

Lake Union
HERALD

JUNE 2006



**A
Dream**

For the Future of Adventist Education

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



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Special Focus on Education

14 Teaching for Eternity by Linda Paul

Check! We had passed this church many times since before the study really took off, so we used to see a sign that read "Ladies Adventist Elementary—New Enrollment to 6th Grade." I remember the teacher drove and called this was day 1 was told it was the first day of school, but we were more than welcome to come and check out the school or sit at it for tea. So that afternoon we went to the school and met Frances Bergman, the principal. She was wonderful and we just started to talking there. The girls were excited that day and started the next, and they had every minute.

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in this issue...

Education has been at the core of Adventism since the first school in Battle Creek in 1874. This powerful and effective tool for training young people for service has faced increasing challenges in today's culture.

The need for Adventist education is greater now than ever before. The exciting news is that there are amazing new opportunities available today that were unheard of a few years ago. Dream with us about the future of Adventist education in this issue.

Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor



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HAVE WE LOST OUR COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?



The answer to the above question is no—in some places. There are other places I am not so sure about. In my travels throughout the territory, I see thriving church schools, burgeoning day academies, and boarding schools. In other locations, the same types of schools, with equal or better facilities, are dying on the vine. It makes me wonder what makes the difference. Is it location? Is it the economy? Is it money? Is it relevance? Is it loss of parental concern? Is it lack of pastoral support? Is it a combination of all these?

In one place, I saw a beautiful school in a stand-alone building with every conceivable convenience. Past enrollments supported five teachers. Today the school has less than ten students and only one teacher. I was encouraged to see a large number of pre-schoolers involved in the children's part of the church service. Will they one day swell the rolls of that school, or is it doomed to close with only a whimper?

It amazes me to see another school in our territory with abysmal facilities, poor location, and surrounded by poor economic conditions. Yet, the school is bursting at the seams with students. Again I ask, what makes the difference?

We have raised the standards for teacher certification. The Lake Union fully supports in-service training, and I believe we have on board some of the best teachers available anywhere in the North American Division. Yet, we struggle with low enrollments, puny budgets, and lack of concern. And so I have been asking these questions. What does make the difference?

Some blame the high cost to send a student through church school. Others blame home-school parents for the decline in enrollments. Still others would claim that our system is inadequate and behind the times. I have even had it suggested to me that our education is no longer relevant.

I promised, and now I would like to open a dialogue on the subject. Will consolidation help in some instances? How about technology? Are we making the very best use of what is available to us now?

I am not a trained educator, and my ignorance on the subject may be showing as I write. But I am a product of parents who sacrificed to send me to church school. They did it because they believed whole-heartedly in the value of a Bible-based education to prepare me for service, in and out of the church setting. Were they wrong? How about the thousands of parents over the years who have made the same sacrifice? Some even moved their families to locate near a school. Some gave up lucrative jobs to make sure their children had access to spiritual formation in one of our schools.

Please talk to me over the next few weeks. I want to hear what my dear brothers and sisters of the Lake Union feel on this subject. Together, we may find a solution.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Indiana I (**Matthew Stokes**) grew up in a good Seventh-day Adventist family, but never felt very convicted. A few years ago, I started making bad decisions because my priorities were in the wrong places. I was resentful God made such a corrupt and perverted world and let people endure so much suffering and pain. I didn't care about school or getting good grades. I just wanted to spend my time on this earth having fun. Nothing else mattered.

Looking back now, I realize how miserable I was. I thought I was having so much fun, but I was really depressed and angry. I was asked to leave school for bad grades and conduct. That helped me to see more clearly where my life was, or wasn't, going. I still wasn't fully motivated though;

something was missing. I thought I was getting better when I made maybe the worst of all my bad decisions, certainly the biggest. I felt like I had hit rock bottom.

I had always heard the stories of people turning to God after they hit "rock bottom," but it never really hit me like it did then. I began to read my Bible more and more every day and I felt better and better. I knew there really was something special going on and that the image that I previously had of God was one Satan had given me. Reading the Bible

gives me a joy that I have never experienced anywhere else. I know the things I read in the Bible are true from the feelings I get when I read it. I feel a closeness with God and this perfect peace that I just couldn't get anywhere else.

My life has totally turned around since I began reading the Bible and praying more. I am a completely different person, and I feel like God has a purpose for my life. After all that I've been through and after rejecting Him for so

long, it's so very humbling to see that God still loves me and wants me. I know that no matter what happens to me here on this earth, I still have a God who loves me and a mansion made specifically for me in Heaven. I'm convinced that nothing on this earth can compare with that or will give me the same joy and contentment.

Because of all the Lord has done for me, and is doing for me, I plan to go to India next December to preach the gospel. A year ago, I couldn't have imagined myself doing anything like that. Now, I want to live my life for God and dedicate every moment He has so lovingly given me to help hasten His coming.

Matthew Stokes, a Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church member

Wisconsin I (**Romey Carta**) was baptized as an infant. I loved my church and was an active member. However, through a series of events, I began to feel my church was more about structure than faith. So as a young adult, I left.

I felt I was a strong believer and could survive without my worship community and traditions, but it proved to be more difficult than I realized. I spent the next twenty-plus years not practicing my faith—not even thinking about God or prayer. Occasionally, I thought of searching for a church I might like, but I had grown to like my two-day weekend without any church responsibilities. I would rather sleep in on Sundays.

About three years ago, I moved next door to someone who quickly became a friend. In time, my neighbor Gladys Ochs invited me to attend a weekly Bible study group. I accepted, thinking it might be an interesting academic pursuit. After all, I was not looking for a church.

When I arrived, I apologized for my lack of Bible knowledge because my church tradition didn't engage in Bible studies. The people were kind and accepting, and I inwardly thought of coming again. To my surprise, Gladys asked if I would like to study the Bible with her. I answered "yes" to what I now believe was the Holy Spirit's invitation.

The following Sabbath I attended the Adventist church's worship hour where a member from the study group warmly welcomed me. Later, I attended the small group study again and felt genuinely accepted, even though I asked many questions.

I really looked forward to the Bible studies. My heart was eager to learn more and Gladys patiently answered the questions I had never dared to ask. I learned about the na-



Ron Kelly, Cicero Church senior pastor, baptized Matthew Stokes on December 17, 2005.



Romey Carta was baptized at Wisconsin Camp Meeting in 2005.

ture of God and never felt judged by Gladys or the pastor during the Bible study group.

Gladys began talking to me about a personal relationship with Jesus. I had no idea what Gladys meant at first, but as I heard Gladys praying for me at the beginning and end of each session I began to understand God was a personal Being. I sensed God was knocking on the door of my heart, and I wanted to answer.

One night, Gladys said that I had changed. She said I seemed different—softer and warmer! The next day at work a recently returned co-worker said to me, out of the blue, “You have changed. You are softer, not so tough, and warmer,” or words to that effect. I was skeptical, so I asked a close friend if I had changed, and without missing a beat my friend replied, “Yes.” I began to believe it might be true.

By Spring, things were really happening. I attended Sabbath school and church services, and daily spent time studying the Scriptures and praying. I sensed Christ’s presence in my life. By May, I wanted to make a commitment to Christ in a public manner, and wanted Jesus to always be in my life. I asked to be baptized and my wish came true at the Wisconsin Camp Meeting in 2005. They tell me it only gets better from here on. Praise God!

Romey Carta, as told to Bruce Babienco, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

Michigan **Stella Hawkins** sat on her doorstep in a drunken stupor. It hadn’t always been that way. Her mother had been a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but Stella had chosen a different path—one that left God behind. At 16 years of age, Stella began experimenting with alcohol. After 24 years of traveling its insidious path, she found herself sitting on her doorstep in hopelessness and despair.

Stella’s alcoholism and drug addiction led authorities to place her daughter in foster homes and her mother had recently died, adding to her misery. Yet, on those steps three years ago, weeping in painful sorrow, Stella saw a glimmer of hope as she felt God’s arms of love reach out to her.

An inner voice kept telling her to read her mother’s Bible. As she sat there with a beer can in one hand and the Bible in the other, she kept saying to herself, *I can’t understand this! I can’t do it!* But deep inside she heard, “You can learn this!”

One week later, she picked up the phone and dialed the Owosso Adventist Church, but as soon as she heard a voice on the other end she froze and hung the phone up. One Sabbath, she walked about three miles to the church where her journey to recovery and healing began.

By 2003, Stella had stopped drinking and has been victorious to this day. It was during *Alive ‘05*, an Amazing Facts’ satellite evangelistic presentation, that Stella responded to Doug Batchelor’s call by standing to her feet. She later said she had always wanted to stand for Jesus and was so elated to finally do it.

We had the privilege of leading Stella in preparation for baptism this past March. Recently, Stella responded to the needs of others by selling her jewelry and doll collection, giving the money to purchase Bibles for the Masai people in Kenya. What a wonderful example of the power of God to transform lives! He’s still at work, not only in Stella’s life, but in her daughter’s as well.



Curt DeWitt, Owosso Church pastor, baptized Stella Hawkins, who was elated to make a stand for Jesus.

Curt DeWitt, Owosso Church pastor

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST STUDENT
WITNESSES ON A SECULAR CAMPUS

BY BILL BLOND



I have attended Central Michigan University (CMU) since Fall 2002. There are multicultural advisors in each dorm who put on programs to encourage diversity and tolerance of different ideas. Recently, a multicultural advisor, who I didn't know, called to invite me to represent Seventh-day Adventists on a religious diversity panel, since she had never heard of us before. There are only ten Seventh-day Adventists at CMU in our student group.

Since I didn't know what questions would be asked, I spent a lot of time in prayer so I would know what to say. When we met, students asked questions like, "What would you tell a student who felt like he didn't know his place in the world?" I was able to share verses from the Bible I memorized almost two years ago. Jesus said in John 14:26 that the Holy Spirit will call what He has taught us to our remembrance, but have we spent time in the School of Christ?

We talked about Heaven, hell, and why the Jewish and Christian faiths view Jesus differently. In addition to answering these kinds of questions, I was also able to present the truths of the Sabbath. I shared that Seventh-day Adventists don't keep the Sabbath so God will bless us, we keep it because it's what the Bible says.

Most importantly, however, I was able to say how our salvation does not depend on anything we do, but on what Christ has done and is doing for us in the heavenly sanctuary and that Jesus Christ died to free us from sin. I also had the opportunity to express that we obey God because we're going to Heaven, not in order to get to Heaven.

There are many opportunities to witness on secular campuses. God doesn't restrict service to the talented; He needs young men and women whose conscience is as



Senior Bill Blond (left), a Seventh-day Adventist at CMU, listened to a member of the student Kabbalah group during a religious diversity panel discussion Blond participated in.

true to duty as the needle to the pole, who have a redeeming influence on their friends. Jesus is the only reason we live. The question is, are we a river of life to the people we interact with? (see John 4:14)

College campuses are spiritually hostile environments, rife with compromise and temptation. College has been a trying time spiritually for me. Without the help of the Lord, spiritual

friends, and involvement with the local church, I might get caught up in the secular lifestyle.

Do God's work to stay awake. I have led Bible studies, talked about Jesus with college professors on several occasions, spoken at different events, and given literature to co-workers at the right time—not because I'm particularly talented, but because I want to do what God has for me to do. Pray that God will give you opportunities to share the Gospel, but furthermore that He equips you with Bible study, memorization, and courage. God is smart; He has a million avenues to reach the lost through us. Will we put God to the test and risk our comfort for His kingdom?

Bill Blond is pursuing a degree at Central Michigan University, majoring in English with a minor in Speech. Upon graduation, he intends to teach English in Japan at an Adventist language academy as a missionary.

