than 2001 and 2003 due to miscellaneous income of \$395,000 received from closure of Great Lakes Adventist Health System. Total income for 2004 is high due to NAD appropriations of \$342,000 for Regional Capital reversions and an accounting change for auditing cost that resulted in appropriations to the Union from the NAD to subsidize auditing cost. Total income for 2005 is high due to the 2005 tithe percentage increase and the NAD auditing subsidy.

Total expense for 2002 is higher than 2001 and 2003 due to \$400,000 that was expended for evangelism (*Hope for Our Day*). Total expense for 2004 is high due to \$342,000 Regional Capital reversions forwarded to Lake Region Conference (LRC) and actual auditing charges of \$456,000. Total expense for 2005 is high due to actual auditing charges of \$593,000 and a special audit of LRC costing \$110,000.

During this past quinquennium administration has been intentional about controlling cost and thereby annually have drafted budgets based on 95 to 96 percent of the previous year's tithe. This conservative approach to financial management has allowed us to realize operating gains and grow our reserves (see Graphs E and F). The operating loss in 2002 of \$42,000 was an intentional spend down of working capital as reserves were used for evangelism (*Hope for Our Day*). Additionally, our conservative budgeting has allow us to revert back to the local conference a total in excess of \$2 million in special appropriations, which is in excess of NAD working policy appropriations.

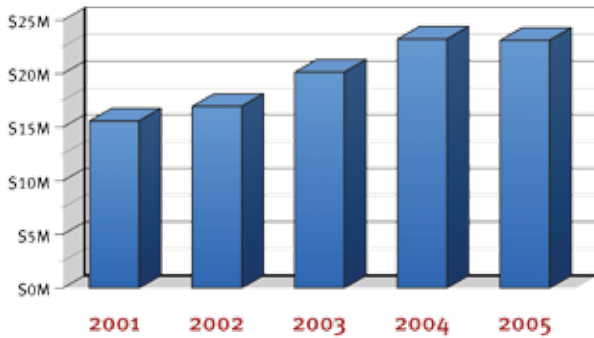
Our working capital grew from 1.25 percent in 2001 to 1.43 percent in 2005 (see Graph G). Administration is currently working with local conference presidents to determine the appropriate percentage of working capital that should be maintained at the Lake Union. Once this percentage is set, it would be the intent of administration to revert back to the local conferences all profits in excess of that stated percentage.

Overall, the Lord has truly showered His bountiful blessing upon our Union over this past quinquennium. My sincere prayer is that God will find each one of us faithful as we commit ourselves to Him in service until the end of time, whereby we may each receive the commendation, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

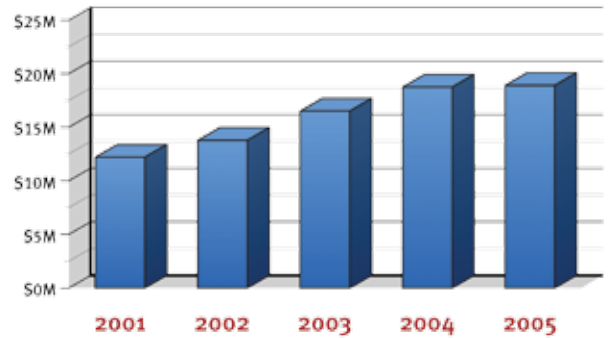
Glynn C.W. Scott is the Lake Union Conference treasurer.



Graph A: TOTAL ASSETS



Graph B: TOTAL LIABILITIES



ASSOCIATION/REVOLVING FUND

During the past quinquennium the Lake Union Revolving Fund has provided over \$22 million to 157 church entities for various building projects. These funds were made available by Lake Union Conference members and church organizations that invested in the Revolving Fund.

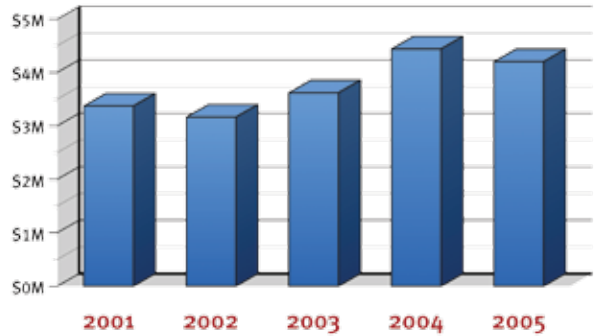
Statement of Financial Position

Because many individuals and churches invested in the Revolving Fund, the total assets increased by 95.9 percent to \$23,131,565 (see Graph A). Liabilities increased by 123 percent to \$18,927,834 (see Graph B) with resulting total net asset increase of 26 percent to \$4,203,731 (see Graph C).

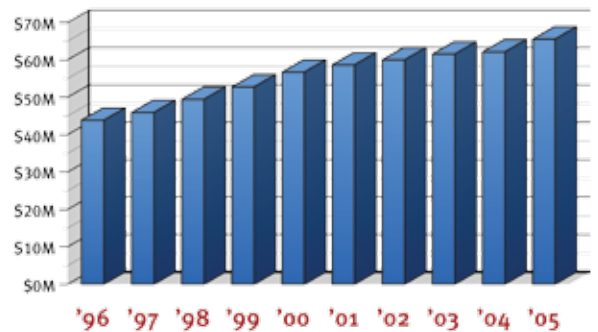
Statement of Changes in Net Assets

As a result of investing and lending activities, the Revolving Fund Trust had an overall operating gain for 2001–2005 of \$872,818.

Graph C: NET ASSETS



Graph D: TITHE: 10-YEAR COMPARISON

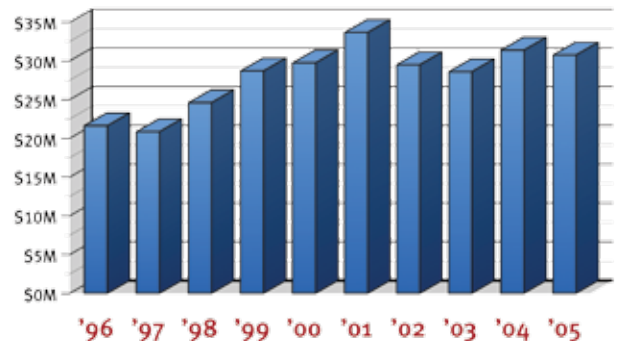


STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

As a resource center for the conferences in the Lake Union, the stewardship department acts as a liaison between the North American Division and the General Conference stewardship departments to provide training and materials as requested.

Charts D and E show how God has blessed our union with increases in tithes and local offerings over the past ten years.

Graph E: CONFERENCE & CHURCH FUNDS 10-YEAR COMPARISON



J. Richard Terrell is the Lake Union Conference associate treasurer and stewardship director.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Hispanic and ASI Ministries

BY CARMELO MERCADO

Through a variety of activities during this past quinquennium Lake Union Hispanics and Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) members took seriously the great commission to share the light and go make disciples of all nations.



Hispanic youth attended the Encuentro youth retreat last November.



Carmelo Mercado, LUC vice president, ASI and Hispanic ministries director

HISPANIC EVANGELISM

The latest demographic information reveals a tremendous need to reach out to Hispanics who live among us. The total Hispanic population in the United States as of July 2005 reached 42.7 million, making it the nation's largest minority at 14 percent of the total population. To put it another way, approximately one out of eight people in the United States are of Hispanic origin. At the current rate of growth, it is calculated the Hispanic population will reach 70 million by 2020.

To fulfill the mission of the church, the Hispanic churches and pastors expanded their evangelism programs. Every year most of our Hispanic churches held evangelistic meetings during Easter week, baptizing scores of people. Often our Hispanic churches hold evangelistic series twice a year.



Z. Kathy Cameron, administrative assistant to Carmelo Mercado

Within this quinquennium, the Lake Union sought to augment the work of the churches by providing training, materials, and inspirational preaching at three union-wide programs: *Hope for the Homeland*, *Hope for Our Day*, and *Share the Light*. As a result of our people's strong commitment to sharing God's word, our Hispanic churches baptized more than 3,000 people, with the Lake Union now having in excess of 7,000 Hispanic members and 78 congregations.



A Hispanic young man took his stand for baptism.

Hispanic Church Building and Scholarship Program

With the expansion of the Hispanic population comes a need to start new Hispanic congregations. A key part of this strategy is to find ways to purchase or build churches for these new congregations. With special appropriations provided by the North American Division (NAD), our union provided more than \$137,000 during the last five years to churches like Elkhart Hispanic and the Grand Rapids Maranatha church.

A growing number of our Hispanic youth are going to college but find it difficult to get the necessary funds. The Hispanic department has been able to help scores of youth achieve their educational goals.

Hispanic Women's and Youth Ministries Events

In 2003, women throughout the Lake Union attended a union-wide Hispanic women's ministries retreat in South Bend, which affirmed the role of women in our families and churches. In 2002, hundreds of youth came to our Hispanic youth convention held at Andrews University which featured Jose Rojas, NAD volunteer and young adult ministries director. In addition, this past November *Encuentro*, a new kind of youth retreat, brought more than 160 youth from throughout the five conferences together for fellowship and to have an encounter with Jesus.

ASI MINISTRIES

The Lake Union ASI Chapter of lay people has always been a very active group. During the past five years, they have especially been involved in building churches in the Dominican Republic and Honduras. Some members also held evangelistic meetings in Thailand, the Philippines, India, and Romania. Even the 12-year-old son of one member recently preached in



Lake Union members attended the national ASI convention last August.



Don Schneider, North American Division president, congratulates Debbie Young of Quiet Moments Ministries, Ypsilanti, Mich., who stands with her husband Ray, after she is re-elected president of ASI in 2005.



From left: John LaVanture, Naselle Reich, Kimberly McNeilus, Kristopher Gates, and Michael Catarama went door to door giving residents a loaf of bread and inviting them to a cooking class as part of the Earliteen outreach activities at the ASI national convention in 2005.

The Lord has certainly blessed us these past five years, and we look forward to more blessings as we continue to work for Him.

Carmelo Mercado is the Lake Union Conference general vice president, and ASI and Hispanic ministries director.

ASI EVENTS

April 21–22, 2006 Spring Fellowship

Battle Creek, Michigan

For information: Call (269) 473-8200

May 1–21, 2006 Princeton Church Project

Princeton, Illinois

For information: Call (269) 473-8200;
or visit website: www.asi-lakeunion.org

At the 2005 Spring Fellowship, more than \$25,000 was raised to help Princeton (Illinois) Church members build a new worship facility. May 1–21, 2006, the Princeton Church Project will begin. Students from Hinsdale and Broadview Academies, as well as other schools around the union, will hold an evangelistic series in Princeton at the same time, with ASI members and church groups from around the conference participating. They will meet in the Bureau County Metro Center in Princeton. In preparation for these meetings, a trainer from ASI's *Youth for Jesus* will meet with the students to train them in door-to-door ministry, giving Bible studies, and connecting with people. Amazing Facts sent two Bible workers to the area four months prior to make contacts in the community.

This little church is well on its way to paying for the new worship facility planned. They must have the materials on site, the foundation completed, and the septic system in before the ASI group arrives. Volunteers are needed to help in all areas of construction, and any building professionals interested in running crews for any part of the three-week project should contact ASI's construction manager, Fred Miller, by e-mail: fmillerwi@cs.com; or call (269) 473-8200.

This is an experience not to be missed. It will be life changing not just for the members of the Princeton church, but for the people touched by the meetings, the students, and the spirit of friendship and love found on the job site. Bring your friends and neighbors to this local mission field, and let them learn about Christ in action. Many people cannot afford the time and money to travel to overseas projects. This is a homeland mission in the heartland of our country. This is young people on fire for Christ. This is the perfect witnessing opportunity for you and your family.

August 2–5, 2006 ASI National Convention

Dallas, Texas, at the Grapevine

For information: www.asiministries.org

LAKE UNION ASI OFFICERS

Viorel Catarama, president, Lake Union Chapter, viorelcat@aol.com

Mark LaVanture, general vice president

Darry Campbell, vice president for evangelism

Don Starlin, vice president for membership recruitment

Tom Morrissey, vice president for finance

Mona Sarcona, vice president for communication

Fred Miller and **Chuck Randall**, vice presidents for projects/events

Ken Denslow, director, Illinois Chapter, (630) 734-0920

Gary Thurber, director, Indiana Chapter, (317) 844-6201

Ted Brown, director, Lake Region Chapter, (773) 846-2664

Paul Pellandini, director, Michigan Chapter, (517) 316-1565

Don Corkum, director, Wisconsin Chapter, (608) 241-5235

“...What God Is Doing”

BY GARY BURNS

A simple sign on a file cabinet in the office says, “Look at what God is doing.” That is where we focus our attention. We look to see what God is doing in our union, and then we try to inform others.



Gary Burns, LUC communication director, Lake Union Herald editor



Diane Thurber, Lake Union Herald managing editor, advertising manager



Judi Doty, secretary to Gary Burns, Lake Union Herald circulation and back pages manager

It reflects our mission statement: “To tell the stories of what God is doing in the lives of His people in order to encourage, inspire, educate, advance, and unify the church in the Lake Union Conference.”

We communicate in two areas: informing members and informing the public. Some refer to this activity as public relations. For the world, that means to always present the company in the best light possible while promoting its product and personnel. But we are not a company—we’re the church. What we do is different. It is our responsibility to present Jesus in His true light while promoting His kingdom and exalting His character.

Our objective is to be an integral instrument in the work of evangelism, and nurture and accurately represent God’s chosen leadership of the Lake Union Conference. We serve Lake Union members and institutions by providing communication resources, professional guidance, and training.

Our new focus precipitated a change in the *Lake Union Herald* in 2003. We expanded the features section to provide room for short stories and experiences to illustrate the theme for each issue. We also added a number of columns to nurture our members: “Adventism IOI,”

“Sharing Our Hope,” “Youth In Action,” “One Voice,” and most recently “ConneXiones.”

Since 2004, the *Lake Union Herald* has been produced electronically using new web-based technology, allowing greater participation and involvement in the creation process. As editor, I have full access to every article, column, and photograph during the writing and production stages from anywhere in the world. The editorial team is located in Berrien Springs, Michigan; Noblesville, Indiana; and Condon, Montana. The proofed, print-ready file is sent to Color Press in College Place, Washington, where it is printed, labeled, and mailed directly to your home.

The Lake Union is working closely with TAGnet to provide a free church website for every church in the Lake Union that will include contact information, schedules, directions, personalized messages, additional resources, and announcements updated daily with little or no effort. This new service, provided by netAdventist, gives the local church automated access to information provided by the local conference, union, and division offices. Additional components are available to subscribers to enhance evangelism outreach and provide easy, effective ways to involve more members in the process. This new service will be available to every Lake Union church by the Union Session, April 2, 2006.

Through Adventist television and radio stations, our message is now broadcast to a number of communities. In addition, several churches stream video and create Podcasts of their services, opening doors to people around the world. The communication department also provides video production and editing services to conferences and churches to help accomplish new communication initiatives.

What an exciting time in which to live where every member can literally participate in sharing this gospel of the kingdom around the world!

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director and the *Lake Union Herald* editor.

Preparing Students for Service

BY GARY RANDOLPH

A famous quote by Ellen G. White says that a complete education is “the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come” (*Education*, p. 13). This quote summarizes Seventh-day Adventist education’s aim and objective.