BEYOND *our* BORDERS

A CHRISTMAS Like No Other

BY WILLIAM, BARBARA, AND BRYCE FISHER



It was like no other Christmas we ever experienced before—

No snow on sidewalks and streets; but wonderfully warm days and cool refreshing nights.

No deer, squirrel, or raccoon in the woods behind our house; but we heard wild beasts, giraffes, elephants, lions, and gazelles in abundance.

No beautifully-wrapped gifts to open; but the gift of compassion and healing—given and received.

No festively decorated church where magnificent music is heard; but a quiet and heartfelt “thank you” from a Masai bush mother as her infant was restored to health.

No elaborately prepared Christmas dinner; but tasty and rewarding food—after the footers for a new church foundation were laid, hundreds of Vacation Bible School (VBS) children were taught, clothing was given to many who have very little, and the ministrations of physicians and nurses to more than 200 a day.

No quiet, traditional Christmas carols; but there was the exuberant Masai church choir singing their own rendition of “Joy to the World” with Masai rhythm, movements, accents, and traditional dress. It was with tearful joy we recognized and joined in singing that favorite carol.

No family and church members gathered for that special church service; but there were members of three previously warring tribes gathered together in peace and harmony, praising and thanking God for His love, His gifts of food and water, and medicines from His people in America.

December 14–31, 2005, 30 short-term mission enthusiasts visited the Masai tribe of Kenya, Africa. This



William Fisher, a physician, treated families at the outdoor clinic.



The Fisher family got acquainted with a local zebra.

secluded spot—the home of Mara-Masai—is six hours on pot-holed, rutted, washed-out, picture-snapping roads. Their lovely plateau overlooks the expansive grasslands of the Serengeti Plain. Every possible African wild animal roams freely there.

The group that came to minister was diverse: Seminarians, students, a chaplain, medical students, physicians, and nurses. Other talented members served to provide VBS for a huge number of children. Others distributed clothing, did plumbing or bricklaying, or dug sand from a riverbank where crocs and hippos swam.

We will never forget the Masai warrior turned Christian, who

asked us to read the second chapter of Luke to him. After reading of Christ’s birth, he asked why He was born in a manger. We gave the standard answer about prophecy fulfillment and Christ’s humble beginnings so all could have free access to His gift of salvation. His understanding filled us with awe: “He was born in a manger so a Masai, like I, who herds cattle and cares for sheep and goats, could come to Him. In the past, no one would come near the Masai as they drank the blood of cattle, but now we feed the cattle in mangers. Jesus knew about the Masai and their mangers for cattle, and we can come to Him and know He is not above us.”

Christ’s message of love is for all, and we are thankful to be used for Him for His purposes.

William D. Fisher, Barbara S. Fisher, and Bryce Fisher are members of the Richmond (Indiana) Church.





FAMILY TIES

Baby Makes THREE

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

When couples are fairly new in their awareness or practice of thinking we rather than me, a new baby calls for thinking three. A major challenge for parents is to balance me, we, and three (or more as the case may be) without losing the identity or integrity of anyone in that threesome.

The changes a new baby brings cause many marriages to become less satisfying and even more vulnerable to divorce. While a new baby brings wonderment, joy, and a profound love for that child, it also sets off a number of discoveries that can profoundly influence a marriage. Couples say their marital happiness dropped and they hadn't thoroughly understood the immense responsibilities of parenting. There are fewer shared activities and communication decreases, with some saying their communication satisfaction has never increased to the place it was before having children.

Other challenges for new parents include increased conflict, and sharing and receiving less affection from one another. Moms say they don't feel emotionally supported by their husbands or receive help with household tasks from them. Also, many moms haven't fully recovered physically from childbirth, thus creating increased stress at home and added marital tension.

So should couples stop having children? Is it all bad news? No, not at all! Deciding to make sense of your marriage after childbirth can actually strengthen your marriage. I invite you to consider these ideas:

- ▶ **Recognize that change—good or bad—can be stressful to a relationship.**
- ▶ **Commit to working on your marriage relationship, even when there's the least amount of time and energy to do so.**
- ▶ **Accept that you will face marital challenges. Avoid the tendency to turn away from one another, and fine-tune your communication and negotiation skills.**

- ▶ **Make your marriage your full-time priority. Your baby should not be more important than your couple relationship.**
- ▶ **Assess the atmosphere in your home. Is it one of criticism or one of acceptance?**
- ▶ **Find ways to regularly have fun together.**
- ▶ **Be involved in your spouse's life and activities.**
- ▶ **Set up some "time off" opportunities for each parent, each week.**
- ▶ **Trust other people to care for your child.**
- ▶ **Remember that when you take good care of yourself (not to be confused with being selfish), you can better care for your baby and for your marital relationship.**

When baby makes three, couples have many opportunities to learn, grow, and enjoy a positive marital relationship together. A look, a gesture, a touch, or an action can communicate your support, agreement, or the need for further conversation. Focus on what's good about your spouse; avoid negative criticism and angry exchanges.

Together, determine to stay committed to experiencing God's faithfulness and plan for your family. You will both find freedom and fulfillment in a setting where too many new parents find themselves anxious, uncertain, and feeling trapped.

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.





A Treasure House

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Ellen White, one of the founders of the Adventist church, outlined comprehensive guidelines for a healthy lifestyle in her landmark writings. Written over 100 years ago, the health principles she advocated have recently been validated by scientific research.

Ellen took a very strong position against the use of tobacco. She wrote that tobacco was a slow, insidious, and most malignant poison, injurious to our health. Today, tobacco use is recognized as a serious threat to our health. Even exposure to second-hand smoke is unhealthful. Nicotine is addictive and smoking is a major cause of heart disease, lung cancer, as well as other forms of malignant tumors.

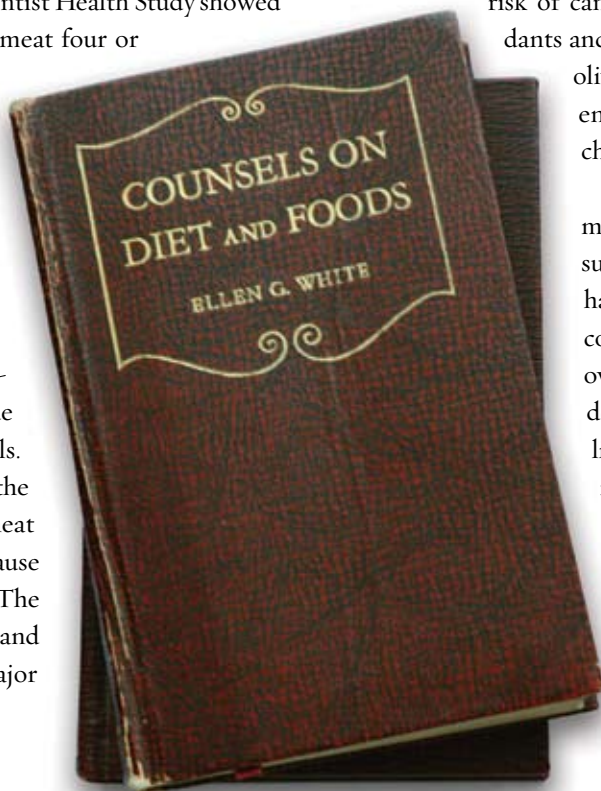
The use of grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables were recommended by Ellen as the basis for the most healthful diet. She wrote that cancer and other fatal diseases may be caused by meat-eating. The Adventist Health Study showed that men in their forties eating meat four or more times a week had four times the risk of a fatal heart attack compared to vegetarians. Other studies revealed that the regular use of meat increased the risk of many cancers and diabetes twofold.

Along with other health reformers of the nineteenth century, Ellen promoted the value of whole wheat bread and cereals. White flour, she argued, lacked the nutritional value of whole wheat bread, and its use could readily cause a number of health problems. The widespread use of refined grains and cereals is now recognized as a major

factor in intestinal diseases, as well as an increased risk of diabetes and heart disease.

Adventists were encouraged to limit their use of butter. Ellen suggested that olive oil was better to use than butter. The people of the Mediterranean region who utilize olive oil as their major source of fat have much lower rates of cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes than Northern Europeans and Americans. While butter is loaded with saturated fat and cholesterol, olive oil is largely monounsaturated oil, which lowers blood cholesterol levels and the risk of cancer. The high level of antioxidants and other phytochemicals in virgin olive oil enables the consumer to enjoy protection against Western chronic diseases.

Ellen also warned against many other unhealthful things such as the use of alcohol, the habit-forming nature of tea and coffee, the injurious nature of overeating, the heavy use of sweet desserts and candies, an irregular lifestyle, and the lack of a positive mental attitude. If Ellen's counsel was carefully followed today, we could all enjoy a greater measure of health.



These hidden treasures outline a health-promoting lifestyle.

Winston Craig is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.



EXTREME GRACE

Stop. Listen. Learn.

BY DICK DUERKSEN

A friend of mine—actually a very good friend of mine—just told me, “This may be the right time for you to go to the desert.” I must have looked back rather blankly, and when he realized I hadn’t gotten it, he went on. “You know, like Moses and Elijah, and Jesus, and John the Baptist, and lots of other people who changed the world after they’d been in the desert.”

That sent me back to my Bible, to maps of Palestine and Arabia, and to an ancient cassette tape of a sermon by Brennan Manning. Everything I read and listened to said the same things.

“Stop. Listen. Learn.”

I *listen* lots. But, like a good American multi-tasker, I usually listen while doing something else. I listen to my iPod while mowing the lawn. I listen to Brenda while reading the paper. I listen to the radio and to my phone while driving on I-4. I listen while...

I *learn* lots, too. Most of my learning comes from reading and from watching. I don’t learn much from TV, but then I don’t watch much TV either. The newspaper, magazines, books, Bible, the Internet—that’s where I learn while reading.

By watching? I learn a lot while watching people. Some teach me how to do my job better. Some teach me how to maneuver Photoshop CS2 on my computer and make my digital photos presentable. Some teach me how the committee operates, how to control the sprinklers in my lawn, how to photograph a moving child in low light, and how to be a Christian in an uncaring world. My days

and nights overflow with learning moments, most of which I miss because I’m busy doing three other things.

So I *stopped*. “You know, like Moses and Elijah, and Jesus, and John the Baptist, and lots of other people who changed the world after they’d been in the desert.” I doubt that I’ll ever change the world, but *stopping* has already helped the listening and the learning.



Stopping accomplishes three amazing changes in my life: 1) It turns off the static in my mind; 2) It helps me notice and see what’s right in front of me; and, 3) It gives God clearer access to my choices.

Stopping requires three choices: 1) I will do only one thing at a time and will give that one thing my concentrated attention; 2) I will choose to enjoy the natural world around me; and, 3) I will allow God to re-order my priorities, control my schedule, and lead my thoughts.

As Brennan Manning said on the cassette, “There in the silence of that desert sunrise, I knew God wanted *me*, and I chose to agree to His offer.”

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



Adventist Education

BY GARY BURNS

Out of His great compassion and love for us, God devised a perfect plan “to restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life” (*Education*, p. 15, 16).

Since the day Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, God has been engaged in the work of redemption—the work of education. The garments of skin that God provided for their clothing were the first great object lesson of His redemptive and substitutionary act on their behalf. The covering of their shame came through the shedding of blood.

From generation to generation, this object lesson was repeated at the altar of sacrifice. The plan of salvation was later more fully revealed through the lessons of the temple services. These object lessons—His revealed law—along with their experiences with Him were to be passed on by the parents to their children.

“Be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them” (Deuteronomy 4:9).

The role of passing on the faith has always been a partnership between God and parent. Later in Israel’s history, education provided by the parents was augmented by the “church” in what came to be known as “the schools of the prophets.”