The Lake Union Conference education department leadership has taken this admonition seriously and has chosen programs to encourage and train students for these outcomes. This report includes a section from each of these areas under, “The Head,” “The Hand,” and “The Heart.” The Lake Union Seventh-day Adventist K–12 education schools are composed of eighty K–8 schools, sixteen junior academies, four day academies (three K–12), and four senior boarding academies. The student population is 3,827, with 402 (348 full time equivalent) staff.



Wisconsin Academy students sorted items donated for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Grand Rapids, formerly a strong junior academy, now offers grades 11 and 12 under the supervision and accreditation of Battle Creek Academy. The constituency is preparing to become a full K–12 senior academy. Broadview Academy is offering a new curriculum, primarily based on competencies instead of assessed academic knowledge from traditional course offerings.

Physical plant changes include Hinsdale Adventist Academy, our most recent approved academy, which added a secondary wing with two classrooms, computer lab and chapel; Wisconsin Academy provided a beautiful cafeteria adjacent to the gym and an awesome computer lab; Hillside Christian School (Wausau, Wis.) has completed a new school plant; Cross Street Christian School (Anderson, Indiana) finished a new school plant

containing four classrooms; Peterson-Warren Academy (Inkster, Michigan) renovated the science room, rebuilt the playground with equipment, and placed a fence around the campus.

THE HEAD

The “head” is trained in “reading, writing, and arithmetic” but also with



Gary Randolph, LUC education director



Garry Sudds, LUC education associate director



Karen Bekowies, secretary to Garry Sudds, certification registrar



Rose Anne Grove, secretary to Gary Randolph

LAKE UNION SUMMARY OF IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS: 2005 (Grades 3 – 9)

Grade	Reading	Language	Math	Soc. Stds.	Science	Composite
3	82	75	78	88	86	86
4	84	82	81	84	82	83
5	85	88	74	80	85	82
6	79	79	71	78	79	78
7	87	82	76	82	81	85
8	84	82	74	72	78	83
9	80	82	79	78	77	80

moral values of right and wrong, good and evil, and who, how, and why we were created to serve on this earth. The latest Iowa Test of Basic Skills test scores (see Graph A) indicate that the composite national norm percentiles (1,000,000 students per grade) are from the 76th percentile to the 85th percentile. That is 26 to 35 percent above average.

THE HAND

The “hand,” representing physically training the student, is completed first in a K–12 physical education program. This training varies from a more general program in K–8 to a more specific program for life fitness in grades 9–12.

Second, a work-study program is an important part of the secondary curriculum, which provides some, but encourages all, to obtain work experience while attending academy. However, serving others, the most important, combines both physical and spiritual training.

THE HEART

Service for others, always a strong Adventist education component, has significantly increased since the implementation of the non-graded Bible Labs service training. We currently see a much higher interest in spiritual things and service to others.

Today, most senior class trips include a service component. For many years, Andrews Academy has had a bi-annual SOW *Safari* (Service, Outreach, Witness), an international trip overseas during Christmas vacation to serve. Many academies have daily student-led prayer groups. One academy has an organized group whose main objective is to maintain a spiritual atmosphere on campus. For the past 25 years, another academy has had an annual “leaf rake” in the town park and yards of the elderly or needy. All schools assisted recent flood victims. Some went personally to assist, clean up, and rebuild. Some were there three days after the destruction and some are going again in the future for a first, second, or more times.

In the past two years, Wisconsin Academy and Great Lakes Adventist Academy held a series of student-led evangelistic meetings. Wisconsin Academy also went to Africa to build and evangelize. However, this past September,



From left: Tamara Mallory, witnessing class sponsor, and Bryana Kitchen, a GLAA senior, show cooking school guests at Edmore Township Hall how to make tasty, healthy food.

academy youth were asked to get involved intentionally with evangelism. Sixty youth attended the Lake Union evangelism training session in late August. Indiana Academy had a series in early February; Battle Creek has one scheduled April 7–15; Peterson-Warren Academy is planning an evangelistic crusade in 2006; and Great Lakes had a full five-week series last fall with three to six potential baptisms.

This is a new day. This is another indication to us that the “army of youth rightly trained” may be in preparation. Our first indication of this dedication and intentionality was at the Lake Union Secondary Leadership Conference, held annually for the past 32 years to train young people to lead. Two years ago our union president, Walter Wright, spoke to the youth during what is normally a relaxation time on Sabbath afternoon. We were pleased to see about 50–60 youth respond to his call to do evangelism. Telling others about their faith seems not to frighten today’s young people.

In the next five years, due to a continued reduction in enrollment, a serious study should be made about the organization and operation of the K–12 system. Conferences may need to close ranks and work together to operate boarding schools. Coursework may need to be offered through distance education, possibly from the union level, so that truly “all” Seventh-day Adventist children could receive at least some spiritual training. Other small elementary or junior academies could be assisted in their offerings, also. This probably calls for a re-study of how education is presently funded, not to receive more funds, but to use more efficiently what is already available. This could create a significant paradigm shift in the operation of schools.

In conclusion, the Lake Union education department leadership team will continue leading children to Christ and preparing them in the development of “the head, the hand, and the heart.”

“The life on earth is the beginning of the life in heaven; education on earth is an initiation into the principles of heaven; the lifework here is a training for the lifework there” (*Education*, p. 30).

Gary Randolph is the Lake Union Conference education director.

Connecting the Body of Christ with Ministry Support Services

BY HARVEY P. KILSBY

The apostle Paul, in his letters to the Corinthians and Romans (chapter 12 in both cases), explains that the church, like our physical body, needs members with different functions to operate properly as a whole. He states that God gives us gifts and we are to use those gifts to serve Him and His church.

The need for the gifts of preaching and teaching are obvious; whereas, others, like serving and administration, may not seem as obvious. However, Paul reminds us that, like our physical body, the church requires different functions to operate smoothly and effectively.

One serving/administrative function provided by the Lake Union Conference is computer software development and support for the financial record-keeping and administrative needs of churches, schools, and administrative offices where alternatives are uneconomical or do not fit the church's needs. LUCIS Software (Lake Union Conference Information Systems) is the most widely used financial software by conferences in the North American Division (NAD). Sales and fees charged to organizations outside the Lake Union territory help provide funds for continued development.

A new advanced version of our general ledger was released in 2004 after several years of development. Pilot distribution occurred in mid-year 2004; general distribution followed in November (coincidentally a month after the decision by the NAD to disassociate itself from the General Conference SunPlus general ledger software project). Within three months, most conferences and academies in the Lake and Columbia Union territories had installed and were using the new LUCIS Software. Conferences and academies in Canada, the Atlantic Union, and elsewhere followed in 2005. New sites are continuing to join the LUCIS Software group, while others wait to see the results of the NAD's effort to develop an independent software package.

The new LUCIS Software is much more powerful and user-friendly, with many new query and reporting features. It proved to be as fast for entry and report generation as previous versions, is easier to use, and is compatible with

the new global reporting standard being adopted by the General Conference for all Adventist organizations worldwide. Our long-standing partnership with the General Conference Auditing Service has been further strengthened with their use of the new software, which has a number of features to assist with auditing. Significant savings in auditing costs continue as a result of this partnership.

Recognizing that the Adventist Church is made up of organizations of varying size with different levels of expertise and needs, LUCIS Software is provided in five editions. The different editions allow us to accommodate small, medium, and large churches, schools, and conference offices (local and union) while keeping the interface appropriate to the level of expertise and needs of the different organizations.

Uncertainty, as a result of the General Conference and NAD software development efforts, caused us to remain in a minimal staffing mode for the last several years. Though this has not impacted our ability to support those using the software, it has seriously slowed new development. We are presently in the process of expanding staffing to assist with software upgrades needed by churches and other LUCIS Software applications.

Visit our website, www.luc.adventist.org/lucis, to learn more about the department and the opportunity we offer for qualified, dedicated Christians who feel God's call to serve the church in a financial software development-support capacity. You may also contact us at lucis@luc.adventist.org for more information.



Harvey P. Kilsby, LUC information systems director



Lance Mack, programmer/analyst



Sean Parker, programmer/analyst

Harvey P. Kilsby is the Lake Union Conference information systems director.

To Every Nation, Tribe, Language, and People

BY GARY BURNS



According to *Census 2000*, there are more than 300,000 people in the Lake Union who identified themselves as American Indian: approximately 40,000 people live in Indiana, 73,000 in Illinois, 125,000 in Michigan, and 70,000 in Wisconsin. There are nearly 600 federally recognized tribes and more than 200 still waiting for federal recognition.

Since 1978, the Bureau of Indian Affairs requires tribes to go through a lengthy recognition process to prove their existence as descendants of America's original inhabitants, and to qualify for government programs. Following is a list of tribes within the Lake Union.

Native ministries was recently established in the Lake Union to facilitate efforts to include the more than 300,000 American Indians in the ministry of the Adventist church. As a member of the North American Division Native Ministry Council, we are able to share funds and resources to help us accomplish this goal.

This year, nearly \$10,000 was set aside by the North American Division for native ministry in the Lake Union. These funds are available by request to conferences to provide services and support.



Gary Burns, LUC native ministries director

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference native ministries director.

INDIANA TRIBES

Not Federally Recognized (not eligible for services)

- Miami Nation of Indiana, Huntington, Ind.
- Northern Cherokee Tribe of Indiana
- Upper Kispoko Band of the Shawnee Nation, Kokomo, Ind.

MICHIGAN TRIBES

Federally Recognized

- Bay Mills Reservation, Brimley, Mich.
- Grand Traverse Reservation, Suttons Bay, Mich.
- Hannahville Indian Community, Wilson, Mich.
- Isabella Reservation, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Watersmeet, Mich.
- L'Anse Reservation, Baraga, Mich.
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Indians Reservation, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Not Federally Recognized (not eligible for services)

- Lake Superior Chippewa of Marquette, Inc.
- Burt Lake Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
- Consolidated Bahwetig Ojibwas and Mackinacs
- Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Gunlake Village Band of Grand Lake Ottawa Indians, state recognized, petitioned June 24, 1992
- Swan Creek and Black River Chippewa, petitioned May 4, 1993

WISCONSIN TRIBES

Federally Recognized

- Bad River Reservation, Odanah, Wis.
- Forest County Potawatomi Community, Crandon, Wis.
- Ho Chunk (Winnebago) Reservation, Black River Falls, Wis.
- Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation, Hayward, Wis.
- Lac Du Flambeau Reservation, Lac Du Flambeau, Wis.
- Menominee Reservation, Keshena, Wis.
- Oneida Reservation, Oneida, Wis.
- Red Cliff Reservation, Bayfield, Wis.
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Crandon, Wis.
- St. Croix Reservation, Hertel, Wis.
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Bowler, Wis.

Not Federally Recognized (not eligible for services)

- Brotherton Indians of Wisconsin

ILLINOIS

There are no registered American Indian tribes in the state of Illinois. The state got its name, however, from a confederation of tribes known as the Illini. They called themselves Illiniwek, which means "people." Illinois is a French version of Illiniwek. Scholars estimate there were approximately 12,000 people among the Illiniwek, in 60 villages, in the 1600s. By the time of the *Declaration of Independence*, their numbers were reduced to less than 1,800. About the time the Adventist church was organized, the 84 remaining members were relocated to a reservation in Oklahoma.¹

¹ www.500Nations.com

Protecting Our Freedom

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY REPORT

BY VERNON L. ALGER

During the past quinquennium, the public affairs and religious liberty (PARL) department has again faced as its major challenge the preservation of jobs for church members when their employer's schedule conflicts with Sabbath observance. The latest numbers indicate that in the North American Division approximately 15 Seventh-day Adventists per week lose their jobs over Sabbath/employment conflict. Legislation to help correct this problem was introduced in the past several congressional sessions, and was pending during the entire quinquennium period. However, neither house of the United States Congress has voted on any of these bills. There was a hearing in a House committee November 10, 2005, but the committee has not reported the bill out of committee for a vote by the House. The bills pending in Congress right now are H.R. 1445 in the House of Representatives, sponsored by Mark Souder of Indiana along with 18 co-sponsors, and S. 677 in the Senate, sponsored by Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania with 15 co-sponsors.

One bright spot in the Sabbath/employment conflict area is in the Michigan Court of Appeals where, on January 12, 2006, it reaffirmed a lower court decision that individuals are entitled to unemployment compensation if their employment is terminated because of their religious belief. The same result occurred in a case involving a Seventh-day Adventist in the mid-1980s, which was also church-sponsored litigation. It is not known at present if the State of Michigan will pursue an appeal or ask for a rehearing.

Church-state issues have recently been highlighted in the news. The line separating politics and religion is becoming increasingly blurred. Religion used as a political device is divisive, and preventing societal division over religious differences is one of the reasons for having church-state separation. It is one of the principles that has preserved our republic since its founding.

One of the areas of church activity in which government regulation has escalated is that of door-to-door solicitation and sales of books and periodicals. As our society becomes increasingly private, fewer people are willing to be interrupted by someone knocking at their door to discuss, promote, or distribute religious literature, or solicit funds. Jehovah's Witnesses have taken the lead in some of the litigation which has gone to the U.S. Supreme Court with resulting court decisions providing many of our religious solicitation protections. This was particularly true during the 1940s. However, as with other religious freedoms, we have seen this right diminished.

The Jehovah's Witnesses brought a case to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2002, challenging a village ordinance that restricted their calling on private homes for religious purposes. Because of the importance of the argument in interpreting the Court's opinion, some members of the PARL department attended the oral argument in the Supreme Court chamber the morning it was argued. It had been stipulated that the door-to-door activity was religious in nature and involved no money, either through sale or solicitation. The Court ruled eight to one that door-to-door contact for religious or political purposes, with no money involved, could not be regulated by the village government. That was a victory for freedom of religion to the extent that religion involves only discussion or the distribution of literature.

Unfortunately, Justice Stevens, in his opinion, suggested that the ordinance might well have been constitutional had



Vernon L. Alger, LUC
public affairs and
religious liberty director,
trust services director



Patricia Young, secretary
to Vernon L. Alger

the village applied it “only to commercial activities and the solicitation of funds.” Thus, the ordinances of many cities and towns regulating solicitation were not affected by the ruling. Therefore, the issues of Ingathering and the distribution of books and periodicals are still a matter of dispute, and will continue to present problems for us and prompt litigation.

The PARL department is active in working with other denominations and organizations, and on its own when

necessary, to support legislation and litigation when appropriate to preserve religious freedom.

“The price of freedom is eternal vigilance,” is a statement attributed to Thomas Jefferson. Ellen G. White said it differently: “We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience” (*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 716).

Vernon L. Alger is the Lake Union Conference public affairs and religious liberty director.

Protecting Our Future

TRUST SERVICES REPORT

BY VERNON L. ALGER

The Lake Union Conference trust services department is a resource for the trust services departments of the local conferences. As such, it keeps current with tax laws, relates to other sources when appropriate, and works to provide the initial education and the continuing education for all certified trust officers in the Lake Union. Currently, we have 24 certified trust officers in the Lake Union and its five local conferences.

Estate planning is a continuation of stewardship of a person’s assets and resources established during life. An appropriate estate plan can provide for surviving dependents, as well as offer an opportunity to make gifts to individuals, to the church, and to other charities. The local conference trust services department informs members regarding options to meet these obligations and charitable intent in a manner consistent with the members’ desires, and consistent with their principles and the principles of the church.