These schools were first established by Samuel as “missionary seminaries, designed to maintain a higher standard of morals and religion at a period when the deplorable condition of degeneracy and corruption called loudly for such reformatory effort” (*Signs of the Times*, June 22, 1882).

These schools were established specifically for the student who wanted to advance in knowledge of the scriptures and to engage in deeper study of the mysteries of life and the kingdom of God in preparation to become a teacher in Israel. The institutional school was to provide beyond what was available in the home.

Adventist education was founded for similar reasons. The home school has always been the first and foremost source of instruction for the student. The church school was provided to augment what could be provided in the home for the purpose of preparing young people for advanced service.

Somehow, over time, many wrongly concluded that all education was the work of the church school. Many expected the school to work independently to educate and train young people, not only in advanced studies, but in the basic teachings of faith and practice. Others, sensing their God-given responsibility as described in Deuteronomy, have neglected the advanced training and opportunities afforded by the school.

A number of our dedicated educators are calling us back to the original plan, which in some circles is considered to be innovative and ground-breaking stuff. As parents resume their God-given roles as primary educators, and as church schools embrace their role as supporters and partners in the work of redemption by providing advanced studies for service, the true object of education will be realized.

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

God Used Me!

BY JAMILLE BANAAG

I looked for my teammates as I sat on the plane next to a stranger. We were on a flight back to Michigan. Our school's basketball teams had just played in a tournament at Southwestern Adventist University. I thought of how boring the flight back would be as I looked at the man next to me drinking his yogurt. Little did I know that man would change my life.

He started the conversation, asking if I was with a school group. He noticed me looking at my friends across the aisle. I told him only a few things. Telling details of your life to a total stranger isn't always the smartest thing! I told him about the Adventist tournament. Right when I mentioned "Adventist," our conversation flew from there.

He mentioned he had spoken at Andrews University one day, although he wasn't an Adventist. He said he had such a great experience because everyone seemed so friendly, nice, and caring. He really emphasized how he noticed that Adventist youth were different.

I thought, "This is my chance to witness!" as I said a silent prayer. I spoke of my experience going to Adventist schools from first through the 11th grade and also about the difference between kids in public and private schools. I even got to tell him about why Seventh-day Adventists worship on Sabbath! I was nervous, but somehow God gave me the words.

As the plane took off, he tilted his head back and closed his eyes. He looked like he wanted to puke so I prayed a silent prayer to God to give me courage to ask if he wanted me to pray. I was scared! I didn't know if he would yell at me

and say "NO!" or if he even believed in prayer. I just didn't know. I went ahead and asked if he wanted to pray. He said, "Yes!" I prayed with him, thanking God for letting us meet



Jamille Banaag (front row, right) thought traveling to Southwestern Adventist University for a basketball tournament would be an adventure. She had no idea what God had in store for her.

on this plane, and asked Him to be with him and for a safe flight. It was amazing how relieved and comforted he became. He told me he really liked the prayer, put his head back, and then closed his eyes.

The flight back was a quiet one. He went to sleep. So did I. When we woke and were almost to our destination, he told me he wanted to send his young daughter to an Adventist school one day if finances allowed. I cried a silent praise to God. I know God doesn't let finances get in the way of Christian education because I've experienced it firsthand.

As our plane came to a stop, I gave him a few Adventist websites to aid him in whatever he was searching for. I even gave him a website with a directory of Adventist churches in Michigan. And I finally got his name before we parted: Jim.

Every day I pray for Jim. I pray that one day God will re-unite Jim with me. I know someday God will. I left the airport changed. God used ME!

Jamille Banaag is a 16-year-old student at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. She just completed her junior year.



Jamille Banaag, a member of the GLAA girls' basketball team, believes God gave her the words to say when she witnessed to someone on the airplane.



GRACIAS A LOS PADRES

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Mi padre acaba de cumplir 91 años. Para mí es difícil creer que él ya haya llegado a una edad tan avanzada. Mi recuerdo de él es que era un hombre joven y fuerte; siempre trabajaba mucho para mantener a la familia. Este marzo fui a Nueva York a pasar una semana con él. Un día cuando mi papá y yo paseábamos en el auto fuimos a ver el edificio en el Bronx donde vivíamos cuando yo estaba en la escuela primaria. Al ver el edificio y el apartamento no pude menos que recordar algunas experiencias y emociones de mi niñez. Algo que persiste en mi mente eran los deseos de ver a mi padre.

En ese período él tenía dos trabajos, así que llegaba a la casa hasta muy tarde en la noche, cuando yo ya tenía que acostarme. A veces yo me preguntaba qué estaría haciendo todo el día mi papá hasta que un día él me llevó a uno de sus trabajos y me enseñó el lugar donde manejaba las máquinas que usaba en la fábrica. Entonces me di cuenta que mi bienestar, el de mi mamá, el de mi hermano y de mi hermana dependía de sus muchos esfuerzos y energía.

Fue en ese mismo apartamento que mi mamá recibió la visita de una mujer que era miembro de la Iglesia Adventista. En aquel tiempo mi papá no estaba interesado en cambiar de religión pero no se opuso a que ella asistiera. Mi mamá oró mucho para que él la acompañara, y sus oraciones fueron contestadas cuando él se bautizó cinco años más tarde a los 55 años de edad. Después de su bautismo mi papá llegó a ser un fiel discípulo y usó mucha de su energía para testificar a otros acerca de Jesús. Aunque tenía que seguir trabajando mucho para mantener a la familia, él, junto



Mi padre, Carmelo Mercado Sr. y mi hermana Lourdes Santiago



El apartamento en el Bronx donde primero recibimos el mensaje adventista

con mi mamá, ahora dedicaba tiempo todos los sábados para visitar a muchas personas y darles las buenas nuevas de Jesús. Gracias a Dios y a los esfuerzos de mis padres, hoy hay una cantidad de personas que están en la iglesia.

Han pasado ya muchos años y la energía de mi padre ha disminuido. Pero doy gracias a Dios por mi padre porque sus tres hijos siguen su ejemplo de usar la energía que Dios les ha dado para darle honra y gloria a Dios.

Este mes se celebra el Día del Padre, y yo quisiera invitar a cada lector a pensar en la manera de cómo su padre, o una persona que actuó como su padre, le haya enseñado por su ejemplo algunas lecciones valiosas de

cómo aprovechar la vida que Dios nos ha dado. La realidad es que el tiempo pasa muy rápidamente y algún día Dios pedirá cuenta de cómo hemos vivido. Mi oración es que Dios nos encuentre fieles hasta el fin.

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



Teaching for Eternity

BY LINDA PAUL

I home-schooled my daughters—twins Victoria and Kathlynn—for kindergarten and first grade. Halfway through first grade I became very restless and had the strongest feeling I just had to get my girls into school. I now know it was the Holy Spirit prompting me. I didn't want them in public school, but I wasn't crazy about them going into parochial schools either. I didn't want them exposed to that "dogma."

I was a borderline non-believer. I was raised to attend church; however, I had a lot of questions and no one seemed real interested in answering them. It seemed they only shoved God and unconditional belief down my throat with no reasoning for anything. No one seemed interested in studying the Bible. I had taken my girls to a few churches, but none seemed "friendly." I knew the girls needed some kind of spiritual connection and I needed it myself, but I just didn't find anything that fit us.

During Summer 2004, I discussed my dilemma with a friend. She told me she sent her children to an Adventist school many years ago and just loved it. She loved the curriculum, the small class setting, and the fact that all denominations were welcome. The children learned the Bible, but weren't "brainwashed."

On Sunday before school started in 2004, my husband and I drove through Grand Ledge, Michigan, and happened to pass the Grand Ledge Seventh-day Adventist

Church. We had passed this church many, many times before, but it really didn't call to us until we saw a sign that read "Ledges Adventist Elementary—Now Enrolling 1st–8th Grades." I wrote the number down and called the next day. I was told it was the first day of school, but we were more than welcome to come and check out the school to see if it was for us. That afternoon we went to the school and met Francine Bergmann, the principal. She was wonderful, and we just seemed to belong there. The girls were enrolled that day and started the next, and they have loved every minute.



From left: Victoria, Linda, and Kathlynn Paul



Located just across the school's parking lot was the Adventist church that Francine Bergmann, Ledges Elementary principal, invited the Paul family to attend.

Later that year, Kathlynn wanted to see what church was like. We asked Francine when church started, and I was a bit shocked to find that [she] went to church on Saturday and called it the Sabbath. Being someone who wasn't really familiar with the Bible, God, or Christianity, it was all kind of strange; I wasn't sure if this was really going to work. I thought if you have to go to church on Saturday, of all days, that would really ruin the weekend since everyone else went to church on Sunday. I wondered why they were so different.

I decided to appease Kathlynn. So, needless to say, we went to church and found everyone very welcoming. Francine knew I was a bit apprehensive and kind of took me under her wing. She and her husband Jason were amazing mentors to me. The girls loved Sabbath school, and I have to admit so did I. Here was a group of people who didn't have a problem discussing the Bible, and they were more than willing to explain things to me.

I kept going back Sabbath after Sabbath. The more I studied, the more I needed to know. I sat up late at night reading the Bible, then moved into Ellen White's writings, and listened to tapes from the previous year's camp meeting that I had borrowed from Francine. I was totally blown

away, I loved this, but I knew there was one thing missing. I needed to be baptized; it wasn't just to be a part of the church or to say that I was this or that. I needed it because I wanted so much to be one of God's children and to be cleansed.

In January 2005, Ted Struntz began an evangelistic series in our church. Francine urged me to go; she said I really needed to. A few weeks into the meetings, I discussed

my desire to be baptized with Francine. She suggested I talk to our pastor, who at that time was Chris James. I discussed it with him and started a Bible study with his wife Elisha. By mid-March, I felt it was time. I can't explain the feeling I had. I didn't just want to be baptized, I felt I needed to be baptized.

During the meetings, the evangelist passed out cards to write comments or questions on, or to request a visit or baptism. When I saw the card, I wrote "Yes, I want to be baptized." We set an appointment to discuss this, and he asked if there was anything keeping me from being baptized. I told him, "No, I am just waiting for you to do it." Five days later, on March 19, I was baptized into the Grand Ledge Adventist Church. I feel I am home.



Chris James baptized Linda Paul in the Grand Ledge Adventist Church. She looks forward to the day when her girls will be baptized, also.

I am glad I followed the prompting of the Holy Spirit last year. I am now able to hold my head high and proudly say that I am one of God's children. My daughters will be raised in the church and will continue in Adventist schools. Yes, we have made a lot of sacrifices and had to give up some things that we loved because of Sabbath, but you know what, I wouldn't trade what I have now with God for anything or anyone.

My daughters have both given their heart to God and look forward to the day when they can be baptized. That is all that I can ask for.

Linda Paul is a member of the Grand Ledge (Michigan) Church. Francine Bergmann has moved to Washington State, where she will teach the third and fourth grades next year at Nelson Crane Christian School, an Adventist school in Puyallup, Washington.



Michelle Paulsen stopped to take a picture with one of the girls who attended Vacation Bible School.



Before the students came home, they took a picture in front of the church they helped build.



Nathan Lowry and senior parent Steve Martin laid brick for the walls of the new church.

Learning Lessons in Faraway Places

BY KATHERINE MILLER AND MICHELLE PAULSEN

During spring break, the Wisconsin Academy Class of 2006 headed overseas to Romania for the annual senior class mission trip. God led and guided not only while we were on the trip, but throughout the planning and decision-making aspects of this excursion.

At the beginning of the school year, when we were deciding where we should go, we felt impressed to go to Kenya, Africa. When not enough money was raised in time to make Africa a reality, we felt discouraged. We wondered, “Why would God lead us to Africa if He knew it wouldn’t work?” Soon after this disappointment, a student mentioned the idea of going to Romania because she had gone there on a previous trip. “Going to Romania four years ago was all part of God’s plan for us to be able to go now. Even then, He was working for something I couldn’t have dreamed of,” stated Erin McLean.

The school board granted us the chance; however, we had to raise the bulk of the money in just three weeks, and all 35 going on the trip had to get our passports in time. The class was hopeful and felt God was leading, so we set our hearts on Romania.

During those weeks, everyone busily worked to raise money. As the deadline approached, the money poured in—above and beyond the amount needed! The class then realized this was God’s true plan for us.

Another miracle occurred the day before we left; one student still did not have his passport. After praying throughout the church service, it arrived in the mail that afternoon! Praise the Lord that everyone in our class was able to go!

While we were in Romania, a church was built in the center of the small town of Crasna. Without our help, the church would have taken years to erect due to a lack of funds. We were also able to hold two Vacation Bible Schools in the town’s public schools. We also held a health screening and taught a few English classes. The people were extremely hospitable, and we grew to love them in the short time we were there. “Seeing how appreciative the people in Crasna were and how needful they were of the church building made me realize why God led us there,” commented Adrienne Gust.

Now that we are back at school and the old routine has set in, we are still amazed at the miracles God performed for us. We will never forget the experiences we had knowing God was in the midst of it all.

Michelle Paulsen and Katherine Miller are recent Wisconsin Academy graduates.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

James Martz: (630) 734-0920

www.illinoisadventist.org

Alpine Christian School
 Beverly Hills Elementary School
 Broadview Academy
 Crest Hill Christian Junior Academy
 Downers Grove Elementary School
 Gurnee Christian School
 Hinsdale Adventist Academy
 Marion Elementary School
 North Aurora Elementary School
 North Shore Junior Academy
 Peoria Elementary School
 Richland Bridge Christian School
 Sheridan Elementary School
 Springfield Elementary School
 Thompsonville Christian School

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Mark Haynal: (317) 844-6201

www.indianaadventist.org

Aboite Christian School
 Adventist Christian Academy
 Cicero Adventist Elementary
 Cross Street Christian School
 Door Prairie Adventist School
 Elkhart Adventist Christian School
 Evansville Adventist School
 Indiana Academy
 Indianapolis Junior Academy
 Lucille Lutz Elementary School
 Northwest Adventist Christian School
 Pleasantview Christian School
 South Bend Junior Academy
 Spencer Adventist Christian School
 Terre Haute Adventist School

LAKE REGION CONFERENCE

Edward Woods: (773) 846-2661

www.lakeregionsda.org

Calvin Center Elementary School
 Capitol City Elementary School
 Chicago SDA Elementary
 Fairhaven Elementary School
 Mizpah Elementary School

Peterson-Warren Academy
 Peterson-Warren Elementary
 Sharon Junior Academy
 South Suburban School

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Duane Roush: (517) 316-1550

www.misda.org

Adelphian Junior Academy
 Alpena Elementary School
 Andrews Academy
 Ann Arbor Elementary School
 Battle Creek Academy
 Battle Creek Elementary School
 Berrien Springs Village Elementary
 Blue Water SDA Elementary School
 Cedar Lake Elementary School
 Charlotte Elementary School
 Eau Claire Elementary School
 Edenville Elementary School
 Escanaba Elementary School
 First Flint Elementary School
 Glenwood Union Elementary School
 Gobles SDA Junior Academy
 Grand Rapids Adventist Academy
 Grayling SDA Elementary
 Great Lakes Adventist Academy
 Greater Lansing Adventist School
 Hastings SDA Elementary
 Holland SDA Elementary
 Ionia SDA Elementary
 Ithaca SDA Elementary
 Jackson SDA Elementary
 Kalamazoo SDA Junior Academy
 Ledges SDA Elementary
 Lenawee SDA Elementary School
 Metropolitan Junior Academy
 Mio SDA Elementary
 Mount Pleasant SDA Elementary
 Munising SDA Elementary
 Muskegon SDA Elementary
 Niles SDA Elementary
 Northview Junior Academy
 Oak Hollow Christian School
 Oakwood Academy
 Onaway SDA Elementary
 Owosso SDA Elementary

Petoskey SDA Elementary
 Pine Mountain Christian School
 Prattville SDA Elementary
 Ruth Murdoch SDA Elementary School
 Traverse City Elementary
 Tri-City SDA Junior Academy
 Troy Adventist Academy
 Warren SDA Elementary
 Waterford Elementary
 Wilson SDA Junior Academy
 Woodland SDA School

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

Ken Kirkham: (608) 241-5235

<http://wi.adventist.org>

Bethel Junior Academy
 Fox Valley SDA Elementary
 Frederic SDA Elementary
 Green Bay Junior Academy
 Hillside Christian School
 Lakeland SDA Elementary
 Maranatha SDA Elementary
 Meadow Creek Adventist School
 Milwaukee Junior Academy
 Otter Creek Christian Academy
 Petersen SDA Elementary
 Thompson Lake Christian School
 Three Angels Christian School
 Wisconsin Academy
 Woodland Adventist School

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Contact: (800) 253-2874

www.andrews.edu

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools; and makes no discrimination on the basis of race in administration of educational policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.



Pathways: A Journey to Excellence Through Reading

BY GARRY SUDDS

Restoring the image of God within each student is the ultimate goal of Seventh-day Adventist education, including its reading program. The new Seventh-day Adventist reading program is based on a balanced approach of strategies focusing on individual student needs combined with effective practices. Current research in theories and principles of reading form the basis for these effective practices.

PATHWAYS GOALS

Students should not only learn how to read, but also acquire the desire to read, write, and learn. All students deserve to be in a school situation where they have an opportunity to become passionate learners, readers, and writers. *Pathways* provides students with this opportunity. *Pathways* rests on the following principles:

- ▶ *Pathways* offers a cross-curriculum approach to literacy that gives students an opportunity to become deeply involved in learning.
- ▶ *Pathways* leads students to make good choices in reading content.
- ▶ *Pathways* develops lifelong readers.
- ▶ *Pathways* shows students how to create meaning through writing and conversations with one another.
- ▶ *Pathways* provides students with guidance and practice to develop writing skills.
- ▶ *Pathways* provides systematic instruction in reading comprehension and learning strategies that students apply to literature and content subjects.
- ▶ *Pathways* provides students a systematic, daily practice with phonological processing skills.
- ▶ *Pathways* provides a systematic approach to the teaching of spelling that includes high-frequency words as well as words following specific phonological patterns.
- ▶ *Pathways* provides a rich variety of tools for assessing individual student development.
- ▶ *Pathways* offers a management plan that includes whole-class, small-group, and individual student activities.



CROSS-CURRICULAR THEMES

Cross-curricular themes serve as the overriding framework for the program. Each theme centers on a theme book. While the same nine themes occur at every grade level, the specific theme content changes to reflect the developmental and interest levels of the students. Spiritual lessons will be drawn from each theme which will relate to the student's own spiritual journey. The thematic structure offers consistency across grade levels and a framework for the literature units.

Heroes (Content Area: Literature Development)

As students move from one stage of development to the next, the literature stresses heroes who overcome insurmountable odds.

My World and Others (Content Area: Geography)

Students experience how people live in different cultures and political settings.

Living Things (Content Area: Science)

Students learn about God's creation through literature.

Spiritual Journey (Content Area: Adventist Heritage)

This theme encourages students to grow spiritually through Adventist history and fosters a personal relationship with Jesus by seeking His plan for their lives.

Friends and Family

This theme includes literature about interrelationships among family members and friends.

Environment

Selections in this theme stress the interrelationship between people and their environment.

Personal Feelings and Growth

The literature for this theme stresses personal issues and struggles as students move from one stage of development to another.

Yesterday

Students explore history through literature.

Social Issues and Culture

Readers explore relationships among different groups.

DESCRIPTION OF PATHWAYS COMPONENTS

Theme Books

Books are the driving force behind *Pathways*. Each of the nine thematic studies is launched by theme books. These books were selected for their content values, high interest and literacy, and to represent a range of topics and genre.

Guided Reading Books

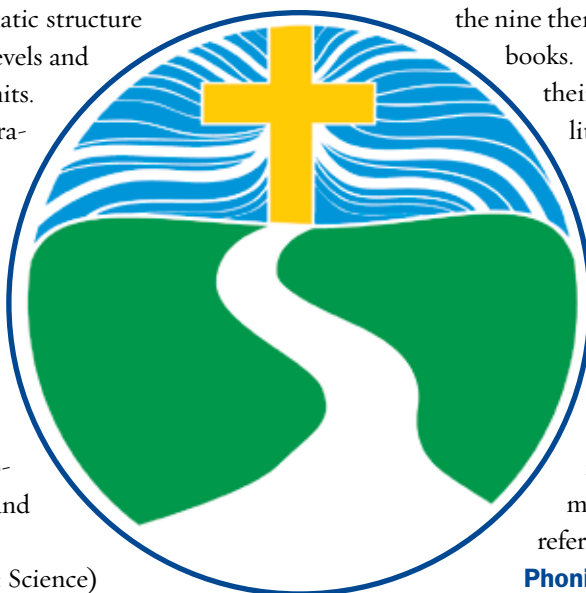
It is through Guided Reading that *Pathways* can show students how to read and support them while reading various books.

Writer's Handbook

The *Writer's Handbook* is a student resource. Students keep this grammar guide on their desks as a handy reference to use throughout the day

Phonics

The *Chall-Popp Phonics Program* assists students in learning the major phonological patterns in our language. The student book is a write-in text and is the only consumable component of *Pathways*.



PROJECTED TIME FRAME FOR THE ADOPTION OF PATHWAYS

2006–2007 School Year

Grades 1 and 2

2007–2008 School Year

Kindergarten, Grades 3 and 4

2008–2009 School Year

Grades 5 and 6

2009–2010 School Year

Grades 7 and 8

Garry Sudds is the Lake Union Conference associate superintendent of education.



My Dream

BY GARY RANDOLPH

After 30 years of administration, I have a dream for Seventh-day Adventist education. My dream addresses the needs of the membership and raises opportunities for many more students to attend a Seventh-day Adventist school. It has become evident that we must significantly change the distribution of education in our system. That is, we must redefine who teaches and how they teach. In addition, we must change the financial structure to establish more equality of pricing to any and all students who might wish to receive a Seventh-day Adventist education.

We must think outside of the box of a traditional classroom with “x” number of students and one fully certificated teacher. Presently, some small school situations have very high per-student costs. Some classrooms have six to 15 students and one teacher. With the best scenario of 15 students, that translates to a cost of about \$4,000 per student just to cover the costs related to employing the teacher. Then, add the costs of provided the building with heat, electricity, books, equipment, etc., and you’ve created a very costly delivery system.

We must return more of the responsibility for educating a child back into the hands of the parents. Some parents have relegated 100 percent of the responsibility to the school, which is not only impractical, but immoral. With the shifted responsibility also comes unrealistic expectations spread over a diversity of families, creating an impossible task! Providing parents with more support, guidance, and skills might allow them to be real participants in the process and result in more education taking place in the home where the home is best suited to provide that education.

PHASE ONE: PROVIDE TELECONFERENCING FOR JUNIOR ACADEMIES AND HOME SCHOOLS

Phase One in my dream would provide assistance to grades nine and ten through teleconferencing for any junior academy which cannot provide adequate, certified teachers. This would include 75 percent of the schools presently operating.

In addition, this same resource would be offered to parents who choose to teach their children at home. Providing this service will accomplish three things: 1) It will offer a secondary program to those who cannot afford boarding school. Affordability many times is tied to the ability of the student to supplement the cost through work programs, which is significantly reduced by law until they reach 16 years of age. 2) It keeps the student in the home for another two years to mature, while giving parents more direct involvement in the training of their child through those important middle-teen years of rapid change and having more responsibility for making decisions. 3) It addresses the concern that most parents have in sending their students away from home when they are only 14 years of age.