During the past quinquennium, the funds left to the church and church-related entities from estate plans established by the conferences in the Lake Union exceeded \$8 million. The General Conference trust services department reported that the cumulative benefits to churches and church-related entities worldwide from the church’s trust

programs exceeded the one billion dollar mark this past year, calculated from 1968, the year trust services became a department in the structure of the Seventh-day Adventist church. We are grateful for God’s blessing in providing dedicated individuals at our conference trust services departments who are willing to take the required specialized training and continuing education to maintain their status as certified trust officers.

One of the greatest benefits to the church’s trust services department is the education, certification, accreditation, and audit program the church started in the 1980s. This program has received many favorable comments from non-church entities that have seen it in operation, and it has been copied by other charitable organizations in establishing their own trust programs. This program provides standards to assure the individuals working as trust officers are properly trained; the funds are properly invested, recorded, and distributed; and the audit by the General Conference Auditing Service provides all the relevant information to the managing boards.

You are invited to contact your local conference trust services department to meet with a trust officer.

Vernon L. Alger is the Lake Union Conference trust services director.

Telling the Story of God's Love

BY MYRNA EARLES

Lake Union women have committed themselves to be active contributors to finishing the Lord's work, both at home and throughout the world.

With this in mind, they tell the story of God's love in various ways through ministry in their churches. Through their ministries they help improve family relationships in the homes as well as in the church.

During the past five years there have been 120 women's ministries retreats in the Lake Union. These retreats gave women the opportunity to come and receive a spiritual uplift, as well as enjoy fellowship with friends. They also attended seminars where they received fresh ideas and training, plus enjoyed a time of spiritual emphasis. More than 1,000 women from other denominations attended these retreats. Some retreats are held in hotels and others at youth camps. In one conference, a mother/daughter retreat was held for the first time in 2005 and will now be an annual event.

In 2004, nearly 200 Lake Union women attended a one-day *Passionate Leadership* training event held at the Berrien Springs Village Church. The session included all women in



During the Indiana Single Moms retreat, mothers enjoyed a meal at the Olive Garden restaurant while their children participated in activities with staff back at camp.



*Nearly 200 Lake Union women attended a one-day *Passionate Leadership* training event at the Berrien Springs Village Church.*

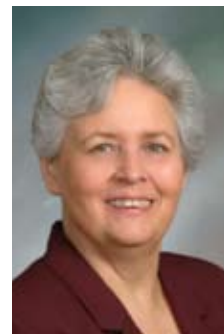
church leadership and was co-sponsored by North American Division and Lake Union women's ministries.

Hope for Hurting Hearts, a weekend for survivors of domestic violence and abuse—physical, emotional, and sexual—was held at Camp Wakonda in Wisconsin with 29 attending. Two years later, the same program was held at Camp Wagner in Michigan with 35 attending. These programs were sponsored by Lake Union women's ministries.

During the past five years, approximately 600 training seminars were held, not only at the conference level, but also in the local churches.

There have been 28 evangelistic meetings led by women which resulted in 60 baptisms, plus 150 members being reclaimed.

The *Heart Call* program is designed to reclaim women who find themselves distanced from the church. This is done through gift subscriptions to *Women of Spirit*, a magazine designed especially for



Myrna Earles, LUC women's ministries director

women. Women in the church who have a burden to win back hurting women become involved in this ministry by giving the women they're trying to reach special attention. They also reach out to women who are not members of their congregation but have shown an interest through Bible studies, retreats, evangelistic meetings, etc.

Women of the church want to be active contributors, not only in their own church but around the world. At some



Brenda Walsh ministered dynamically at the Wisconsin women's retreat.

retreats special offerings are taken to help support needy women in other parts of the world who do not have the privileges we have in America. There is an offering taken in all churches in North

America each July to help further the work of women's ministries. Your giving has helped the Lake Union Conference sponsor three of the unique events above.

Myrna Earles is the Lake Union Conference women's ministries director.

2006 LAKE UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES EVENTS

April 8

Indiana Women's Ministries Spring Retreat

Indiana Academy, Cicero, Indiana
Information: Call Julie Loucks at (317) 844-6201; or e-mail: c2jloucks@aol.com

April 7-9, 14-16, and 21-23

Michigan Women's Ministries Retreats with Cathy Ireland

Camp Au Sable, Grayling, Michigan
Information: Call Myrna Earles at (517) 886-1093; or e-mail mearles@misda.org

June 10

Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

June 22-25

Indiana Single Mom's Retreat

Timber Ridge Camp, Spencer, Indiana
Information: Call Julie Loucks at (317) 844-6201; or e-mail: c2jloucks@aol.com

July 29

NAD Women's Ministries Offering

July 21-23

Lake Union Hispanic Women's Ministries Retreat

Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan
Information: Call Areli Rivera at (414) 760-6396; or e-mail: ajoselin@sbcglobal.net

August 26

Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day

September 22-24

Michigan Women's Ministries Retreat with Vicki Griffin and Evelyn Kissinger

Camp Sagola, Sagola, Michigan
Information: Call Gina Stearman at (906) 630-5720; or e-mail: nurseskeepthebeat@yahoo.com

September 29-October 1

Indiana Women's Ministries Retreat with Ginny Allen

Oakwood Inn, Syracuse, Indiana
Information: Call Shari Blackburn at (260) 622-4749; or e-mail: smbblackburn@juno.com

October 6-8

Northern Illinois (Chicagoland) Women's Retreat with Kay Kuzma

Location: To be announced
Information: Call Sarah Aragon at (708) 596-2000, ext. 2404

October 6-9

Lake Region Women's Ministries Retreat

Location: To be announced
Information: Call Doris Gothard at (586) 786-0035; or e-mail: dorisgothard@aol.com

October 13-15

Michigan Mother/Daughter Retreat with Jo Ann Davidson and daughter, Rahel Schafer

Camp Au Sable, Grayling, Michigan
Information: Call Myrna Earles at (517) 886-1093; or e-mail mearles@misda.org

October 27-29

Wisconsin Women's Ministries Retreat with Linda Lynch

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
Information: Call Susan Boon at (262) 835-4914

November 3-5

Southern Illinois Women's Retreat

Location: To be announced
Information: Call Cathy Sanchez at (618) 218-4335

November 5

Michigan Women's Ministries Leadership Workshop

Charlotte, Michigan
Information: Call Myrna Earles at (517) 886-1093; or e-mail mearles@misda.org

A Chosen Generation

BY RONALD H. WHITEHEAD

Youth ministry in the Lake Union goes back to 1879 when Luther Warren and Harry Fenner, ages 14 and 17, gathered together for prayer in Hazelton, Michigan, to establish the Adventist Missionary Youth Society. In 1901, the General Conference voted to establish a youth department and in 1916, the Lake Union Conference established a youth department to better serve the needs of Lake Union youth and young adults. Since 1996, Ron Whitehead has coordinated Lake Union youth ministries for three union presidents.

The Lake Union historically and currently values youth and young adults. This union of conferences believes their youth are not only the church of tomorrow, but they are the church today. Here are a few ways our youth are involved in the mission of the Seventh-day-Adventist Church.

MISSIONS

Each year, hundreds of young people take the Matthew 18:19 commission to heart. To illustrate their dedication and how quick Lake Union young people can respond to God's call, look no further than Hurricane Katrina. Hundreds of youth rotated into the Gulf States area to be "salt and light" for Jesus. For more information, visit: www.cywecare.org.



Lake Union youth were quick to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

MISSION EVANGELISM	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Student Missionaries/Taskforce	38	36	28	32	35
Short Term Domestic Trips	17	21	18	20	31
Short Term International Trips	30	38	31	32	33
Total Participants (estimate)	978	1,216	1,008	1,072	1,315



Campers form lasting memories at Indian Village campfire worships.

SUMMER CAMP EVANGELISM

Year after year this form of evangelism pays big in the following areas: baptisms, decisions for Jesus, young adult leadership training and employment, and pure fun. Beautiful Camp Akita in the Illinois Conference is the newest conference center and camp in the Lake Union.



Ronald H. Whitehead, youth ministries director

CAMP EVANGELISM

S = Staff C = Campers R = Request for Baptism NA = Not Available

	2001			2002			2003			2004			2005		
	S	C	R	S	C	R	S	C	R	S	C	R	S	C	R
Illinois	NA	NA	NA	25	172	NA	25	180	NA	31	285	NA	35	316	NA
Indiana	28	286	55	30	350	70	32	470	90	35	420	90	38	530	125
Lake Region	29	1,400	71	29	1,400	71	29	1,400	71	29	1,400	71	29	1,400	71
Michigan	90	1,672	443	90	1,632	374	92	1,714	390	96	1,769	371	90	1,802	453
Wisconsin	30	311	57	30	270	62	30	286	43	30	254	56	32	296	53
Totals	177	3,669	626	204	3,824	577	208	4,050	594	221	4,128	588	224	4,344	702

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER EVANGELISM

Pathfinders and Adventurers are the strongest local church youth programs within the Lake Union. These two ministries effect “our” youth. They learn Christian values, build a relationship with Jesus, discover the world around them, and train for leadership, as well as Bible evangelism, etc. Adventurers and Pathfinders are for those in grades one to 12. Barna Research Group well documents if young people do not make a decision for Jesus by age 14 they are only four percent likely to make that decision later on.

In 2001, the Lake Union Pathfinder Camporee was held with just over 1,800 in attendance. In 2004,



An Illinois drummer marched in a parade at the 2004 Faith on Fire Camporee.



Adventurers learn many new skills. They enjoy collecting patches from their classes for their sashes.



Adventurers enjoy making new crafts at Adventurer Fun Day.



More than 30,000 attended the 2004 Faith on Fire Camporee in Osh Kosh, Wis.

the Lake Union hosted the world camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with more than 30,000 in attendance. The Lake Union will host its quinquennial camporee September 14–17, 2006. For more information, contact Terry Dodge, Michigan Conference Pathfinder and Adventurer director: tdodge@misda.org.

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER EVANGELISM

PC = Pathfinder Clubs PM = Pathfinder Members AC = Adventurer Clubs AM = Adventurer Members

	2001				2002				2003				2004				2005			
	PC	PM	AC	AM	PC	PM	AC	AM	PC	PM	AC	AM	PC	PM	AC	AM	PC	PM	AC	AM
Illinois	22	298	10	175	24	324	11	196	27	328	13	228	19	396	15	257	26	412	17	306
Indiana	11	280	11	258	13	358	12	270	17	390	13	253	17	425	15	270	18	380	14	298
Lake Region	26	531	13	222	26	531	22	291	26	531	21	254	26	531	15	216	26	531	12	193
Michigan	59	1,122	28	479	61	1,135	40	385	69	1,310	47	578	62	1,314	40	648	60	1,206	37	547
Wisconsin	13	150	8	40	13	120	8	42	13	125	8	39	13	107	8	41	13	113	8	40
Totals	131	2,381	70	1,174	137	2,468	93	1,184	152	2,684	102	1,352	137	2,773	93	1,432	143	2,642	88	1,384



Abdiel Quetz portrayed Jesus in the 2005 Andrews University Passion play.

PUBLIC DOCTRINE EVANGELISM

During the past few years, increasing numbers of youth and young adults are seeking more involvement in various forms of public evangelism. Some youth are holding Revelation seminars, others are starting Bible correspondence schools, while still others are preaching the gospel. One of the most recent Lake Union youth evangelism efforts was held in Ghana, Africa, with 49 Pathfinders. More than 500,000 pieces of literature were distributed and 702 people were baptized. With more youth evangelism training and funding taking place in the Lake Union, we expect more youth and young adult involvement.



Andrews University students lead the dynamic Fusion worship experience monthly at the Howard Performing Arts Center.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

There is a wise saying, “what you value, you measure.” This is true in the corporate world, but also applies to our personal and spiritual lives. In ministry, we value people. In youth ministry, we especially value young people and are overjoyed when they make a decision for Christ. There are a number of indicators that suggest what we are doing through summer camp, Pathfinders, missions and outreach ministries is having a significant impact on the number of youth baptisms. New software technology is now being em-



Ron Whitehead baptized this young woman from Ghana, Africa, during the Pathfinder evangelistic effort there.

ployed to track this information so we can monitor baptisms for young people under the age of 17 and between the ages of 18 to 35. With this information, we can better assess the effectiveness of our ministry to the young.

The youth and young adults around us are a chosen generation called to usher in our Lord’s return. To this end, the Lake Union youth department stands ready to support its youth.

Ronald H. Whitehead is the Lake Union youth and young adult ministries director.

ADVENTIST MIDWEST HEALTH REPORT

SHARING *the* LIGHT

THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH CARE

BY ERNIE SADAU

During the past five years, Adventist Midwest Health developed a stronger presence in the Chicago suburban market through its ownership, management, and operation of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital, and Adventist Bolingbrook Medical Center. Plans to open Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital in 2007 are in progress and this state-of-the-art facility is recognized as the first new hospital in the state of Illinois to be built in 25 years. The region also includes Chippewa Valley Hospital, the physicians of Adventist Health Partners, and other affiliated organizations.

Significant historical milestones were also reached by our organizations—100 years for Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, 50 years for Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, and 25 years for Adventist GlenOaks Hospital.

With more than 5,000 employees, more than 1,200 volunteers, and a medical staff of more than 1,200 physicians, Adventist Midwest Health handles in excess of 31,000 inpatient admissions and 410,000 outpatient visits annually.



Ernie Sadau,
AMH president/CEO



ADVENTIST BOLINGBROOK MEDICAL CENTER AND ADVENTIST BOLINGBROOK HOSPITAL

Opened in 1981, Adventist Bolingbrook Medical Center provides outpatient services and emergency care to the area residents. In 1998, this facility was certified as the first free-standing emergency center in Illinois, offering 24-hour emergency care. As community needs grow, our partnership with them continues to reach new heights. In Fall 2005, construction began on Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital, a

138-bed, full-service hospital that will include 102 medical/surgical, 20 obstetrics, and 12 intensive care beds. Plans also include an office building added to the campus to serve the growing community.

ADVENTIST GLENOAKS HOSPITAL

A 186-bed facility, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital is ready to meet the health care demands of the growing community in the western suburbs. Providing more than 47,000 patient visits per year, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital offers acute care, obstetrics, cardiology, and behavioral health services. As a pioneer in reducing emergency department wait times, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital currently has plans for a new emergency center and medical office building.

Adventist GlenOaks Hospital celebrated its 25th anniversary, with various programs that included a series of week-long cultural diversity celebrations designed to honor and understand the different cultures represented at the hospital.

ADVENTIST HINSDALE HOSPITAL

The centennial celebration in 2004 marked 100 years of service and was an excellent opportunity to remember the strong foundation set by David and Mary Paulson, physicians and co-founders of Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital. The rich legacy they began led to the health care ministry Adventist Hinsdale Hospital offers today. Recent renovations to the Koplin Emergency and Trauma Center, Koplin Family Endoscopy Center, the pediatrics unit, and other patient care units, feature the latest in patient comforts, staff efficiencies, and technological advances for diagnosis and treatment. The hospital is a 426-bed facility that delivers high-tech tertiary care, including Level III neonatal services, and features several centers of excellence—Rooney Heart, Birck Family Women and Children Center, and Opler Can-



Actor Richard Garvey portrayed David Paulson, physician, at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital's centennial celebration.

cer, Birck Family Women and Children Center, and Opler Can-

cer Center. Adventist Hinsdale Hospital ranked 32nd among hospitals in the United States for Neurology and Neurosurgery by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2005.