PHASE TWO: STRENGTHEN ACADEMY PROGRAMS

Phase Two would provide a similar system of support to assist boarding and day academies with courses to strengthen their academic program. Additional classes in math, science, and initial language training classes, and possibly some college advancement courses would be offered.

PHASE THREE: COORDINATE DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Phase Three would provide similar support for grades five to eight with enhancements. Churches, with less than six students, willing to provide a proper facility and instructional coordination would be eligible for this program. The same support could also be offered to home-school parents.

Phase One is not a “pipe dream.” A similar program has been in operation for eight years. The Lake Union Conference has actually had the longest operating school in that program at Calvin Center in Cassopolis, Michigan. Presently, Chicago Academy (grades nine to 12) also uses this program successfully. The Florida Conference currently has 120 students in the program.

The program is still in development and each year shows significant improvements. Every indication suggests a successful program and it could be replicated throughout the Lake Union Conference now!

Phase Two is in the thinking and planning stages. The significant changes from the first phase are equipment enhancement, program efficiency, operation experience, teacher training, and program preparation. It is a plausible and realistic plan for the technological future in the next ten years.

I have great concern for our present system if we do not address the unacceptable enrollment losses and present cost per pupil. The current level of educational funding should provide for a much larger percentage of our dear children. My prayer is that God will lead us to step out and deliver Christian education in different and more practical ways that build a partnership with parents. Through this partnership, children will benefit from being at home longer and greater involvement with their parents in the process of education. This may become more important as our world presents an increasingly dangerous, out-of-the-home environment.

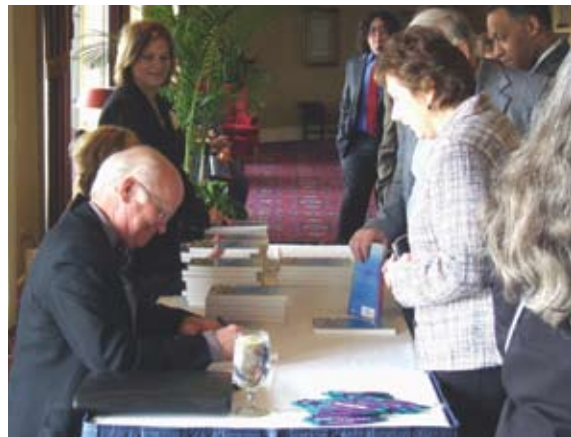
Gary Randolph is the Lake Union Conference superintendent of education.



When Faiths Collide

“Faith is a personal belief, trust, and commitment to God, but I’m using it in the sense that means a religious community of faith. It’s what you live for, i.e., the ultimate concern. We need a community to share our vision of God, to encourage one another, to work together, to share in rites, ceremonies, and holidays that express our religious beliefs.

“Being part of a community of faith endows our joys and sorrows with a bigger sense,” said Martin Marty, renowned theologian. “All religions have an end goal of peace, reconciliation, or shalom.”



Speaker and theologian Martin Marty greeted attendees of his presentation, “When Faiths Collide,” during a book signing opportunity.

What causes faiths to collide?

“Faiths collide because people have strong views on their convictions,” said Marty. “Communities become competitive, exclusive, and reject others who don’t share their beliefs. They don’t know how to interact with the people of different faiths they encounter in the workplace, the government, and the news. Yet, mass media brings us in contact with each other in front page news every day. These collisions of faith occur over issues of sexuality, gender, family, and education. We feel threatened by change to things we intimately believe in, but we can’t wall ourselves off from mass media.”

How should we relate to each other?

“People assume they will have to give up something to interact with someone of another faith. I think you learn more about who you are from those interactions. I think we need to risk hospitality. Get to know people of other faiths before a conflict occurs. This is something to do in the serenity of your community. People used to live with their own kind, but with mass media there is no place to hide.

“Some folk say we should be tolerant of one another, but they really are saying ‘Believe as little as I do and we’ll get along.’

“It’s better to follow Scripture and relate to others with sincere hospitality. In the Old Testament, it was considered a sin to reject hospitality. Hospitality involves risk. You learn new things. It’s not the setting for conversion. It is the atmosphere for conversation.

Conversation is a period of questions and answers. Conversion presents pressure and argument. Conversation won’t make all situations serene, but it will change attitudes. It will foster economic collaborations, exchange programs and mutual respect,” said Marty.

Lynn Larson, Adventist Midwest Health
public relations specialist

Author’s Note: Martin Marty is the author of 50 books and 5,000 articles and is a columnist for *Christian Century*. A former professor of religious history, he taught in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago for 35 years. The Advanced Study of Religion at the University of Chicago was renamed the Martin Marty Center to honor its founding director for his singular distinction as historian, author, and commentator on religion and public life.



From left: Isaac Palmer, Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital CEO; Roger Claar, Bolingbrook mayor; Martin Marty; Ernie Sadau, Adventist Midwest Health president/CEO; and John Rapp, AMH vice president for ministries and mission

Hospitality Opens Doors to Dialogue with Community

Bolingbrook, a southwest suburb of Chicago, is the site of the first Illinois hospital to be built in 25 years, and Adventist Midwest Health (AMH) is the conduit for this healing ministry.

“With construction of Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital underway and anticipated to open in 2007, Adventist Midwest Health hopes to foster dialogue and understanding between diverse faiths in the surrounding communities,” said John Rapp, D. Min., AMH vice president for ministries and mission.

AMH recently sponsored a luncheon for area clergy, businessmen, and village officials, with the renowned theologian, Martin E. Marty, as guest speaker. His topic was “When Faiths Collide,” which is also the title of his latest book.

“We want to partner with the community to bring excellent health care with a strong spiritual aspect to the area served by Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital,” said Rapp. “This conversation is about engaging the community to patients spiritually and in healing at our hospitals.”

Lynn Larson, Adventist Midwest Health
public relations specialist

Division of Architecture Receives High Ranking

In a world where connectivity and convenience increasingly influence where people choose to live, the architectural philosophy of New Urbanism is rapidly gaining supporters. This is due to its commitment to facilitate communities where all necessary amenities are within a five- to ten-minute walk of any given residence, and convenient living is thus not dependent upon vehicle ownership.

And it's that dedication to pedestrian-friendly design that has earned Andrews University's Division of Architecture high ranking in *New Urban News*, a professional newsletter targeting architects and public officials who promote and practice New Urbanism.

An article, "New Urbanism Makes Inroads: Still Out of Academic Mainstream," in the Feb. 2006 issue of *New Urban News* commends Andrews University for being "one of the few architecture departments in the U.S. that directly incorporates New Urbanist principles and practices into the curriculum." In the same issue, Andrews University is tied for sixth place with



the University of Pennsylvania under the category "Best Schools: Which Institutions Do a Good Job of Training New Urbanist Practitioners?" Andrews also joins the University of Michigan in fourth place for "Recent Hires at New Urbanist Firms: From What Schools?" Other local top ranking institutions include Miami, Notre Dame, Maryland, and California-Berkeley universities.

Cary C. Carscallen, Director of the Division of Architecture at Andrews University, is excited by the national recognition—especially its buttressing affect on the confidence of current architecture students. "The holistic way we teach architecture by promoting conservation and a healthy balance in the built environment ... gives our students the skills they need to succeed." And perhaps more crucially, assures them that "what they are learning is of high value."

Elizabeth Lechleitner, University Relations student news writer

Nursing Faculty Present at Biennial Nursing Society Conference

For the past 20 years, the Andrews University Department of Nursing has maintained the only chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Nursing Honor Society in southwestern Michigan. The scholarship arm of the nursing profession, the STTI parent organization held its 38th biennial conference in Indianapolis, Ind., where four Andrews nursing faculty had the opportunity to share their research.

For this conference, all poster and podium presentations were selected through a refereed process. Four faculty members submitted abstracts for blind review, and the department was pleasantly surprised when all four were accepted. Assistant professors



From left: Nancy Carter and Arlene Saliba, members of the Andrews University Department of Nursing faculty, gave a presentation detailing the methods used at Andrews for teaching patient care to nursing students.

Arlene Saliba and Nancy Carter held a poster presentation on "Promoting Critical Thinking Through Concept Map Care Planning"; assistant professor Diane Ford presented a poster on "Use of Story Writing and Telling for Teaching Pathophysiology to Nursing Students"; and Karen Allen presented a paper entitled "Finding Missing Persons: Increasing Diversity in Nursing Students."

In attendance at the conference were the Andrews University's Eta Zeta chapter president and secretary, Helen Pelleschi and Lisa Girr. Based on feedback they received, Pelleschi and Girr reported that all presentations were well received by nursing scholars in attendance. However, attendees were particularly interested in Arlene Saliba and Nancy Carter's poster session detailing the methods used at Andrews for teaching patient care to nursing students, which was viewed as having the potential to replace current care plan systems used in health care.

Karen Allen, Department of Nursing chair

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Church Youth Form Kids' Club

Indiana—At a time in Earth's history when churches are experiencing an exodus of young men and women, the 41-member Scottsburg Church is blessed to have in its midst Tabitha Myers and Kerri Smith.

In late Summer 2005, Tabitha, age 18, was impressed to start a program for the children in the church. She shared her idea first with her cousin, Kerri Smith, age 20, and together they presented their plan to Jerry Higgs, Scottsburg pastor. Thus, Kids' Club was born.



Tabitha Myers and Kerri Smith started Kids' Club at the Scottsburg Church.

Interest in Kids' Club was high. Parental and church support was immediate. The plan called for meetings to be held once each week for 90 minutes. The first meeting was set. Children arrived early for the festivities and the air was thick with excitement. Sixteen children, ranging in age from two to 14, were in attendance. Favorite activities included crafts and Bible games. Simple stories and illustrations were used to kindle an interest in God's Word.

Recently, the group put on a play, and in late Fall Kerri and Tabitha hosted a lock-in, "locking" themselves in the church basement with 14 small children for the night! In Feb., the Valentine party was geared to teaching love for Jesus and for each other. The children are being taught reverence and are memorizing scriptures. They



Scottsburg Church Kids' Club encourages children to learn more about the love of Jesus.

are learning to pray and to be comfortable in God's house. A visit to Kids' Club might find the children praying, singing, listening to stories, or smeared with peanut butter as they stuff pine cones with the gooey stuff to make bird feeders.

Tabitha and Kerri are third generation Adventists. Tabitha is a high school senior who works about 16 hours a week. She will attend Ball State University in the Fall to study nursing and is interested in hospice and bereavement care. Kerri works full time and is a part-time student at Indiana University Southeast studying psychology.

Asked what they receive in return for their efforts, both Kerri and Tabitha cited the great joy of being with the children and the satisfaction of making it fun for them to learn about Jesus.

"He who cooperates with the divine purpose in imparting to the youth a knowledge of God, and molding the character into harmony with His, does a high and noble work" (*Education*, p. 19).

To this work, Tabitha and Kerri have devoted countless hours. The Scottsburg Church is proud of them and happy to support their endeavors.

Mary Barley, Scottsburg Church correspondent

Tecumseh Church Varies Witnessing Programs

Michigan—The Tecumseh Church personal ministries department is training members to actively reach out to their neighbors. Every month they have a different emphasis to encourage monthly contact with individuals who need contact, including neighbors.

In Sept., they wrote and sent cards to all missing members, including the sick and shut-ins.

Everyone knows there is nothing like the smell and taste of fresh, baked bread, especially in Oct. when the weather starts to get cool. With this thought in mind, the ladies of the church baked fifty loaves of sweet-breads. Nineteen church members took the nicely-wrapped loaves and knocked on doors to share with their neighbors. Thus began "Operation Friendship Loaves."

The outing for Nov. included distributing *The Passion of Love* books in the same neighborhoods where sweet-breads were delivered in Oct.

Christmas is a wonderful time of year to share the good news of Jesus, so the group went to the Herrick Manor Nursing Home. They presented a special Christmas program, which



The Tecumseh Church is trying to vary its outreach initiatives. At Christmas time, they went to the Herrick Manor Nursing Home where they presented a special program.

included Christmas carols, a short talk, and prayer. While there, they visited with each patient and gave them a bookmark.

This small church is planting and sowing seeds of caring and friendship in their little community. Their prayer is that the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of these precious individuals and give them a longing to know more about Jesus.

Judy Goliath, Tecumseh Church personal ministries leader

[WOMEN'S NEWS]

Single Mom's Retreat Is a Blessing

Indiana—Lake Union single moms look forward to a special retreat planned just for them and their children each summer. Held at Timber Ridge Camp in Spencer, Ind., the Single Mom's & Kid's Retreat is a collaborative effort of the Women's Ministries and Family Ministries departments. Subsidized by the Indiana Conference to make it affordable for single moms, the retreat is a relaxing oasis for hardworking moms and offers countless adventures for their children.

Cari Vath of Clarendon, Ill., first attended the retreat in June 2004. Cari said, "When my friend and I got to [Timber Ridge Camp] we were greeted

with warm smiles, huge hugs, beautiful Tupperware containers filled with homemade cookies, baskets filled with notepads, lotions, books, [and] homemade potholders, and I stood there and cried. I was already feeling the love of Christ being poured out on me."

Moms and kids enjoy swimming at the lake, boat rides, horseback riding, flag football, singing by the campfire, watching powerful skits performed by the staff, and a delicious lunch for moms that they don't pay for at the Olive Garden. Cari said, "What more could we ask for?" But Cari says the moms experience so much more. "The moms unite. We talk, share stories about ourselves and our kids, laugh, cry, listen, and pray together. We bear one another's burdens and we love each other. We share a special bond because our experiences as single parents are unique and we become strengthened through our friendships. This experience helps me to remember that I'm not alone in single parenting struggles."

Cari added, "Each of these women are amazing to me! Their stories, their testimonies, and the love they share are little miracles in my life." Her best friend, Cherie, is a mom she met through the retreat. Cari exclaimed, "She's like the sister I never had!"

Since going to the retreat, Cari has started a ministry for single moms. Her first newsletter, which she said was Cherie's idea, was sent to 15 single moms in Nov. 2005. It included a feature article, news, a testimony, a book report, a Scripture quote, recipes, humorous anecdotes, and an Ellen G.

White quote. Cari has also encouraged a phone and e-mail network for her single mom friends. She said, "Some of the moms communicate via e-mail, sending prayer requests and uplifting messages."

Cari's daughter has appreciated the retreat, too. "My daughter now has a network of friends in different states! She loves to talk to her friend, Savannah, from Indiana! She also loves to look at the pictures from the retreat as well." She added, "We cannot thank God enough for intertwining our lives together ... for having meals cooked for us for FOUR glorious days and for friendships that will last until Christ comes and will carry on afterward in Heaven!"

Cari added, "Single Mom's Retreat happens every year thanks to God, Pastor Charlie Thompson and his wonderful family, Julie Loucks, Sheila Hinton, and all of the AWESOME and WONDERFUL camp counselors who help cook, clean, counsel, and look after our children."

If you want to enjoy what Cari and her daughter experienced, you can! This year, the Single Mom's Retreat is June 22-25. The cost is \$35 per mom and \$10 for each child, which includes lodging, recreation, programming, crafts, food, and much more.

To register, please contact Julie Loucks at (317) 844-6201. If you would like to contact Cari for information about her newsletter, send an e-mail to: ful.of.grace@juno.com; or write to: 148 Ann St. #16, Clarendon Hill, IL 60514.

Diane Thurber is the Lake Union Herald managing editor.



Single moms and their children travel from throughout the Lake Union to Timber Ridge Camp for a fun-filled, relaxing retreat.

[UNION NEWS]

Spreading Seeds of Truth in Unlikely Places

Indiana—A true American war hero passed to his rest on Mar. 23, 2006. Desmond Doss, a Seventh-day Adventist conscientious objector/Army medic during World War II, was persecuted for his convictions. Some of the very soldiers who ridiculed Desmond later saw him awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest military honor the United States bestows, for his extraordinary battlefield courage.

On the very day Desmond died, filmmaker Terry Benedict accepted the Bridge Award for sharing the Adventist church's message of hope. He was recognized for "The Conscientious Objector," a documentary which tells Desmond's amazing story, portrays his beliefs about not using a gun or killing because of the sixth commandment, and beautifully showcases the seventh-day Sabbath.

Because of the compelling look the film takes on Desmond's conviction, integrity, and respect for human life, the Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis Peace House, and several church groups of various denomina-



Terry Benedict (left) was introduced by former Indiana first lady, Judy O'Bannon, at the documentary screening in Indianapolis.



Terry Benedict addressed the crowd at the special screening of the Doss documentary in Indianapolis.

tions brought Benedict and the documentary to Indianapolis for a public screening. Seventh-day Adventist churches were invited to participate. I was asked to attend and encouraged to bring materials from my church—Desmond's church—to distribute.

Former Indiana first lady, Judy O'Bannon, opened the evening by stating we were in for a treat! She passionately introduced Benedict, shared his Seventh-day Adventist heritage, emphasized his family's priorities were not in awards or material things, and explained that they didn't even own a TV until he was ten.

"I felt like it was an honor to serve God and Country," Desmond said in 1998. As I mingled with the nearly 300 attendees in Indianapolis, I felt honored to serve my God and my church as I distributed materials and answered questions. This special screening was a wonderful witnessing opportunity handed to us on a "silver platter." During the question and answer session with Benedict, I felt proud to be an Adventist as many expressed admiration of the manner in

which Desmond portrayed his faith in the face of intolerance.

When accepting the Bridge Award, Benedict said, "Making this documentary was not just about reporting facts, it is about getting to the heart of the matter, touching and influencing people with our message. Evangelism is not just about preaching from a podium in a sanctuary. It is about going out and reaching people, which this story gave me an opportunity to do."

I thrilled as many non-Adventists purchased "The Conscientious Objector" DVDs! Afterward, I reflected on some thoughts by Ellen White about new methods of spreading the truth springing forth before the Second Coming of Jesus. She said there are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light, and ways would be devised to reach their hearts. She also said some methods used would be different from those used in the past. I truly believe Benedict's film partially fulfills this prophecy.

Desmond was a very humble man who was not proud of himself for what he did. He was proud God used him to save so many lives. I witnessed how the film of his life is touching many from all walks of humanity, and I am thankful God was able to use me that evening, too. Even though my part was small, seeds of truth were sown.

Judith Yeoman, Indiana Conference correspondent



At the reception following the screening, many guests asked questions about Doss and his faith.

[NAD NEWS]

United Youth Congress Surpassed Expectations

"I saw so many people it seemed like a sea," described Anthony Kelly, Lake Region Conference youth director. Kelly was describing the United Youth Congress held in Atlanta, Ga., from Apr. 19–23, 2006.

Awash in that sea on Sabbath morning, Apr. 23, were Renee Cousins from the Conant Gardens Adventist Church in Detroit, Mich., and Bernard Wilson from the Burns Adventist Church in Detroit, Mich. Sitting behind an information booth in the main hall of the C Building of the Georgia World Congress Center, the two were impressed as they watched the flow of their fellow Adventist young people.

Cousins had volunteered much of her time at the United Youth Congress information booth. "I think it's interesting," said Cousins. "I see a lot of people who have come away from the workshops saying how good they were and how interesting they are, so a lot of good is going on here." Beside



The weekend crowd at the United Youth Congress exceeded 38,000.

Photo by Ron Pollard

her, Wilson added what he's enjoyed. "I like seeing a lot of new people and old friends."

Wilson and Cousins are two of the 365 delegates from the Lake Region Conference and the more than 5,200 registered delegates who attended the United Youth Congress from around North America and Bermuda. Held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, organizers say that along with the registered delegates, more than 38,000 non-delegates gathered for the Sabbath services on Apr. 23 with some estimates placing the number at more than 50,000.

It was a monumental turnout according to Claude Harris II, Allegheny East Conference youth ministries director and chairperson of the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association (BAYDA), which is the parent organization of the United Youth Congress. The mission of BAYDA is to promote the spiritual, physical, academic, moral, and cultural development of the youth of the North American Division (NAD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. BAYDA's members include youth leaders of the NAD regional conferences as well as youth leaders in Southern, South-eastern, Central and Northern California conferences, North Pacific Union, and Bermuda and Ontario conferences.

Held every five years, the United Youth Congress serves as a focal point of BAYDA's ministry. With attendance through the roof this year, Harris and his team were kept on their toes trying to facilitate the record turnout. "It was a challenging task, but we enjoyed it so much because we are doing it for our youth who we feel really need an opportunity to not

only learn more about Jesus Christ but to develop their characters. We believe that Jesus is coming soon and we want to have them prepared for that," said Harris.

The theme for the United Youth Congress this year was "No More Chains." Harris explained that the theme refers to things that can hold youth back from a full relationship with Christ. Specifically targeted were the chains of sexual promiscuity, family decline, spiritual decline, drug abuse, and gangs. "We feel that the chains of life, if we allow them, can allow us to have a negative outlook on life, and we want a positive outlook on life," stated Harris.

This year's United Youth Congress accomplished its goal by bringing together youth ranging in age from 15–35 and providing educational workshops, social interaction, quality spiritual speakers, and the opportunity to perform community service. More than 30 workshops were held for participants on a wide variety of topics including single parenting, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS awareness, employment, family and spiritual decline, gangs, homelessness, community and financial empowerment, and sexual promiscuity.

For Matthew Winslow from the Mountainside Church in Atlanta, Ga., the best part of the United Youth Congress was the seminars. "It's great. It's cool. I mean, it's like fun. It's just cool," expounded Winslow. "In the seminars, you understand what they're talking about; it's not like a boring sermon where you go to sleep."



Photo by Richard Herard

Java Mattison, pastor of the Beacon of Joy Church in Chicago, Ill., and Sylvia Harleaux of the Sharon Church in Milwaukee, Wis., unloaded their luggage from the bus.



Photos by Fulton Bell



Third place winner of the choir competition was Motor City Mass Choir of Detroit, Mich.

Second place winner of the choir competition was All Nations Youth Choir of Berrien Springs, Mich.

At this year's United Youth Congress, organizers intentionally planned outreach projects in the Atlanta community to build on what the youth were learning in the seminars. A total of 14 projects, ranging from feeding the homeless to constructing a beautiful, outdoor garden—complete with a mural—at a local nursing home gave youth the opportunity to put their faith into action. "This is so important," said Deborah Drain, who coordinated the 14 outreach projects. "We need to teach our young people that it's not just about us individually, but that it's about helping. We were called to do this; we are to do service; and we don't do enough service. So, if we come here and learn to volunteer, hopefully they'll go home and do the same thing."

Twenty-seven-year-old Bamian Grant, a mechanical engineer from Kingston, Jamaica, didn't mind spending an afternoon painting a dilapidated wall at an area nursing home. "It's a mission God [gives] us—for us to be here to bring a smile on the elderly face is a joy—and I know God is pleased with this," said Grant.