ADVENTIST LA GRANGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005 and is looking forward to the opening of its new five-story, 225,000 square foot Patient Care Center later this year. The addition will provide private rooms, expanded waiting areas, and a state-of-the-art medical facility that includes a 27-bed intensive care unit. The new facility will offer easy access to the campus with welcoming interiors and integration of technology. The 223-bed hospital will continue to provide a full range of cardiology, oncology, and medical/surgical services to the surrounding communities.



Luke Sewall, M.D., is performing an interventional radiology procedure at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.



CHIPPEWA VALLEY HOSPITAL

Chippewa Valley Hospital serves a rural community in Durand, Wisconsin, with a 25-bed critical access hospital and an attached 58-bed skilled care nursing facility.

ADVENTIST ST. THOMAS HOSPICE

Adventist St. Thomas Hospice began in 1980 as a volunteer program and has grown into a full-service hospice, touching over 800 families in 2005. Named after a courageous 17-year-old teen battling cancer, Adventist St. Thomas Hospice follows the hospice philosophy of specialized assistance for individuals with advanced, incurable illnesses who seek palliative care or relief from pain or discomfort. The program also offers support for patients' family and close friends, including a grief support program for children called *Tommy's Kids*. The group is for children who experience significant loss due to the death of a parent, sibling, grandparent, or friend. An informal adult grief sup-

port group meets simultaneously to discuss opportunities adults have to deal with children's grief and how help them through the loss.

ADVENTIST GLENOAKS THERAPEUTIC DAY SCHOOL

Adventist GlenOaks Therapeutic Day School celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2005. This fully-accredited, third-through 12th-grade program offers a variety of curriculum and therapies for students with social-emotional disorders and learning disabilities, at three campuses throughout Chicago's western suburbs—Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, and Aurora. This highly-specialized, educational organization is the top referral choice of area school districts, thanks to its 100 percent graduation rate. The school teaches lifelong principles, including social, living, and vocational skills. The goal is to assist students in the development of self-awareness, confidence, and problem-solving strategies so they can re-enter community schools and transition into successful careers.

Ernie Sadau is the Adventist Midwest Health president/CEO.

Living our Mission

Ghana, West Africa

In addition to community outreach, education, and Spiritual Ambassador programs, Adventist Midwest Health participated in a mission trip to Ghana, West Africa. Administrators and employees worked side by side to conduct medical ministries, youth and children's programs, as well as help build a block and concrete women's dormitory for a Seventh-day Adventist school.

Hurricane Katrina

On Friday, September 12, Adventist Midwest Health was recognized by the American Red Cross as a lead corporate partner in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Employees represented the organization at a state-wide telethon to raise funds for the hurricane victims. Held at the Hewitt Associates offices in Lincolnshire, Illinois, and hosted by the Illinois Broadcasters Association, the telethon was a great success, garnering \$6,488,793 in less than 24 hours. Adventist Midwest Health and its medical staffs presented a corporate donation of \$150,000 on behalf of employees and physicians.

Reflecting our Faith

In November 2004, Adventist Midwest Health changed its name from Adventist Health System Midwest Region to provide a more concise reflection of who we are and what we represent. As a part of this brand strategy, the hospitals and affiliated organizations incorporated "Adventist" into their names.



Stewards of a Legacy

BY NIELS-ERIK ANDREASEN

During the 2005 General Conference Session, members of the World Church poured through the Lake Union to visit two icons of Adventism—Battle Creek’s Historic Adventist Village and Andrews University (Andrews). St. Louis and Berrien Springs might not seem like twin cities, but University Relations recorded more than 600 guests who visited campus for a tour. Many more came through unannounced and most also made a stop in Battle Creek.

With the close proximity of Andrews and the Lake Union Conference office, there is a dynamic relationship not possible anywhere else. Andrews is grateful for the generous spirit of collegiality between our leadership and for the generous financial support of the Lake Union. We are pleased to provide global resources in the context of Adventist higher education to the Lake Union.

We are also grateful for the support and partnership with Lake Union secondary institutions. For the past four years, almost 40 percent of all graduating Lake Union academy seniors chose Andrews University, a six per-

cent increase over the previous four years. Our gifted and committed students, with our scholarship support, become the future leaders of our church and community.

Following is a brief quinquennial report of what has been accomplished, with God’s blessings, in partnership with the Lake Union and the General Conference, for the benefit of our Adventist young people.



Niels-Erik Andreasen,
Andrews University
president

EDUCATING FOR GENEROUS SERVICE

Today, more than 3,000 students from nearly 100 countries study at our Berrien Springs campus, in five schools and one division, and choose from 180 undergraduate and graduate programs. The university’s educational strength extends worldwide through affiliate and extension programs where another 1,700 students are working toward Andrews undergraduate and graduate degrees at 16 affiliated institutions on five continents. Andrews alumni number more than 28,000. They work across the globe, with literally thousands serving in the world church in leadership positions.

Andrews enjoys a diverse teaching faculty dedicated to academic excellence and spiritual development. In addition to teaching, Andrews faculty are challenged and committed to scholarly research and publishing. We are proud of our faculty who made the commitment to our students, understanding that during the few years our students are with us the interactions in and out of the classroom will mold our students’ decisions about career, friends, and service to God and society.

Some of our students’ educational success is demonstrated through national standards. Our undergraduate students are entering college with scores consistently higher than national averages on standardized tests. Our retention rates are nearly 15 percentage points higher than similar private universities, reflecting a six point increase since 1999, demonstrating our students’ success and commitment to Adventist education at Andrews.

The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, which recently commemorated its 70th anniversary, had a record

enrollment of 768 students in Fall 2005. Seminary students come from all inhabited continents of the world to join one of the most diverse campuses in North America.

Creating a physical environment that fosters learning and builds community among students, faculty, and staff is an ongoing challenge in a time of stretched financial resources. Thanks to the generosity of the Lake Union and other university friends who are also committed to education for generous service, we completed two major building projects during the last quinquennium. The facility that houses the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary underwent a much-needed renovation and expansion, spaces that foster intellectual, spiritual, and social community among the students, staff, and faculty of the Seminary.

The second building project remained a dream for over a quarter century. However, in October 2003, Andrews dedicated the Howard Performing Arts Center to the Giver who dreams of a world filled with His song, healed by His music.

“Educated for Service” is demonstrated creatively and practically in various disciplines. Our music students and faculty offer free lessons in their spare time to disadvantaged children; music performance organizations spend vacations bringing music to inspire the hearts of those stricken with AIDS in developing countries; architecture students serve the building needs of small communities in South America; biology students tutor disadvantaged children in the local community; a potpourri of students volunteer their time each Sabbath for street ministries in nearby Benton Harbor; and hundreds more dedicate their varied talents and time for the annual Easter weekend Passion play which ministers to more than 8,000 guests.

FAITHFUL WITNESS TO CHRIST AND TO THE WORLDWIDE MISSION OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Where do Andrews students get the energy and inspiration to serve? It is through the fresh and energetic youthful enthusiasm—an element that brings great joy to the educational work on campus. Students thrive in the Christ-centered classrooms and daily worship services expected on

a Christian campus, but Andrews students also take hold of their faith experience and live it out in bold new ways. Every Sabbath there are nearly 30 worship opportunities in the Michiana community, including eight options right in Berrien Springs. Bible study in the tradition of Sabbath school has enjoyed a revitalized interest through the grassroots initiative and leadership of Andrews students with the support of their families in the community.

LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

For nearly a century and a half Andrews has provided higher education to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 1960 that commitment was redoubled by the General Conference, which established Andrews as a comprehensive university charged with serving the needs of a growing and changing denomination.

However, there remains a tremendous need for educated leaders to support the church’s expansion, to bring



New students get acquainted during Andrews’ All Fired Up orientation week.

Adventist influence to various fields in the public sector, and to provide faith-based education for the world Adventist family. Andrews stands on the cusp of a new era in Adventist education and is uniquely prepared to serve the global needs of our worldwide church.

Andrews looks to the future with confidence. With God’s guidance and grace, we will strengthen Andrews’ academic programs to make them responsive and adaptable to the needs of church and society. We will nurture our outstanding faculty, who embody the academic excellence and spiritual maturity that inspires students and

prepares them for distinctive leadership roles, and we will remain faithful stewards of the physical spaces of our campus, continuing to develop and provide a physical plant that builds community and supports educational values.

At Andrews we are stewards of a legacy of leadership that inspires us to take seriously what Adventist education sets out to do. We are stewards of resources measured in the lives of people and the walls of buildings, and we are stewards of a mission inspired by our namesake, John Nevins Andrews.

Niels-Erik Andreasen is the Andrews University president.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE REPORT



Sitting High on Candlesticks

BY KENNETH A. DENSLAW

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house” (Matt. 5:14, 15).

The lights are high on the candlesticks in Illinois as members share their faith where they live and work. Members have prepared to share their light through personal Bible study, prayer, daily readings of the Spirit of Prophecy, regular church and Sabbath school attendance, as well as active participation in evangelism.

SHARING THE LIGHT IN OUR CHURCHES

Through the work of the local church, more than 2,200 new members were added to church membership through baptism and profession of faith, and net membership increased from 11,659 to 12,645 in this quinquennium.



Kenneth A. Denslaw, Illinois Conference president

For one new member, Kristina Jones, married to an Adventist, Randy Jones, the journey toward church membership took some time. The couple decided their children needed a Christian upbringing. They chose the Adventist faith and over ten years ago she began taking their six children to Sabbath school at the Downers Grove Church. More recently the family began attending church in Dela-
 waun, Wisconsin.

“When my husband and Pastor Goia began conversations about starting a church (Crystal Lake) in McHenry County, my interest in spiritual things was rekindled and I began serious Bible study. Through the years he never pushed me, although he always answered my



From left (back): Crystal Lake pastor, Gavril Bardan; Kristina Jones, and husband, Randy Jones; the Jones’ children (left); and Pavel Goia, pastor, (front right)



To accommodate the growing congregation gathered together for a baptism, Crystal Lake Fellowship members worship under a tent.

questions,” Kristina said. Her family and friends stood by her side as she was baptized by the pastor in the Nippersink Creek at the home of Gerald and Jacque Weiland in Spring Grove, Illinois.

In addition to Crystal Lake, new congregations were started in Caledonia, Naperville, Bensenville, Berwyn, Ro-



Camp meeting is a special time each year. The 21 Illinois Hispanic churches get together as one family to worship the Creator. Among the many activities held that weekend, the most important is the baptism.

chelle, Rockford, West Chicago, Palatine, Peoria, and Fairfield, some of which are Spanish-speaking congregations.

Many members now worship in new facilities: the Chicago Central Korean, Chicago Fil-Am, Salem, Woodson, Melrose Park Romanian (now Addison

Romanian), Little Village Hispanic, Elgin Agape Hispanic Church, and the Southwest Church (merged South Suburban and West Park, with newly purchased property in West Frankfort). Princeton Church members raised in excess of \$175,000 to replace their more than 100-year-old facility in Spring 2006. The Lake Union Chapter of Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries is supporting this project.

SHARING THE LIGHT THROUGH EDUCATION

Students at Broadview Academy (BVA) are involved in a new approach to learning, being watched by educators all over North America. The new BVA experience can best be remembered by "BVA CARES." Students are offered



Broadview Academy students travel throughout Illinois. The choir, under the direction of Noemi Tanada, recently visited the Southwest Adventist Church.

education to help them become "Centered in Christ, Active and Healthy, Ready for Life, Engaged in Learning, and Socially Responsible." Interestingly, many BVA students are not Adventists. During the past two years, more than ten students were baptized.

Students in the secondary program at Hinsdale Adventist Academy and North Shore Junior Academy, as well as those in the elementary program, continue to receive quality Christian education. More than 130 students were bap-



The Oak cabin at Camp Akita has room for 20 girls.

tized through the teaching ministry of Illinois schools in this quinquennium.

Financing Christian education continues to be a priority. Several options are being explored and will be implemented next year.

SHARING THE LIGHT THROUGH YOUTH

Since the last Lake Union constituency meeting, a brand new camp was designed and built for our youth, also serving the entire constituency. The camp, a former Boy Scouts facility, was named Camp Akita. Set in the heart of Illinois, along the Spoon River, Camp Akita offers facilities nestled in a quiet and peaceful setting. Akita is an Indian name meaning "discovery."

The camp is located on 612 beautiful acres, with several ponds and a lake for water activities. The Lakeview Lodge, equipped with state-of-the-art media equipment and a commercial kitchen, accommodates groups as large as 300. There are nine guest rooms in the lodge, each with private bathroom facilities. The rooms are heated and air conditioned, as are the Oak and Cedar cabins, which are actually three cabins in one. Each floor of the cabin has bunk beds for ten campers and two bathrooms. There are also separate rooms for adult sponsors.

Camp Akita has a 38-space, full-hookup recreational vehicle park to accommodate just about any size vehicle. And, of course, there is plenty of space for tent camping. Activities for individuals and groups visiting Camp Akita include: canoeing, climbing tower, horseback riding, swimming, mountain biking, walking/hiking, and winter activities—sledding and cross-country skiing.

Although groups have roughed it at the camp since its purchase, Camp Akita officially opened in June 2004 with



Complete with a large lobby, commercial kitchen, nine guest rooms, laundry facilities, an office, and meeting rooms, Lakeview Lodge is the center for Camp Akita activities.

a ribbon cutting ceremony and camp meeting. Each year attendance has steadily increased at the week-long camp meeting. There was a 32 percent increase in the number of young people blessed by the summer ministry at Camp Akita the second year of operation in the new buildings. In addition, there were dramatic increases in other camp programs, such as Senior's Retreat. Plans are in place to extend the camp program and build new cabins to accommodate more children in the summer camp program and those attending events and retreats.

SHARING THE LIGHT THROUGH SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

On the financial front, for the first time in several years, the Illinois Conference operated under a balanced budget in 2005.

Tithe increased from \$9,116,523 in 2000, to \$10,571,791 in 2005, a 15.97 percent increase. In 2005, despite two Illinois offerings allocated to aid tsunami and Hurricane Katrina victims, donations for Illinois ministries increased over the previous year. Illinois members are "Sharing the Light" through their faithfulness in returning tithe and offerings.

"Sharing God's Grace with Our World Through Teaching, Preaching, and Healing" continues to guide the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in everything done to reach the more than 12.7 million people in Illinois. Yes, lights are on, sitting high on candlesticks, giving light to everyone in Illinois—in every possible way!

Kenneth Denslow is the Illinois Conference president.

ly care. Hey, we just love kids! Honestly, we just think of it as God's school.

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(check out Isaiah 54:13)

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Randy Siebold, Principal

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1-630-232-7441



A Season of Thanksgiving

BY GARY THURBER

The Indiana Conference has many reasons to count its blessings for all the Lord has done in this field over the last five years. It was a season of thanksgiving, sadness, and change.

For nearly two years of this quinquennium, Clay Farewell was conference president. Near the end of 2002, Clay retired after 35 years of service and leadership for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Farwells moved to Tennessee. In December 2004, Clay came out of retirement to serve as assistant to the president in the George-Cumberland Conference. He was tragically killed in a plane crash on his first assignment in that position. Clay was dearly loved as a friend and leader in Indiana. His tragic death caused each of us to long for the coming of Jesus all that much more.

A SEASON FOR INVOLVEMENT AND GROWTH

It was exciting to see our membership's involvement increase in nearly every aspect of church life. Our people are leading evangelistic series, presenting very impactful health/temperance programs, giving leadership to mission trips and other global outreach projects, and carrying out varied ministries in churches and communities throughout the conference.

With the Lord's blessing, the Indiana Conference grew very strongly

during this quinquennium. During these five years, we realized 1,235 baptisms and professions of faith. In addition, ten new companies and congregations were planted in our territory. As a result of this growth, membership now stands on the threshold of 7,000 members; we ended 2005 with 6,972 members.

Many new congregations formed as a result of the very enthusiastic ministry of our Spanish-speaking constituents. Under the leadership of Orlando Vasquez, Indiana Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, and our team of Spanish-speaking pastors and lay leaders, the growth of our Hispanic work was phenomenal.

A SEASON FOR COMPASSION

Not only are Indiana Conference members hard working, they are full of compassion as well. When Hurricane Katrina slammed the Gulf coast, members responded to a conference-wide offering appeal with donations exceeding \$63,000. In addition, a very dedicated group of lay persons, under the leadership of Jose Vazquez, Indiana Conference community services and disaster relief direc-



Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president



Disaster response volunteers stayed busy helping families.



Cathryn Kuszmaul, Barbara Hainey, Rebecca Terry, and Ellen Thornton helped a tornado survivor.

tor, dispatched two semis loaded with relief supplies and three semis with water and diapers to the devastated area. Several Indiana teams were organized to go help with the relief effort as well; one group, largely comprised of Indiana Academy students, gave up their Thanksgiving break to serve others.

Our community services and disaster response team also made a profound impact on our state as they responded to numerous floods and tornadoes that devastated Indiana communities and individuals. Most recently our team responded to the tornado that ripped through the Evansville area. In this one response, a total of 87 volunteers put in a combined 1,671 hours of service and helped 743 people recover from the tornado's devastation.

A SEASON FOR YOUTH

Our youth were also busy in this quinquennium. Under the leadership of Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director, and Dean Whitlow, Indiana Conference Pathfinder and Adventurer director, our youth programming is stronger than ever. Senior youth events and Pathfinder functions are at record levels of participation. In addition, during the past five years attendance has nearly doubled at our summer camp program at Timber Ridge



Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director, and the Timber Ridge Camp staff show the love of Jesus to campers. Charlie was privileged to baptize his daughter, Katie (left), and Ashley Trubey (right), at camp in 2005.

Camp; this past summer attendance topped 500 campers for the first time in the camp's history.

We have young people who not only benefit from the conference's youth programs, but who are also involved in ministry themselves. A number of Indiana young people traveled to places like Africa, India, and Brazil to preach in evangelistic series there. We've had young people in our conference hold evangelistic crusades right here at home, too. Many others are involved in small group Bible studies and various other outreach projects. It is exciting to see God use our young people to finish the work.

A SEASON FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

During this quinquennium emphasis was given to the development of special ministries, including our health and temperance program, community service and disaster relief, and family ministries. Gary Case, former Indiana Conference health and temperance director, and Clinton Meharry, current director, gave wonderful leadership to the conference's health and temperance program with many new initiatives taking place all around the conference. Under Clinton's leadership the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) took hold in many areas and made great inroads into communities.



CHIP graduates appreciated learning ways to live healthy at one of several outreach programs sponsored by the Cicero church.

Ron Kelly, and his wife, Collene, Indiana Conference family ministries directors, brought many new opportunities for family ministries to Indiana. Through the resource library they created, as well as programs they offered, families and individuals were enriched.



Indiana members traveled to India to share the hope of Jesus. Many individuals gave their heart to Jesus following several series of evangelistic meetings.

For many years, Marjorie Driscoll, former Indiana Conference women's ministries coordinator, and her team, worked hard to build our women's ministries program in Indiana. The women's ministries convocations and retreats are well-organized and a blessing to many. The Single Mom's Retreat at Timber Ridge Camp, a cooperative effort of the women's ministries, youth, and family ministries departments, has been an extremely appreciated and well-attended event during this quinquennium.

A SEASON FOR LEARNING

Christian education continues to beat in the hearts of our constituents. Currently, we have a teaching ministry at 13 elementary schools and junior academies as well as Indiana

Academy. As this quinquennium came to a close and we began the next, Indiana Academy enjoys one of its best school years anyone can remember. There is a wonderful spirit on campus among students and faculty, with a real focus on strong academics as well as the students' spiritual life. We have much to be grateful for in the dedicated leadership and staff at all our schools.

A SEASON FOR FAITHFULNESS

Financially, as a conference, we have much to praise the Lord for as well. During this quinquennium, our conference faced some very serious deficit budgets. However, through the faithfulness of our people and the prayers of many, the conference is poised to achieve a balanced budget in 2006. Despite difficult economic times, our tithe increased 14.73 percent over the last five years, a real testament to the faithfulness of our people.

We thank our Lord for His bountiful blessings in our territory. It is our hope and desire to continue to serve Him with all our hearts as together we look forward to His soon coming.

Gary Thurber is the Indiana Conference president.



family.

Indiana Academy is a family. Like a family, we care about the spiritual, academic, social, and physical development of our students.

Like a family, we begin our school days with worship. Like a family, our teachers are prepared with experience and education to care for our students. Like a family, we plan social and fun events. Like a family, we care, pray, and encourage each other to be successful in life. Come join our family.



INDIANA ACADEMY

Call for a visit: (317) 984-3575, or visit us on-line: www.iasda.org



A “Praise God” Report

BY JEROME DAVIS

It has been my privilege to serve as Lake Region Conference president for the past six months. In God’s providence, He allowed me to inherit this responsibility at a time when regional conferences were celebrating their 60th anniversary. What an honor! It also should be noted that Lake Region Conference was the first regional conference established.

Our heavenly Father has been very good to this conference, and especially during this quinquennium. During the past five years, Lake Region Conference experienced many challenges, much pain, and its share of heartache. But the Lord saw us

through all our trials and tribulations, and continues to bring about healing. So this report is a “Praise God” report!

Stunning events took place on the world field since our last Lake Union Session in 2001, events which indicate our Lord’s coming is nearer than when we first believed. The shattering and tragic events of 9/11, and the subsequent passage of the “Patriot Act,” and other laws that greatly constrict personal liberty, are prophecies being ful-



Anthony Kelly, Lake Region youth director, baptizes a young person who gave her heart to Jesus. Baptism is celebrated as an annual feature of camp meeting.

filled before our very eyes. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the unbelievable devastation of Hurricane Katrina, and the loss of millions of jobs, are just some of the powerful reminders this earth is waxing old like a loose garment and Jesus is soon to come. As our Lake Region Conference family witnesses these events, we are building our hopes on things eternal by seeking to save those who are lost. Consequently, through aggressive evangelism, our membership has grown to more than 28,000 and we plan to surpass the 30,000 membership mark by

this time next year. Praise God!



Jerome Davis, Lake Region Conference president



Lake Region pastors pray with attendees of a special camp meeting anointing service.



Elene Rodgers teaches a kindergarten class of eager children about being a part of God's family.

In a great many ways, the Lake Region Conference is a microcosm of the World Church. On any given Sabbath, services are conducted in a number of languages, including English, Spanish, French, Korean, and Chinese. The growth among our non-English-speaking churches has been tremendous. This work is continuing to grow under the leadership of our vice president for multi-lingual ministries, Eddie Allen. He has already communicated to our Hispanic churches his vision for doubling the membership in the next five years through a plan called, "Everyone Reach One." Praise God!



The Pathfinder parade is one of the highlights of the camp meeting experience.

No conference or institution enjoys being laden with debt. The Lake Region Conference can say "Praise God" because through our Strategic Financial Plan, spearheaded by Theodore Brown, treasurer, and approved by the four areas of our conference, we have paid all our bills in full! This doesn't mean we don't have financial challenges. On the contrary, over the next five years we will have to seri-

ously tighten our belts to stay in the black. And what more can I say about the faithfulness of our members? They have supported this conference with their means through good times and bad. Did I mention we had more than an 11 percent tithe increase in 2005? Praise God! This accomplishment deserves another "Praise God!"

One of our biggest challenges, at least since I've taken office, was to place pastoral leadership in all our churches. There were seven English-speaking church districts without ministers. Today, each of these districts has been assigned designated conference leadership. May I say "Praise God!" Our next goal is to do the same for our Hispanic churches. Already, we have formulated plans to achieve that objective.

Christian education remains a great challenge in the Lake Region Conference, as it is in every conference. I take my hat off to all our parents, teachers, principals, and school boards for everything they have done to ensure our boys and girls are taught of the Lord. It is our intention to see that every parent/guardian who desires to have his/her child receive a Christian education in a Seventh-day Adventist school, will have their dream fulfilled. For that I say, "Praise God!"

This report would not be complete without giving special thanks to George Bryant, Lake Region Conference executive secretary. He served as acting president during a time of severe turbulence, but worked very closely with the executive committee to keep this conference stable. Praise God!

In closing, we know the future holds greater challenges for the Lake Region Conference, but we have the assurance that He who is with us is greater than he who is against us. We review the past five years with thanksgiving to God for His mercy and grace, and look forward to tomorrow with great anticipation, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Once more we say, "Praise God!"

Jerome Davis is the Lake Region Conference president.



Brandon Dent Sr. is one of several volunteers who staff the camp meeting radio station, LRC Radio 88.7FM, which brings music, interviews, and information to camp meeting attendees from 6 a.m. to 12 midnight daily.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE REPORT



Getting the Message Out

IN A POST 9/11 WORLD

BY JAY GALLIMORE

It was just a few months after our Lake Union Session in 2001 when the world changed. We continue to see and feel the effect of those changes. No one needs to remind us our freedoms are under attack by powerful religious forces.

Hope for the Homeland was our response in 2002. Michigan Conference held 212 evangelistic meetings; six thousand guests attended the opening meetings and there were nine hundred baptisms. Praise the Lord! It was the highest number in



Last summer, 453 persons made decisions for baptism at Camp Au Sable. Jim Micheff, Michigan Conference youth director, baptized Cynthia Smith at Family Camp.

Then there is the story of the Clare (Michigan) Church. Several years ago the Michigan Conference had to disband the church and sell the property. Various efforts were made to revive the work there. Finally, a small company was started, but then it failed and the group asked the executive committee to disband it. The Lord led the Conference to ask retired literature evangelist director, Russ Thomas, a pastor, and his wife, Faith, if they would help. A month later the executive committee was asked to restart the company. By May 5, 2001, the group bought ten



Jay Gallimore, Michigan Conference president

21 years. Ninety lay preachers joined 120 pastors to conduct those meetings. Pastors not only prepared and held their own meetings, but also coached their lay brothers and sisters on how to do theirs. As members, we can look back at our response to the tragedy of 9/11 and know that when God said "Move!" we moved. We did not just wring our hands. We united, and by God's grace made our best efforts for the Lord.

acres on I-27 and broke ground for a new church.

By February 1, 2003, Clare members opened the doors to a beautiful church. Three months later they dedicated it debt free with 35 members. By December 2005, they had 66 members. You do the math.

What is the secret of their success? They do evangelism the old-fashioned way. First, they have at least one part-time colporteur, Pam Knechtel, who works very closely with the pastor. She finds the interests. The pastor and his wife follow them up. Members are assigned to give Bible studies. Then, the pastor "persuades" one of the Conference evangelists to hold a week-long "reaping" series. They



In January 2006, conference leaders met with many of the 30 Bible workers ministering in Michigan churches to give both training and encouragement.

always have a crowd of guests. Of course, the members are there as well, giving the meetings their full support.

The church members and their pastor are already making plans to start work in a nearby town where there is no church. Nothing beats door-to-door, cooperation between the pastor and members, Bible studies, public evangelism, love, and the truth. I wonder what would happen if we tried this everywhere? The results are predictable!

Consider the General Youth Conference (GYC). As many of you know, the Michigan Conference is sponsoring Secular Campus Ministries, under the direction of Samuel Pipim. Young people have a way of generating wonderful surprises. Israel Ramos, along with some others, decided it was time for Adventist young people to unite to help finish God's work. They were weary of the shallow, entertainment preaching and music that so often was directed at the youth. They wanted to be part of sharing the distinctive message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They started networking with youth from all over the country and organized a training convention that would affirm the faith and equip youth to witness.

Their first convention was held in Southern California. They expected 200; more than 400 came. The next time they held it in Ann Arbor, Michigan. They expected 800; 1,200 came. The next time they held it in Sacramento, California. They expected 1,200; 1,800 came. In December 2005, they held it in Chattanooga, Tennessee. They expected 2,200; 3,700 came.

In order to help prepare for Mark Finley's evangelistic meetings, on Sabbath afternoon 1,800 young people visited 9,000 homes. To date they have received requests for nearly 1,000 Bible studies. GYC! Young people invented it. Young people organized it. Young people are running it. They believe God deserves their best. They want to do their part to see Jesus come again soon.

Look at *ARISE* (A Resource Institute for Soul-Winning and Evangelism), run by David Asscherick, a minister, and his team. They train Bible workers each year for the Michigan Conference. We have far more requests for these graduates to do Bible work than we can meet. Adventists made their greatest advances in America when Bible workers were given a high priority. We must get back to doing door-to-door work and giving personal Bible studies. Some of the greatest teachings of Jesus were given to one person at a time—Nicodemus, and the woman at the well.

Last year, Camp Au Sable staff saw 453 people make decisions for baptism during their summer camp programs. God is blessing with record attendance. We want to do all we can to see youth make that decision to give their lives to Jesus.

We are grateful for our 47 schools. Great Lakes Adventist Academy is enjoying one of its highest enrollments. Every day the lives of our youth are being nurtured and encouraged toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

There is a lot of health outreach going on in our churches. The health and temperance department has developed their third outreach tool for churches to use. The latest, *Living Free*, focuses on addictions. The first of twelve, in a magazine series that can be used with neighbors and friends, is completed. It is titled, *Balance—Body, Mind, and Spirit*.

Then there were the hurricane disasters. This conference membership responded with nearly \$200,000 in donations. Several truckloads of goods were sent into the disaster zone. In addition, many volunteers staffed the Michigan Conference mobile kitchen that fed the warehouse volunteers in Louisiana.

We are urging our members to have their own parish. Your neighbors need you! Is there anyone in your neighborhood who is sick, addicted, depressed, out of work, lonely, or grieving? Are there single parents, people going through a divorce, marriages in crisis, youth in trouble, or parents who are distressed? Are there people who are wondering about spiritual things? Are there those who long to know somebody who knows the Lord? Maybe they are tired of all the "Christian" glitter and need a real Christian to connect to. What if we just decided to visit our neighbors every few weeks just to pray for those who would like for us to? We need to be about our Father's business, neighbor to neighbor. Not to see what we can get, but to see what we can give.

Jay Gallimore is the Michigan Conference president.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE REPORT



Heaven Bound

BY DON CORKUM

There is excitement among Adventist membership in Wisconsin. The reason for this excitement is they sense the day nearing when they will meet their Lord, face to face, at His return. They are Heaven bound and want to encourage others to share in this great future. Jesus is their Friend and they want their forever friendship with Him experienced by many. The year 2006 began with many evangelistic thrusts in the cities and towns throughout Wisconsin. The past five years also gave many reasons to praise God with evidence His cause is advancing throughout the state.