Other events included an oratorical contest, drum corps and drill team exhibition, health fair rally, and a basketball competition. Each evening, attendees experienced powerful presentations of "spiritual vitamins" from various ministers across the United States. Speakers included James Black, NAD youth

ministries director; Jynean Reid, Bible teacher at Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy; Jose Rojas, NAD volunteer ministries director; Carlton "Buddy" Bird, Bellfort Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor in Houston, Texas; and Paula Olivier, Church of the Oranges associate pastor in Orange, N.J.

Nineteen-year-old Oakwood College student Johnwilly Osuji said the speakers were powerful and gave him food for thought. "I learned a lot, about my responsibilities as a youth, as a Christian, as a Seventh-day Adventist—all those things," said Osuji. "It helps me to be reminded that there are some things that I need to be taking care of as a youth."

Two events capped off the weekend. The first was a parade through downtown Atlanta followed by a rally against the chains of drug addiction, sexual promiscuity, family decline, spiritual decline, and drug addiction. As Pathfinder clubs—some with drum corps and others with signs promoting a Christian lifestyle—marched past, Atlanta residents Derrick Hemphill and Julie Canada and their two children watched. Their children seemed particularly impressed with the drum corps element of the parade.

"We were surprised to see it; I think it was pretty cute," said Canada. "It's neat to see the young people all together doing something positive for Christ." Hemphill agreed with his wife.

"Anything that kids do that's constructive and positive is good."

Following the parade and rally, ten youth did something even more constructive and positive. They were baptized. The United Youth Congress wrapped with the Mega Gospel and Concert Choir Festival. Various Seventh-day Adventist Youth Choirs were showcased, but it was Lake Region Conference choirs that went home with two of the top three prizes. The \$10,000 first prize went to *Total Praise* from Dallas City Temple in Texas. Second place and \$5,000 went to *All Nations Choir* from Berrien Springs, Mich., and third place and \$2,500 went to *Motor City Mass Choir* from Detroit, Mich.

In addition to the choir festival finals, award-winning gospel artists Martha Munizzi, Desmond Pringle, and the legendary a capella group, *Take 6*, joined various local talents for the Mega Gospel Concert. The concert was hosted by Gerard Henry of Black Entertainment Television's "Lift Every Voice."

Anthony Kelly, Lake Region Conference youth director, said the United Youth Congress was a success. "I think the most significant thing is its bringing us together with a common cause, and that cause is to bring relief to watch God deliver individuals from those chains that bind them."

Ken Wetmore is the Georgia-Cumberland Conference communication 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 39.

Weddings

Claudine Munyabera and William Rugyegye were married Mar. 5, 2006, in Gobles, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Don Williams.

Claudine is the daughter of Metuschelah and Charlotte Munyabera of Gobles, and William is the son of Zeroford Mapazi and Winford Rugege of Uganda, East Africa.

The Rugyegyees are making their home in Chicago, Ill.

Obituaries

BLAISDELL, Rhonda S. (Gadway), age 52; born Oct. 25, 1953, in Clinton, Mass.; died Mar. 13, 2006, in Cedar Lake, Mich. She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church.

Survivors include her husband, Warren G.; son, Gregory B.; daughter, Lorinda S. Blaisdell; father, Ronald Gadway; mother, Delores (LaMountain); and sister, Cynthia Morgan.

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

BRANTLEY, John D., age 70; born Mar. 31, 1935, in West Palm Beach, Fla.; died Feb. 17, 2006, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth (Morgan); son, Phillip; daughter, Sarah Brantley; brother, Wade S.; sister, Ethel Boxwell; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Woodrow Whidden, with private inurnment.

BROOKS, Glenn W. "Tex," age 84; born Mar. 23, 1921, in Morgantown, Ky.; died Feb. 10, 2006, in Lake Ozark, Mo. He was a member of the New Hope Church, Springfield, Ill.

Survivors include his wife, Mary L. (Love); daughter, Glenda A. Bietz; brothers, Herman and Kenneth; sister, Edna Gaitner; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Pastor Andy Glass, and interment was in Atlanta (Ill.) Cemetery.

CAPICOTTE, Doris M. (Norman), age 67; born May 22, 1938, in Jacksonville, Ill.; died Feb. 18, 2006, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Berrien Springs Village Church.

Survivors include her son, Kevin; brothers, Kenneth Norman, and Don and David Hilliard; sisters, Betty Fleenor, Anna Norman, and Bonnie Berry; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bruce Hayward, and inurnment will take place in the Spring in Jacksonville, Ill.

CRAIG, Thelma A. (Galloway), age 88; born May 14, 1917, in Marian, Ohio; died Feb. 11, 2006, in Farmington Hills, Mich. She was a member of the Metropolitan Church, Plymouth, Mich.

Survivors include her son, David; daughters, Christine Bialobrzewski, Darlene Lotovola, Robin Philpott, Sarah Richard, and Thelma D. Agocs; sister, Dorothy Ramon; 18 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bob Stewart, and interment was in Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia, Mich.

DENTON II, James B., age 72; born Mar. 17, 1933, in Wayne Cty., Ind.; died Mar. 15, 2006, in Richmond, Ind. He was a member of the Richmond Church.

Survivors include his sons, James B. III and Michael; daughter, Teresa Brashear; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Tim Henry, and entombment was in Earlham Memorial Mausoleum, Richmond.

HEGEDUS, Maria (Palfi), age 73; born Aug. 4, 1932, in Bonyhad, Hungary; died Oct. 30, 2005, in Hammond, Ind. She was a member of the Hammond Church.

Survivors include her husband, Louis; son, Laszlo; daughter, Maria Cooper; and brothers, Frank, Anthony, and Steve Palfi.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Zoltan Borbath, Igor Botansky, and Robert Benjamin, and interment was in Concordia Cemetery, Hammond.

LAUSTEN, Purden L. (Thompson), age 98; born May 23, 1907, in Goshen, Ind.; died Jan. 10, 2006, in Winamac, Ind. She was a member of the Monterey (Ind.) Community Church.

Survivors include her son, Larry; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Don English, and interment was in East Oak Ridge Cemetery, Monterey.

MAXWELL Jr., Reese A., age 80; born July 28, 1925, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died Jan. 22, 2006, in Spencer, Ind. He was a member of the Spencer Church.

Survivors include his son, Steven; daughter, Beverly Beers; brother John D.; sisters, Helen DeMoss and F. Jeanie Lucas; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors David Fish and Adrian Peterson, and interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Spencer.

MUNAR, Eva P. (Pinaroc), age 78; born May 26, 1927, in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines; died Mar. 29, 2006, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her son, Arthur; daughter, Ellen Tambunan; sister, Romie Rabanal; and two grandchildren.

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

POWERS, Samuel N., age 91; born May 26, 1914, in Mayville, Mich.; died Mar. 16, 2006, in Millington, Mich. He was a member of the Otter Lake (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his son, Gary; daughters, Nancy Powers and Linda Hamstra; sisters, Elaine Sincock and Christine Hunter; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Bob Seath, and interment was in Smith Hill Cemetery, Otisville, Mich.

SCHWENCK, Walter H., age 97; born Nov. 4, 1908, in Rockford, Ill.; died Mar. 5, 2006, in Rockford. He was a member of the Rockford Church.

Survivors include his daughters, Elizabeth Davis and Mary Perlberg; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Donovan Davis, and interment was in Scandinavian Cemetery, Rockford.

WIGHTMAN, Cleo M. (Shepherd), age 79; born Oct. 18, 1926, in Holabird, S.D.; died Mar. 22, 2006, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her husband, Roy R.; sons, Allen R. and Tim R.; daughter, Wanda Lee Poole; brother, Ed Shepherd; sisters, Laura Patzer, Lorraine Shepard, and Evelyn Baker; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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

Classifieds

All ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$26 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$36 per insertion for all others. A form is available at www.lakeunionherald.org for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order/check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors.

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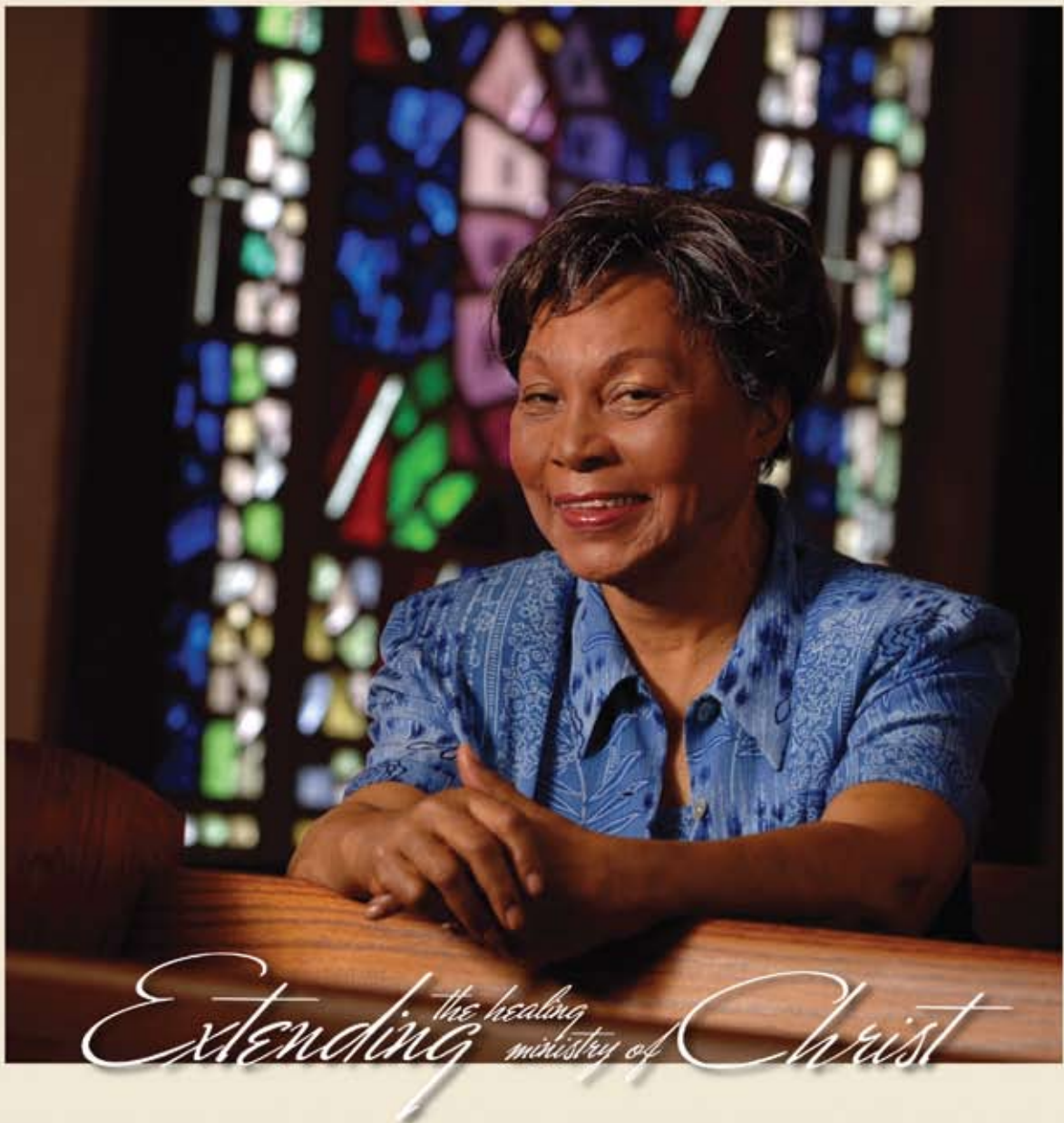
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A Step in the Right Direction

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.