PRAISE HIM

From 2001 to 2005, 1,261 new members were added through baptism and profession of faith. This represents six percent growth over the previous five years. This was a result of people, all ages and walks of life, allowing the Spirit of God to work through them. Our young people demonstrated evangelism can be conducted effectively by youth, even those in church school. The Green Bay church school conducted a series in 2002 and fourteen people were baptized.

In 2002, when the *Hope for the Homeland* meetings were conducted, 335 people were added to the church. This was the most growth in one year since the



New Hmong members united with the Madison Community Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1970s. We praise God to see new members become a part of God's family. New people groups are a part of this growth. In 2005, an outreach began to the 40,000 Hmong living in Wisconsin. We praise God that about twenty Hmong are now rejoicing in the Adventist message. A Hmong pastor has been employed to help foster this new work.

Church planting is once again strong in this state. New church plants have occurred in communities where previously there was no Adventist church presence. Plans are underway early in 2006 to start a new work in South Milwaukee. An annual church planting rally provides inspiration and training for this growing work.

About 2.5 percent of the 200,000 Hispanics in Wisconsin are Adventists. There is a strong evangelistic outreach to this people group. The Three Angels Broadcasting Net-



Don Corkum, Wisconsin Conference president

work programs in Spanish have been a blessing, as has evangelism by satellite.

The media helps share the Adventist message. Low power radio stations now serve many communities in northern Wisconsin. Three Angels Broadcasting Network has a strong ministry in this state and many people come to the church as a result of watching its programs.

While public meetings and media ministry lay a strong foundation for growth, it takes personal work to help people make decisions for the Lord. During the *Sow One Billion* initiative, about 600,000 cards were sent out in the conference. The responses received from people requesting Bible studies totaled about 1,500. The studies and visits of members with these seekers resulted in contacts and decisions that honored our Lord.

TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES

Youth and Pathfinders were excited once again to have the International Camporee hosted in their conference. About 30,000 youth gathered in Oshkosh to demonstrate “Faith on Fire.” Wisconsin has sixteen clubs and an average of 175 Pathfinders during the past five years.

Jahwi is the federation for the Spanish. This dynamic organization inspires the youth of the church as well as reaches out evangelistically. They have hundreds of youth responding to this ministry. Conventions, church events, and outreach activities give outlet to the enthusiasm of these inspired youth.

Wakonda means a place set apart. Each year, hundreds of youth campers come to the conference camp to hear more about Jesus and enjoy a camping experience. Many other experiences for children take place in the summer to uplift Jesus to our children and youth. Vacation Bible School ministered to more than 2,000 young people during the past five years.

Small groups are an excellent context to minister to people and invite friends to learn more about Him. An annual convention inspires small group leaders to continue this important ministry.

A strong emphasis on parenting and marriage takes place through seminars and weekend retreats. In addition, the women’s convention each year has 300–400 attendees and the men’s convention about 100.

ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian education is a key part of the ministry in the Wisconsin Conference. During the past five years K–10 enrollment averaged 266 students in 18 schools, and the academy enrollment average for five years was 110. Wisconsin Academy is a center of ministry to youth. It also inspires



Wisconsin Academy students traveled to Mississippi to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

service. In 2005, students from the academy spent a week in Mississippi helping Hurricane Katrina victims. Seniors dedicate their class trip each year to a short-term mission project in places like Belize, Romania, and Africa.

FAITHFULNESS IN STEWARDSHIP

Wisconsin people continue to demonstrate loyalty and faithfulness to the work of God. In tithes, offering, and through estate planning, they demonstrate their priority to God. Even during difficult financial times, tithe increased each year. During the past five years, \$1,683,000 came through the conference trust department to local church entities, the conference, and other ministries. What a blessing this is to the work of God!

Yes, the people of Wisconsin are Heaven bound and they want their lives to give evidence of their commitment to Him. What a glorious day it will be when we hear our Savior say, “Welcome Home.” Then we can enjoy the future Jesus is excited about experiencing with us.

Don Corkum is the Wisconsin Conference president.

DELEGATE LIST

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

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Roscoe J. Howard
Juan R. Prestol

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE (LUC)

DELEGATES AT LARGE

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Doug Carlson
Janet Clear
Donald Corkum
George Crumley
Jerome Davis
Kenneth Denslow
Marguerite Dixon-Roper
Mike Edge
Jay Gallimore
Lynn Gray
Doug Gregg
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Cliff Ingersoll
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Raymond Mayor
Carmelo Mercado
Diane Mitselvelt
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Brent Schalk
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Deborah Scott
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Randy Siebold
John Stanton
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Ken Veal
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John Riggs
Janelle Ruba
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Maxine Austin
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R. Washington
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MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

REGULAR DELEGATES

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Debra Barr
Kevin Barrett
Joel Barrios
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Diana Bruch
Leory Bruch
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John Chen
Tom Coffee
Phil Colburn
Floyd Costerisan
Lyle Davis
Ray Davis
Wilma Davisson
Connie Day
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Terry Dodge
Luvamay Dovich
Ron DuPreez
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Kevin Kossick
Sunimal Kulasekere
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Mickey Mallory
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Bruce Moore
Richard Muskett
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Paul Pellandini
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Berwyn Rogers
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WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

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Roger Driver
James Fox
Paul Goia
Keith Hatcher
Clayton Judy
Ken Kirkham
Lemuel Lowry
Carmen Magray
Steven Mertins
Sandy Miller
Rodney Mills
Ellsworth Moses
Sonja Nottelson
Ruben Rivera
Jean Schwark
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Wendell Springer
Larry Stotz
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ADVENTIST MIDWEST HEALTH

REGULAR DELEGATES

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

REGULAR DELEGATES

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Rodrick Church
Tami Condon
Duane Covrig
Leonard Gashugi
Lisa Jardine

[YOUTH NEWS]

GYC Experience Changed Lives

Michigan—We attended the General Youth Conference (GYC) in Chattanooga, Tenn., from Dec. 28, 2005, through Jan. 1, 2006. Here is a glimpse of our experience.

We began the trip apprehensively. As we walked into the huge Chattanooga Convention Center, we were immediately overwhelmed by hundreds of people standing in line to register.

The devotional meeting on the first night was the start of many changes in both our lives. Imagine walking into a large auditorium and seeing 2,700 people, mainly youth, dressed in business attire. When the song service started, it wasn't the loud, contemporary music we were expecting. Instead they sang hymns. This is the experience we encountered at every meeting.

Throughout the meetings, there was a table to sign up to volunteer serving food. We did so apprehensively. While we were serving, we realized how many attendees there really were. Watching all of those people, we realized we were in the midst of God's army of young people. I cannot tell you how we were touched seeing people like them, serving graciously as Christ did.



Stace Jordan with Trae (four years old), Brett Douglas, and Amber Jordan scooped dry ingredients into plastic bags. They were part of eight crews who filled, weighed, sealed, and packed the bags. In the background are Richie Jordan, Dennis Maloney, and Tim Stuiivenga.

It is hard to explain what it was really like. All we can tell you are our observations and the resulting changes. God has directed us to La Vida Missions in New Mexico, where I (Nicholas) will instruct and work with computers, as well as help cook, and I (Valerie) will teach violin and choir and help in the dental clinic.

If you have not gone to GYC, go. If you want to be challenged to change your life, go. We are going to warn you though, do not go if you don't want to experience powerful speakers and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This stuff is powerful.

Valerie Plue and Nicholas Rayner, Michigan GYC attendees, Berrien Springs Village Church

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Clear Lake Members Package Meals for Hungry Children

Wisconsin—Clear Lake Church members and friends spent two evenings in Dec. 2005 packaging meals for hungry children around the world.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), founded in 1987, is a non-profit Christian organization located in Brooklyn Park and Eagan, Minn., which depends largely on volunteer labor. When staff members organized a three-day effort in Amery, Wis., the Adventist church was among several local groups who responded.

Volunteers worked in two-hour shifts packaging a dry combination of rice, vitamins/minerals, dehydrated vegetables, and soy "chicken" powder which can be cooked in boiling water anywhere in the world. The formula meets the daily needs of severely malnourished children under the age of five. Each assembled package feeds six children.

Alice Garrett, Adventist Community Services director, organized 35 church members to participate on Thurs. evening, Dec. 8, and again on Sat. evening, Dec. 10. The FMSC staff expressed appreciation for the tremendous turnout Sat. evening—a total of 76 area volunteers packaged 27,000 meals in two hours.

A total of 179,000 meals were packaged during the three days the organization spent in Amery. Staff members commented they only brought along enough ingredients for 164,000 meals, but somehow the Lord multiplied the "loaves and fishes" to feed His starving children.

Currently, food is being supplied in about 30 countries; among them are Haiti, Liberia, Peru, Tanzania, Ghana, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Guatemala, India, and Sri Lanka. Recently the emphasis has been to provide meals to orphans of last year's tsunami in Southeast Asia.

It costs about \$62 to feed a child for an entire year. For more information visit website: www.fmsc.org.

Beth Nelson, Clear Lake Church communication secretary



Autumn Osterman (right) helped register youth who attended the recent GYC convention in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Hammond Church Celebrates Dedication

Indiana—As the sun set on Fri., Oct. 14, 2005, Hammond Church members ushered in the Sabbath with a special vespers service to begin a two-day celebration for the mortgage burning and dedication service.

The weekend events were actually set in motion many years earlier, on Jan. 9, 1984, when the previous church building was destroyed by fire. Initially, the congregation contemplated rebuilding. However, after countless prayers, they were led to another location and a new structure was built. They began services in the new church in Fall 1996.

Through the years that followed, members were faithful in paying the mortgage and on Sabbath, Oct. 15, the church family shared in the joy of this long-awaited day of dedication and celebration! A delicious vegetarian luncheon followed the morning services. The afternoon program was filled with musical performances featuring special guests from Berrien Springs, Mich., and Allen Shepherd, Hammond Church pastor, who played a few tunes on his trusty old harmonica.



From left at the mortgage burning: Carmelo Merdado, Lake Union Conference vice president and Hispanic ministries coordinator; Allen Shepherd, pastor; Gary Case, Indiana Conference association secretary; Dean Cooper, head elder; Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president; and Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director

The pinnacle moment of the actual mortgage burning followed the dedication service. Honored guests included Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union Conference vice president and Hispanic ministries coordinator. Mercado served Hammond from 1979–1987. Other honored guests included Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president; Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director; and Gary Case, Indiana Conference association secretary. Each honored guest spoke and provided a special blessing and inspirational charge to the congregation.

In the midst of the service, Joe Carpen, a recently-nominated deacon, was ordained by Neri, Case, and Mercado.

The mortgage burning and church dedication are not the final destination of the journey which began on that cold Jan. in 1984. The prayers of the Hammond congregation are to continue the mission and quickly spread the gospel before the triumphant return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Doranita L. Tyler, Hammond Church correspondent

Portland Riverfest Attendees Are Greeted by Adventists

Michigan—*Portland Riverfest* is an annual community event that draws many visitors to the small Michigan town for a variety of fun family activities. This year, the Portland Church, with only a membership of 28, laid big plans to be involved, under the direction of Dale

Baker, the church's personal ministries director.

Despite morning rain and a very poor booth location, members of the Portland Church distributed 750 free bottles of water and 762 pieces of Adventist literature at the *Portland Riverfest*.

Literature distributed included: *SIGNS* (regular and special issues), *Happiness Digest*, several issues of *Pocket SIGNS*, *Birth of the Messiah*, and *The Passion of Love*.

One of the individuals who stopped by the booth was a former Adventist and his wife. Baker spoke with the former member about why he left the church, and asked permission to visit with him at a later date with the pastor. They plan to get together soon.

Alvena Evans, Portland Church correspondent



Dale and Ruth Baker weathered the morning rain and greeted festival goers with free bottled water.



Bob Lloyd, Evansville Westside pastor, preaches to a television audience for the church's program, *Tell It to the World*.

Tell It to the World

Indiana—Evansville Westside Church members have exciting news! A new three-camera system was recently installed in their church, which enables members to produce their own local television program, *Tell It*



Bob Lloyd (left), Evansville Westside pastor, shows Sarah Blythe (right), camera technician, the recently-installed production equipment.

to the World, and broadcast it through the local Three Angels Broadcasting Network television downlink.

Previously, the programs were taped elsewhere, but now Bob Lloyd, Evansville Westside Church pastor and speaker/director of the church's new television program, is able to tape the programs live at the church. The Evansville Westside congregation is excited because every member can now be a part of the program! After editing, programs go out over the airwaves telling the good news of the gospel to Evansville!

As a result of what they have seen on television, people are coming to Evansville Westside Church! Others phoned in response to free book offers. The church hopes to develop this local media ministry to its fullest potential to further the gospel before Jesus returns, and they look forward to being on cable television in the near future.

Peggy Kimmel, Evansville Westside Church communication leader

Holiday Tasting Extravaganza Draws More Than 600

Michigan—Glittering lights and holiday décor decked the auditorium of Metropolitan Junior Academy (MJA). On Nov. 13, 2005, the Metropolitan Church in Northville Township, Mich., hosted its 18th annual Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza (HTE) where more than 600 guests feasted on 66 different recipes provided by 44 cooks. Members from the Oak-

wood, Plymouth, and South Lyon churches also participated. The 100-member workforce performed a myriad of tasks to accomplish such a feat. MJA students, the Metropolitan Pathfinder club, and students from Andrews University and Great Lakes Adventist Academy also worked hard to make guests feel welcome.

First-time attendees were three times greater than prior years due in part to an article featuring the event in *The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Many positive comments were



Victoria Bakewell served her edible cornucopia at the Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza.

received. One attendee said "I loved it. It was the best. Thoroughly enjoyed it. I had more than enough. I'll come again. The little helpers are GREAT! They are to be commended!"

Many people signed up to attend the monthly Supper Club at Metropolitan, as well as health and exercise classes and stop smoking clinics provided by Better Living Seminars. The event organizer, Jeanie Weaver, reported that knowledge of the Adventist healthy lifestyle is spreading to the community. One prior attendee who also participates in Jeanie's weekly exercise class was so impressed she gave



Guests enjoyed delicious and beautiful vegetarian dishes like this Christmas food wreath.



More than 600 guests attended the 18th annual Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza at Metropolitan Junior Academy.

a presentation on Adventism and our health message to a class at Schoolcraft College and also made a dish from the recipe book for her classmates to sample. Several students purchased tickets and came this year.

An account executive with *The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* sent Jeanie a note of appreciation, "The hospitality, variety, and abundance of samplings surpassed our expectations! And, I especially feel blessed to have our paths cross at a time when my own daughter has chosen to be a vegetarian. Thanks for introducing us to countless recipes, ideas rich in nutrients and flavor that will span any event over the years."

Jeanie declares, "I think it's neat how the Holy Spirit makes all these little human connections if we just go about our life and live it the best we can without keeping score. I know the Lord is using [the HTE] just as He wants."

Joy Hyde, Metropolitan Church correspondent

[UNION NEWS]

Indiana Churches Encourage Health Reform

Indiana—It is wonderful and amazing to see the interest in health education. Mitch Daniels, Ind.'s governor, encouraged our citizens to get in shape with the *Inshape Indiana* campaign. On the new website, www.in.gov/inshape, the governor calls upon people to, “lose weight, eat more fruits and vegetables daily, increase physical activity, and stop smoking.”

The recent CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) programs in Anderson and Cicero/Noblesville had a combined attendance of over 90 people. Both programs were held in church facilities of other denominations. This created opportunity for developing good friendships



Anderson volunteers registered attendees for the CHIP program.

and fulfilling the ministry outlined in *The Ministry of Healing*, “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’” (p. 143).

Mike and Gretchen Patterson were featured in the Anderson paper last

spring in connection with the CHIP classes they attended. They continued to experience health improvements. In July, Mike’s physician told him he would not need to have a kidney bypass surgery done. Gretchen excitedly reported she is not having any more migraine headaches.

Last May, ten additional churches sent representatives to Andrews University to receive training to conduct the CHIP program: Bedford, Bloomington, Columbus, Evansville, South Bend, Glendale, Lafayette, La Porte, Muncie, and New Castle/Knightstown. In Nov., Chapel West sent several individuals to the Adventist CHIP Summit in New Mexico.

Clinton Meharry, Indiana Conference health and temperance director

Wisconsin Members Bring Relief and Hope to Bulgaria

Wisconsin—The Wisconsin Conference sponsored 20 teams of Adventist clergy and lay members, who traveled to Bulgaria in Nov. 2005 to preach the gospel, partnering with The Quiet Hour and Share Him (formerly Global Evangelism). The Quiet Hour and Share Him provided sermons and seminar resources, logistics, planning, shipping, equipment, and other material sponsorship.

The Quiet Hour and the Wisconsin Conference (churches, schools, and individuals) created LifePax boxes. The large, shoebox-size LifePax were filled with items bought cheaply in the United States, but would meet basic health and hygiene needs: washcloths, soap, toothbrushes and paste, bandages, etc. The Quiet Hour evangelism projects always include a health education component and/or clinic, so this was

very much in line with their mission of wholeness in Christ.

In Aug. 2005, Wisconsin Conference church members and Adventist school students filled the LifePax, and shipped a 20-foot container to Sofia, Bulgaria. Upon the container’s arrival, Bulgarian church members were given LifePax boxes to distribute. They took the LifePax and a Bulgarian-language Bible door to door, inviting friends and neighbors to the meetings. Once people received the LifePax, filled with much-needed (luxurious to them) items, they became intrigued about the meetings, and the Americans who came to speak. As a result, wonderful things have happened in Bulgaria.

Many lives were changed because of these meetings—the Bulgarian attendees who received assurance of God’s redeeming and transforming love,



James Fox, Wisconsin Conference ministerial director, baptized Christiana while adults and children crowded near in celebration.

the people who requested Bible study and baptism, the Bulgarian church members who experienced evangelism in their own communities, the local church officials who saw soul-winning work, and the American team members who sacrificed their time and considerable financial resources to share Jesus Christ’s gospel of grace in Bulgaria.

Christy K. Robinson, The Quiet Hour, Inc. public relations and marketing director

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at www.lakeunionherald.org. Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 31.

Weddings

Brittney N. Mourer and Steven C. DeForest were married Jan. 1, 2006, in Ionia, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Karl Tsatalbasidis.

Brittney is the daughter of Michael and Rose Mourer of Orleans, Mich., and Steven is the son of Steven and Aleli DeForest of Harbor Springs, Mich.

The DeForests are making their home in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Angela Lanaville and Kristopher Dittrich were married Oct. 29, 2005, in Bark River, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Bo Lange.

Angela is the daughter of Craig and Janean Lanaville of Wilson, Mich., and Kris is the son of Terry and Patty Dittrich of Escanaba, Mich.

The Dittrichs are making their home in Gladstone, Mich.

Obituaries

ADAMS, Elaine B. (Brown), age 56; born Nov. 4, 1949, in Red Lodge, Mont.; died Nov. 26, 2005, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her husband, Larry H.; son,

Benjamin S.; daughter, Shonnah L. Adams; brothers, Leslie, Gene, and Jim Brown; and sisters, Susan Dahlman, Lois Ferguson, and Becky Brown.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Esther Knott, and inurnment was in Bridger (Mont.) Cemetery.

COBB, William H., age 69; born Jan. 23, 1936, in Grayling, Mich.; died Dec. 22, 2005, in Gaylord, Mich. He was a member of the Grayling Church.

Survivors include his wife, Verna J. (Hall); sons, Jefferey and Joseph; daughters, Judy Kunkel and Rebecca Tenold; brother, Albert; sisters, Mary Stickley, Louise Taber, and Anna Pierce; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Gene A. Hall and David Jorgenson, with private inurnment.

IVEY, Roland E., age 99; born July 20, 1906, in Albee, Mich.; died July 31, 2005, in Owosso, Mich. He was a member of the Chesaning (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, James R. and Bryce F.; daughters, Janice L. Morissette and Ilene Ivey; sister, Alyce M. Ivey; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Curt Dewitt and Lawrence Pumford, and interment was in Pine Grove Cemetery, Albee.

LOWRY, James T., age 86; born June 10, 1919, in Rockville, Ind.; died Sept. 13, 2005, in Carmel, Ind. He was a member of the Carmel Hope Fellowship church.

Survivors include his wife, Wanda (Simmons); son, Harold; daughter, Darlene Poore; brother, Cliff; sister, Lydia Price; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Jose Vazquez and Ron Kelly, and interment was in Carmel Cemetery.

MARTZ, Marie (Cochran), age 100; born Mar. 18, 1905, in Holden, Mo.; died Oct. 10, 2005, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Kenneth; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

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

MIHM, John W., age 66; born Oct. 18, 1938, in Lime Springs, Iowa; died July 22, 2005, in Pullman, Mich. He was a member of the Holland (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Trudy (Moore); sons, John, Frank, and Brandon; daughters, Debbie Hulst, Tammi Mihm, Bridgette Mihm, and Amber Wolfer; brothers, Alvin, Marvin, Roger, Ernest, George, Jerry, and David; stepbrother, Alfred Moore; sisters, Annie Block, Beverly Jones, and Mary Dopkins; stepsister, Margaret Sorenson; 16 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ilko Tchakarov, and interment was in Gibson Cemetery, Holland.

NEWBERG, William E., age 68; born Aug. 17, 1937, in Ewen, Mich.; died Dec. 8, 2005, in Sheridan, Mich. He was a member of the Frost Church, Stanton, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Leona (Custer); stepson, Joseph Griffin; daughters, Shelly Newberg and Nanette Clark; stepdaughters, Rua Pinkerman, Mona Nessen, Phyllis Sjoberg, Alice Dimmeck, Grace Balzerini, and Brenda Millard; sister, Sonja Coston; four grandchildren; 15 step-grandchildren; and 21 step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Paul Yeoman and Ken Micheff, and interment was in Forest Hill Cemetery, Stanton.

SALISBURY, Lex E., age 48; born July 30, 1957, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Nov. 11, 2005, in Manton, Mich. He was a member of the Lake City (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Dana M. (Hendrixson); father, Keith; and mother, Margie (Bileth) Mosely.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Bill Cowin, and inurnment was in Fairview Cemetery, Manton.

SHERWIN, Rolland E., age 92; born Jan. 28, 1913, in Cedar Springs, Mich.; died Dec. 14, 2005, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Cedar Lake (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Lloyd and Richard; daughters, Roslyn Nash and Betty Lou Barnum; sister, Vera Stebelton; 11 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

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

SHERWIN, Virginia "Ruth" (Siems), age 87; born Jan. 13, 1918, in Fremont, Mich.; died Nov. 13, 2005, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Cedar Lake (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Rolland E.; sons, Lloyd and Richard; daughters, Rosalyn Nash and Betty Lou Barnum; brother, Ralph Siems; sister, Dorothy Siems; 11 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

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

SHERWOOD, Lloyd, age 84; born Mar. 14, 1921, in Verona, Mich.; died Nov. 1, 2005, in Wildwood, Fla. He was a member of the Midland (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley Jean (Culver); son, Lloyd L.; stepsons, Jim and Ivan Culver; daughters, Sharon Schoppe, Shirley Henning, and Cindy Kuntz; brother, Marvin; 17 grandchildren; one step-grandchild; 21 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Gene Hall, with private inurnment.

SPARKS, George, age 61; born Jan. 4, 1944, in Crawford Cty., Mich.; died Dec. 13, 2005, in Belding, Mich. He was a member of the Ionia (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Bobbie (Dines); sons, Anthony and Matthew; stepson, Larry Dines; daughter, Rebecca Thomson; stepdaughters, Sandy Blount, Linda Winters, Tammy Youngs, and Sherry Hughes; sisters, Shirley Jones and Sally Sparks; 16 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Karl Tsatalbasidis and Ken Harger, with private inurnment.

STEWART, David A., age 65; born Aug. 5, 1940, in Mason Cty., Mich.; died Nov. 20, 2005, in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was a member of the Big Rapids (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his brother, Larry; and sister, Mary Jo Stewart.

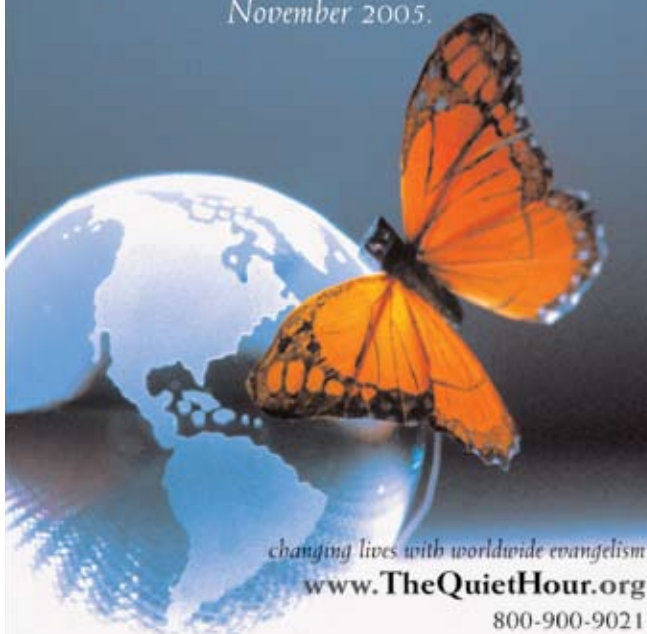
Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Justin White, with private inurnment.

TURNER, Pat A., age 66; born Aug. 4, 1939, in Stittsville, Mich.; died Dec. 1, 2005, in Traverse City, Mich. He was a member of the Lake City (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his brother, Phil; sister, Pearl Carr; and half sister, Trudy Leonard.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Claude Rowley, and interment was in Stittsville Cemetery.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The 20th business session of the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, on April 2, 2006. The first meeting of the session will convene at 8:30 a.m. on April 2. This session is being held for the purpose of receiving reports for the five-year period ending December 31, 2005; the election of officers, assistant treasurers, departmental directors and associate directors, an executive committee for the ensuing five years; to consider proposed constitutional changes; and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

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WANTED: Small family or retired single to live in with legally blind elderly widow in Mich.'s Upper Peninsula. Located 1.5 miles from church and nine-grade church school. Requires meal preparation, medication set-up, and occasional transportation. Terms negotiable. For more information, call (517) 641-6613.

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MOTHERHOOD WITH LAUGHTER AND TEARS, a nonfiction book by Staci Henderson Froelich, is now available at Adventist Book Centers as well as www.amazon.com, www.booksamillion.com, and www.barnesandnoble.com. Filled with many short, humorous/inspiring stories, it makes a great gift. Ingram is the wholesale book distributor; ISBN #1-59330-328-9; retail price: \$10.50.

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WHITE MEMORIAL MISSIONARY COLLEGE, a distance education, not-for-profit, liberal arts college emphasizing health professions, seeks faculty in all disciplines for both health, non-health, and technical-school majors and certifications. All faculty work from home. For more details, visit: www.wmmc.info.

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In this position, you will coordinate the day to day operations of the clinic, with a focus on clinical and research activities. You will also supervise clinic staff, trainees, interns and supervisors; collaborate with faculty, the Director of Research, clinical supervisors, students, community agencies and practicing professionals; oversee data collection and analysis of clinic projects; implementation of clinic procedures and policies; and possibly teaching a masters/doctorate course.

Qualifications: The candidate should have a masters or doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy preferably from a COAMFT program, an AAMFT Approved Supervisor status, preferably Bi-lingual, and demonstrate a commitment to Loma Linda's University mission. The successful candidate should demonstrate strong interpersonal skills and be familiar with grant writing, clinic effectiveness and assessment. Prefer a current CA license in Marriage and Family Therapy. Preference will be given to members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Institution: Loma Linda University, a Seventh-day Adventist Christian health sciences institution located in Southern California. The position is located in the Department of Counseling and Family Sciences which is part of the School of Science and Technology.

Application Procedure: Submit a letter of application, a curriculum vitae/resume, transcripts of all colleges attended, and three letters of reference to:

Dr. Mary Moline, Chair of Search Committee School of Science and Technology Department of Counseling and Family Sciences Griggs Hall, Rm 209 Loma Linda, CA 92350 909/558-4547, ext. 47001



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Announcements

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

Historic Adventist Village

In **Mar. and Apr.**, the Village is open only on Sabbaths from 2:00–4:00 p.m. and for specially scheduled group tours during the week. In **Mar.**, only the Dr. John Harvey Kellogg Discovery Center and the James and Ellen White Home are open for tours. To schedule a group tour, call (269) 965-3000; or e-mail: adventistvillage@tds.net. A donation of \$5/person helps keep the Village open.

Illinois

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the 30th regular constituency session of the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Broadview Academy, La Fox, Ill., with the first meeting called at 10:00 a.m., **Sun., Apr. 30, 2006**. This session is for the purpose of receiving reports of the quadrennium which ended Dec. 31,

2005; to elect officers, departmental directors, and an executive committee for the ensuing term; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the constituency, including possible changes in the Constitution and Bylaws. Delegates are those duly elected by the churches of the conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the Constitution. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each fifty members or fraction thereof, based on actual church membership as of Sept. 30 preceding the session.

Ken Denslow, president

Kyoshin Ahn, secretary

Indiana

Music Festival: Academy and elementary students are invited to attend the

annual music festival held at Indiana Academy, **Mar. 2–4**. For further information, contact Andrew Lay at (317) 984-3575.

Sabbath Celebration: James Black, youth director for the North American Division, will be the guest speaker for Indiana's annual Sabbath Celebration **Mar. 4**. Elder Black will speak for the 11:00 o'clock morning worship service and again at 2:30 p.m. Sabbath school will be at 9:30 a.m., and the annual music festival concert will be at 4:00 p.m. All the meetings will be held at the Indiana Academy gymnasium. For additional information, phone the Indiana Conference office at (317) 844-6201.

Teen Caving Event: Join this adventurous exploration **Mar. 10–12** at Timber Ridge Camp. For additional information or to register, contact the Indiana Conference youth ministries department at (317) 844-6201; or e-mail: youth@indianaadventist.org.

IPATI, a training weekend for Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders, will be held **Mar. 17–19** at Timber Ridge Camp. For further information, call Trish Thomp-

son at (317) 844-6201, or call Dean Whitlow at (812) 829-2507; or e-mail: dwhitlow@direcway.com.