Illinois

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital

will dedicate its new Patient Care Center on Sat., **June 17**, at 2:30 p.m. Walter Wright is guest speaker. Music will include soloist and Chorus of ALMH employees under the direction of Tim Cook, CEO. The hospital is located at 5101 S. Willow Springs Rd., La Grange, Ill. Join the celebration and blessings!

Indiana

Summer Camp: It's not too late to register for one of this year's summer camps for cubs, juniors, or teens at Timber Ridge Camp in beautiful southwest Indiana! For further information, call Trish Thompson at (317) 844-6201; or register online at www.timberidgecamp.org.

Camp Meeting is **June 11-17**. Enjoy the rich blessings of featured speakers Shawn Boonstra, Hans Diehl, Ranko Stefanovic, and David Asscherick. Experience the energy and passion of Rudy Micelli in concert Sabbath afternoon, June 17. For further information, visit website: www.indiana.adventist.org.

Single Mom's and Kid's Retreat: This is a really fun event for single moms and their kids at Timber Ridge Camp, **June 22-25**. The fee is \$35 for moms and \$10 for each child. Last day to register is June 8. Send your name, your children's names, address, phone number, and a check to reserve your spot, to Julie Loucks at the Indiana Conference, P.O. Box 1950, Carmel, IN 46082-1950. Space is limited to the first 25 single moms who register.

Blind Camp: The Timber Ridge Camp staff works with Christian Record Services to help sight-challenged young people enjoy the thrill of camping, **June 25-July 2**. For further information and registration, contact Christian Record

Services at (408) 488-0981; or visit website: www.christianrecord.org.

Lake Union

Offerings:

- June 3** Local Church Budget
 - June 10** Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries
 - June 17** Local Church Budget
 - June 24** Local Conference Advance
- Thirteenth Sabbath:**
- June 24** South American Division

Special Days:

- June 3** Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

Teacher Retirees from a Lake Union K-12

School: Would you be interested in attending the 2006 NAD Teacher's Convention, **Aug. 6-9**, in Nashville, Tenn.? For more information, call (269) 473-8274.

Michigan

Grand Haven SDA Church School 50-year school reunion will be held **July 14-16**. Looking for all former students and teachers to attend. For more information, call Carol Moffit, coordinator, at (616) 847-0766; or e-mail: acmoffit@sbcglobal.net.

North American Division

Oakwood College Accreditation: Dr. Carol Easley Allen, chair, and the faculty and staff of the Oakwood College Dept. of Nursing in Huntsville, Ala., are pleased to announce The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission has

awarded five years of initial accreditation to the new baccalaureate degree nursing program at Oakwood College (2005-2010). For further information, contact Oakwood College Dept. of Nursing at (256) 726-7000.

The 26th Annual Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians (ASDAL) Conference, "Twenty-Five Years: Tradition and Change," will be held at Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tenn., **June 18-24**. Sun.: school librarians pre-session; Mon.: Adventist resources pre-session. For more information, contact Ruth Swan, president elect/program chair, by phone: (850) 599-3370; e-mail: ruth.swan@famuedu.org; or visit website: www.asdal.org.

Seventh-day Adventist Global Tobacco

Control Summit: Adventist church leaders and members who have experience and expertise in tobacco control and treatment should plan to attend this summit which is being held in conjunction with the 13th World Conference on Tobacco or Health, **July 14-16**, in Washington, D.C. The North American Division, in partnership with the General Conference, Loma Linda University, and Versacare will sponsor this weekend event to increase awareness of current tobacco control needs, and provide networking for Adventist leaders who may be attending the World Conference on Tobacco or Health. To register for either event, or to find out more information, go online to: www.plusline.org/events; or call (800) 732-7387.

"Tell Them Now!" the 59th annual ASI International Convention will be held **Aug. 2-5** in the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, Grapevine, Texas (close to DFW airport). For information/online registration, logon to: www.asiministries.org; write to: Adventist-laymen's Services and In-

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Oak Park Academy (Iowa) Alumni Weekend will be held **Sept. 29-30** in Gates Memorial Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, Iowa. Honor classes are: 1936, '41, '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81. For more information, visit website: www.opainiowa.com.

Pine Tree Academy (Freeport, Maine) 2006 Alumni Weekend will be **Oct. 27-28**. Honor classes: 1976, '81, '86, '91, '96, and 2001. For more details, visit the alumni section of our website: www.pinetreeacademy.org.

Sunset Calendar

	Jun 2	Jun 9	Jun 16	Jun 23	Jun 30	Jul 7
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:13	9:18	9:22	9:23	9:23	9:22
Chicago	8:20	8:24	8:28	8:29	8:30	8:28
Detroit	9:03	9:07	9:11	9:13	9:13	9:11
Indianapolis	9:07	9:11	9:14	9:17	9:17	9:16
La Crosse, Wis.	8:41	8:46	8:49	8:51	8:51	8:49
Lansing, Mich.	9:10	9:15	9:19	9:20	9:20	9:19
Madison, Wis.	8:31	8:35	8:39	8:41	8:41	8:39
Springfield, Ill.	8:21	8:25	8:29	8:31	8:31	8:29



PARTNERSHIP *with* GOD

Rest Assured

BY GARY BURNS

There is something reassuring about establishing a partnership with God. When the unexpected happens, the “peace that passes all understanding” brings a sense of confidence and freedom—freedom from the debilitating effects of fear and the freedom to move forward with your hand placed confidently in His.

As I write, we are safely on the ground in Rochester, Minn., awaiting a rescue plane—the smell of smoke still lingering in our nostrils. Maryann and I were awakened by the sound of alarms ringing in our ears and a thickening cloud brewing in the main cabin of Flight 531 to Seattle, Wash. We are on our way, hopefully, to perform a wedding ceremony for one of our “adopted” daughters and her fiancé.

Many thoughts run through your mind when you are at 35,000 feet as the prospects of getting safely on the ground diminish proportionately to the lack of visibility through the fog. Holding hands, we immediately thought of our three children—Josie in India; Tyler in class at Andrews Academy; and Ryan on the way to Academy Days at Great Lakes Adventist Academy.

God knows. God already has a plan. These thoughts brought peace. Our lives are in His hands and their futures are secure in Him. With reassurance we closed our eyes and rested in His care.

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

My Father's DECISION

BY MICHELLE BLAHOVICH

Sitting in church not listening to the pastor, my father turned to my mother on January 18, 2003, to ask if she would put him through college again. She turned to him and immediately said, "You want to go into the Seminary don't you?" It seemed weird at the time. How could they both know what the other was thinking?

One week later, our parents called a family meeting. Usually they weren't bad ones, but this one would change my life forever. They sat us down on the couch, turned to us, and said, "How would you feel about moving?" Not wanting to hear another word they were going to say, I ran to my room and closed and locked the door. I didn't come out again that night. I just sat there wondering why they would want to take me away from the friends and people I loved. I found myself wanting to run away from it all, to not have to deal with moving *again*.

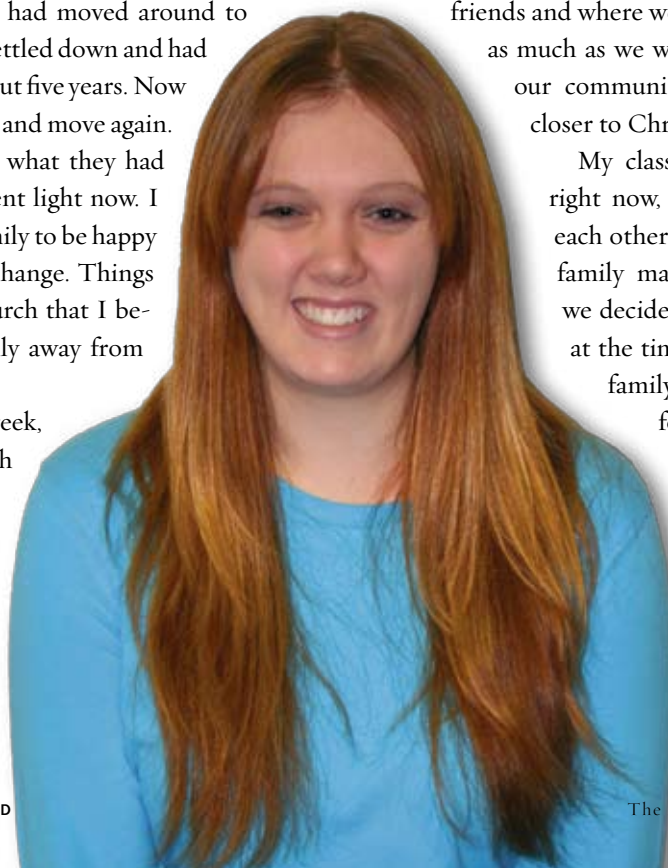
With my father's job, we had moved around to different places, but we had settled down and had been in the same town for about five years. Now they wanted me to just get up and move again. Back then, I was so hurt by what they had done, but I see it in a different light now. I knew that in order for my family to be happy in Christ we had to make a change. Things have happened in my old church that I believe would've torn our family away from the church if we had stayed.

We now live in Battle Creek, Michigan, and our church family is great. My father is attending Andrews University to become a pastor. The Lord works in magnificent ways. He put me in a school where all the students are

friends and where we are free to talk about Christ as much as we want. We are very involved in our community, and try to bring people closer to Christ as we become acquainted.

My class has about twelve students right now, but we have come to know each other like sisters and brothers. My family made the right decision when we decided to move here, even though at the time I was mad at God and my family. I thank my parents and God for letting me go to a Christian school in a town that is full of Adventist heritage.

Michelle Blahovich just completed her junior year at Battle Creek Academy.



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Charles M. Rietman, (19), a senior at Rogers High School in Wyoming, Mich., is the son of Kevin and Margaret Rietman and a recently baptized member of the Wyoming Adventist Church. In December 2004, Charles and his younger brother, Josh, watched Three Angels Broadcasting Network at the invitation of their older brother, Ben, who felt his brothers would be blessed by it. All three brothers began attending the Wyoming Adventist Church in June 2005, and Charles and Josh were baptized on September 3 (exactly three months ahead of Ben).



Charles Rietman

The Rietman brothers were thrilled to attend the General Youth Conference held in Chattanooga, Tenn., last year and richly benefited. Charles and his two brothers preached April 29–May 6 during “Spring Fever,” a week of spiritual revival at the Wyoming Church. They, along with other members, practiced and planned for the meetings with Rex Reed, personal ministries leader, and Phil Colburn, their pastor.

Charles was in the Rogers High School Robotics Club and on the honor roll all four years. He feels a calling to ministry and mechanical engineering and plans to attend Grand Rapids Community College this Fall. His hobbies are woodworking, working on cars, and computer design.



Selame Scarlett

Selame Kedist Scarlett is currently a senior at Okemos High School (OHS) in Okemos, Mich. Selame is a pianist, violinist, and singer. She won six consecutive superior ratings and two Gold Cups in the National Federation of Music Clubs for her piano playing. Selame was appointed concertmistress of the Okemos Concert Orchestra in the eleventh grade and was later selected to be first stand, second violin in the Okemos Philharmonic Orchestra.

She received two Music Patrons Scholarships and the Mary Kesler Award for Outstanding Leadership. Even though she took a voice lesson, Selame became a member of the honors choir in twelfth grade.

Selame is involved in the Student Council, National Honor Society, French club, chess club, tennis, and Athletes Connecting To Individuals in Our Neighborhood. She follows a rigorous academic schedule that includes: Advanced Placement Literature and Composition, Advanced Placement Biology, Advanced Calculus AB, and French II. This year, Selame was recognized as a Ron Brown Scholar Semifinalist, one of 80 semifinalists out of 7,400 applicants nationwide.

Selame likes to run, swim, read, and study physics. In the Fall, she will attend either Michigan State University or Dartmouth College. She plans to major in pre-med and become an infectious disease specialist.

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.

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