Women's Ministries Spring Retreat: Register now for Indiana Conference's one-day retreat to be held at Indiana Academy on Sabbath, **Apr. 8**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The fee per person covers all meetings and Sabbath lunch. For registration information, call Julie Loucks at (317) 844-6201.

Indiana Academy Days: All students in grades 8–11 are invited to Indiana Academy Days, **Apr. 30 and May 1**. Meet the staff and students, and experience an awesome educational opportunity! For registration information, call Bill Hicks, principal, or Beth Bartlett, registrar, at (317) 984-3575; or e-mail: bbartlett@iasda.org.

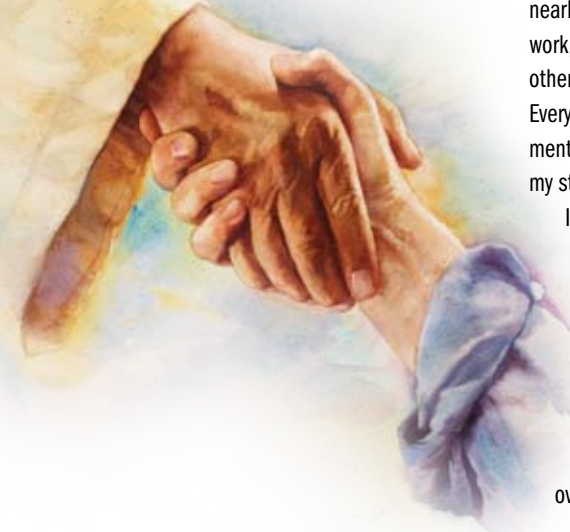
Lake Region

The London Swordbearer Pathfinder Club will host the Second Annual Motor City Area Pathfinder Honor's Retreat, **Mar. 17–19**, at Camp AuSable in Grayling, Mich. All area clubs are invited to attend a weekend of worship, praise, friends, and plenty of pathfinding. Every Pathfinder and staff in atten-

PARTNERSHIP *with* GOD

Partnership in Love

BY GARY BURNS



While counseling a young minister recently, I was reminded of an experience many years ago that radically changed how I relate to people. At one point in my career, I had to work with a person who nearly drove me crazy. Although I loved my work, I began to dread going in to face another encounter with this annoying person. Every time I saw him, heard his voice, or the mention of his name, I got a sick feeling in my stomach.

It seemed he went out of his way to irritate me. He was incompetent, had bad ideas, and treated people with suspicion and disrespect. I had every right to hate this person—so I thought.

But one day I realized something about myself—I had become a horrible person by granting this person power over me. I had unconsciously formed a

partnership with the enemy and what I found in my heart was ugly sin.

So what do you do with sin? You confess it. “Lord, I have sin in my life. Please forgive me and change my heart. Help me see this person as You see him. I want to love as you love.”

I repeated that prayer every day—sometimes several times a day. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, my heart began to change. A new partnership in God's love was formed. My outlook became brighter. I no longer harbored anger. In its place grew compassion and sympathy. My work became more productive and the joy returned. I began to pray for this person—even for his success.

Unfortunately, he did not respond. But I was free.

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director and *Lake Union Herald* editor.



dance will be offered honor classes and have to participate in inspection, line call, nutritious meals, hayrides, go-carting, nature center tour, hikes—the list is endless! Registration deadline is Mar. 7! For information or to register, e-mail D.D. Angie at: micahg234@aol.com; or call D.D. Teresa Rodgers at (734) 461-0569.

Peterson-Warren Academy will host its annual Alumni Weekend, **Sept. 15-17**. Plan to attend and hear special guest speaker C.D. Brooks, speaker/host of *Breath of Life* television show. We will honor the following classes: 1966, '71, '76, and '81 (classes commemorating 30, 25, 20, and 15 year anniversaries). If you are a former student and have not received a news bulletin regarding 2006, then the alumni must not have your address. Contact the school at (313) 565-5808; or e-mail Melanie Maycock-Abrahams, Peterson-Warren Alumni Association event coordinator, at: mmaycock@mindspring.com.

Lake Union

Offerings:

- Mar 4** Local Church Budget
- Mar 11** Adventist World Radio
- Mar 18** Local Church Budget
- Mar 25** Local Conference Advance
- Thirteenth Sabbath:**
- Mar 25** Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division
- Special Days:**
- Mar 4** Women's Day of Prayer
- Mar 5-11** Adventist Youth Week of Prayer
- Mar 18** Disabilities Awareness Sabbath

Florida's 15th Annual Lake Union Academies Alumni Reunion will be held **Mar. 4**, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at Forest Lake Academy. Alumni and friends of all Lake Union academies are invited to attend. Bring your own picnic lunch to be eaten in the cafeteria. Dessert and drink provided. For more information, contact the alumni directors at the Lake Union academies.

EXTREME GRACE!, a Women Of Spiritual Praise Conference hosted by 3ABN at their Worship Center, **June 15-17**. Enjoy dynamic seminars as well as world-renowned keynote presenters, including Deborah Harris, Dave Pelzer, Cheri Peters, Cynthia Prime, Shelley Quinn, Brenda and Fred Stoecker, and Joy Swift. Seminars will address personal

growth issues and equip attendees to be more effective in ministering to those who hurt. Fri. evening through Sat. evening, a life-changing, inspirational program will feature Spirit-filled speakers, praise and worship music ministry, and several special features. Tasty meals, choice of hotels, and transportation assistance to and from 3ABN Worship Center makes the event both convenient and affordable. There are special incentives for women's ministries leaders and organizers of large groups. For seminar and speaker information or online registration, log on to: www.womenofspiritualpraise.com. For brochures, fliers, and additional information, call toll free: (800) 681-6361.

Michigan

"Ye Olde CLA Alumni Reunion," June 8-11, will be held for Cedar Lake Academy alumni and warmly-welcomed schoolmates of 1956 and earlier, on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly CLA). Honor classes: 1936, '46, and '56. Guest performance by recording artists *Buddy Houghtaling & Friends* on Fri. at 7:00 p.m. For information, call the GLAA Alumni office at (989) 427-5181, or visit GLAA's website: www.GLAA.net. Please pass the good word.

North American Division

Madison (Tenn.) Campus Adventist Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary on **Mar. 11**. Speaker for the event will be James Nix of The White Estate. For more information, call the church office at (615) 865-5822; or visit the website: www.madisoncampus.org.

Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) Conference: Attend the country's largest training event for Single Adult Ministries (SAM) leaders at the interdenominational SAM Convention, **Mar. 23-25**, following the third Annual Adventist SAM Leadership Training Conference on **Mar. 22**. Both will be

held in Phoenix, Ariz. Featured speakers are Dr. Hyeth Williams and Dr. Dick Stenbakken, NAD ASAM coordinator. For registration information, contact PlusLine at (800) 732-7587, or go to www.plusline.org/events. The ASAM website is www.AdventistSingleAdultMinistries.org/. Don C. Schneider, NAD president, said: "I am looking forward to thousands of lives being touched for Jesus through Adventist Single Adult Ministries. I encourage EVERY pastor, church, and conference to work together to help ASAM effect lives for eternity."

Walker Memorial Academy Alumni Weekend will be held at the Avon Park, Fla., campus **Mar. 25-26**. The speakers for the weekend will be Pastors Rey Descalso Jr. and Mark Reams. A special tribute will be awarded to William E. Farmer for his 20 years of dedication and service at Walker Memorial Academy. For more information, contact Karinda Maquera at (863) 453-3131; or e-mail: kmaquera@wmja.org.

Southwestern Adventist University alumni and friends are invited to the Annual Homecoming 2006, **Apr. 6-9**, "Bluebonnets and Barbecue." Registration is Thurs., Apr. 6. For more information, call (817) 202-6232; e-mail: bevm@swau.edu; or, visit website: www.swau.edu/alumni.

Exclusively for Home Schoolers: You are personally invited to preview Union College in Lincoln, Neb., at the first annual **Home School Preview Days, Apr. 27-30**. It's a **FREE** way for you to experience Union's unique spirit. For more details, call (800) 228-4600; or e-mail: gofar@ucollege.edu.

Alumni of Plainview Academy (1910-1965), formerly of Redfield, S.D., make plans to attend our annual Alumni Reunion weekend which is scheduled the weekend of **June 23-25**. It will be held on the campus of Dakota Adventist Academy in Bismarck, N.D. Honor

classes are those who graduated (or attended) the classes ending in six or one. A special invitation is extended to ALL former Plainview Academy (PVA) students, faculty, staff, parents, and friends. Our "family" is getting smaller—we need you! You will receive a blessing. For information, contact PVA alumni secretary Charlene (Scholl) Binder at (402) 489-1702; or e-mail: rbinder@juno.com.

Granger (Wash.) Church is celebrating its 100th anniversary, **July 28-29**. 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; or visit website: www.grangersda.com.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Academy (WA) Alumni Weekend will be held on **Apr. 21-22**. The theme for this year's Alumni Weekend is "Home with Jesus." Honor classes are 1936, '46, '56, '66, '76, '81, '86, and '96. Come back to WA for fellowship and fun with former classmates. If you would like more information about the weekend or to reserve a room, contact Marcia Sigler at (920) 623-3300 ext. 12; or e-mail: library@wisacad.org. Make sure to stop by our website and update your profile at: www.wisacad.alumni.org.

The Second Annual Wisconsin Academy (WA) Golf Classic will be held **Apr. 23** at the Kestrel Ridge Golf Course in Columbus. Last year 17 teams came out to play; let's double it this year! So, bring your clubs and come join us for an exciting weekend at the academy! All monies raised will go toward the WA worthy student fund. If you have any questions or are interested in being a sponsor, contact Michelle Shufelt at (920) 623-3300 ext. 18; or e-mail: development@wisacad.org.

Sunset Calendar

	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31	Apr 7
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:38	6:46	6:54	7:02	7:10	8:17
Chicago	5:44	5:52	5:59	6:07	6:15	7:22
Detroit	6:25	6:33	6:41	6:49	6:57	8:04
Indianapolis	6:39	6:47	6:54	7:01	7:08	7:14
La Crosse, Wis.	5:56	6:05	6:14	6:22	6:31	7:38
Lansing, Mich.	6:31	6:39	6:47	6:55	7:04	8:11
Madison, Wis.	5:50	5:58	6:07	6:15	6:23	7:31
Springfield, Ill.	5:53	6:01	6:08	6:15	6:22	7:28

God Listens and Cares

BY GABRIELLA TENOLD

When I was about ten years old I wished I had a baby sister. I already had a brother three years younger than me, but I wanted a baby sister. I guess I really just wanted a live doll. When I told my mom I wanted a baby sister she said to pray. I didn't think much of prayer, but figured it couldn't hurt to pray about it. I began to pray for a baby sister, and for the next six months I prayed for a baby sister.

Then one Sabbath we had a lesson on prayer. The teacher told us we could always ask God for anything, but we needed to ask for His will, and not ours, because He knows what is best for us. She also told us sometimes God says yes, sometimes He says later, and sometimes He says no. I decided I would put all my prayers in His hands, but especially my prayers for a baby sister.

The next time I prayed, my prayer went more like "Help me get a baby sister, or even a baby brother; Your will not mine," instead of "I want a baby sister, could I please get one soon?"

After about a month, my mom and dad told me my mom was pregnant. They were surprised they were going to have a baby, but I guess I wasn't that surprised, because over the months of praying I had developed a relationship with the Lord, and I had faith God would do what was best.

The pregnancy was long, with many complications, including a life-threatening one to the baby. Another complication for me was when we found out it was a boy, but after I had cried a little, I realized God knows what is best for me.

And if what I needed was another brother, then he would be welcomed to this world by his big sister.

When Caleb was finally born I totally forgot I wanted a sister. I realized God knew a lot of what was to come, and that I needed a brother, not a sister. Now I am so glad I got a brother, instead of a sister. I wouldn't trade a million sisters for my brother.

Sure, sometimes I wish I had a sister too, but I can always pray about that wish. I know God will take care of me, no matter what, and that He cares. If He doesn't want me to have a sister, I am content knowing God knows it's best that I don't have one.

And in a way He answered my prayer by giving me my first girl cousin. One of my favorite verses has become, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Even though sometimes it seems God doesn't listen or care for you, He does. My story is a living testimony to this.

Gabriella Tenold is a 14-year-old freshman at Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She will receive a \$100 scholarship because her submission was selected for publication.



Dayna Jenaé “Nae-Nae” Wilhite, (17), a senior at Peterson-Warren Academy (PWA), is the daughter of Dwayne and Diana Wilhite and a member of the City Temple Church in Detroit, Mich.



Dayna Wilhite

Dayna has traveled to many different parts of the world since her father is in the Air Force. This taught her “to make friends and become closer to my family.” She adds, “...not only do I recreate new friendships, but allow my positive qualities to shine in many cases, also allowing me to share my faith.”

Nettie Gray, a PWA teacher says, “Dayna is a ‘helper.’ When asked to assist with lower elementary classes or in the office, she does so willingly and does not complain.”

At PWA, Dayna learned “not to focus on the drama and commotion of others, but to concentrate on my schoolwork and keep my eye on the goal.” Her favorite class was her eleventh grade class. She says, “I learned a lot spiritually and I believe I’ve grown closer to God.”

Recently, Dayna enjoyed visiting Oakwood College for college days where she met other Christian students and learned more about activities and projects she could participate in when she becomes a student. Dayna plans to become a nurse anesthetist.

Dayna’s hobbies are drawing/sketching and playing the piano, and she also enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Randy King Jr.

Randy King Jr., (17), is also a senior at Peterson-Warren Academy. He is the son of Yolanda Coleman and Randy King Sr., and a member of the City Temple Church in Detroit, Mich.

An accomplished musician, Randy has been featured in concerts at the Detroit Orchestra Hall as a protégé of Basilio White and James Tatur. One day when he was 12 years old, Randy was encouraged to try out a piano on display at a mall. Shoppers gathered as he played Beethoven’s *Für Elise* by memory. Imagine his surprise when a listener thanked him with a \$100 bill.

Randy has also shared his musical gift with the PWA choir and youth choir. “Randy has been a guest in my home for Friday evening vespers,” boasts Joyce Bone, Randy’s homeroom teacher. “His music makes him special,” she added. His teacher, Nettie Gray, said, “We will miss his musical abilities when he graduates.”

Randy’s ambition is to become a better person in Christ. In academy he learned to “put my trust in God and allow Him to work with me until His will is done.” Bible is Randy’s favorite class where he “learned to apply my lessons to everyday life.”

Randy’s hobbies include basketball, playing snare drum and saxophone, singing in the choir, and hanging with friends.

Address Correction

Members of the Lake Region Conference and paid subscribers should contact the *Lake Union Herald* office with their address changes. Members from the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin conferences should now contact their local conference membership clerks directly for all *Lake Union Herald* address changes. Contact phone numbers are listed below for your convenience, and addresses are listed to the right.

Lake Union Herald: (269) 473-8242

Illinois: (630) 856-2874
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Indiana: (317) 844-6201 ext. 241
Wisconsin: (608) 241-5235 ext. 113

Members outside the Lake Union may subscribe by sending a check for \$8.50 (per year) to P.O. Box C, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. **Note:** If you are a member of a church in the Lake Union but are not receiving the *Lake Union Herald*, please request it through your church clerk or your local conference secretary.

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