

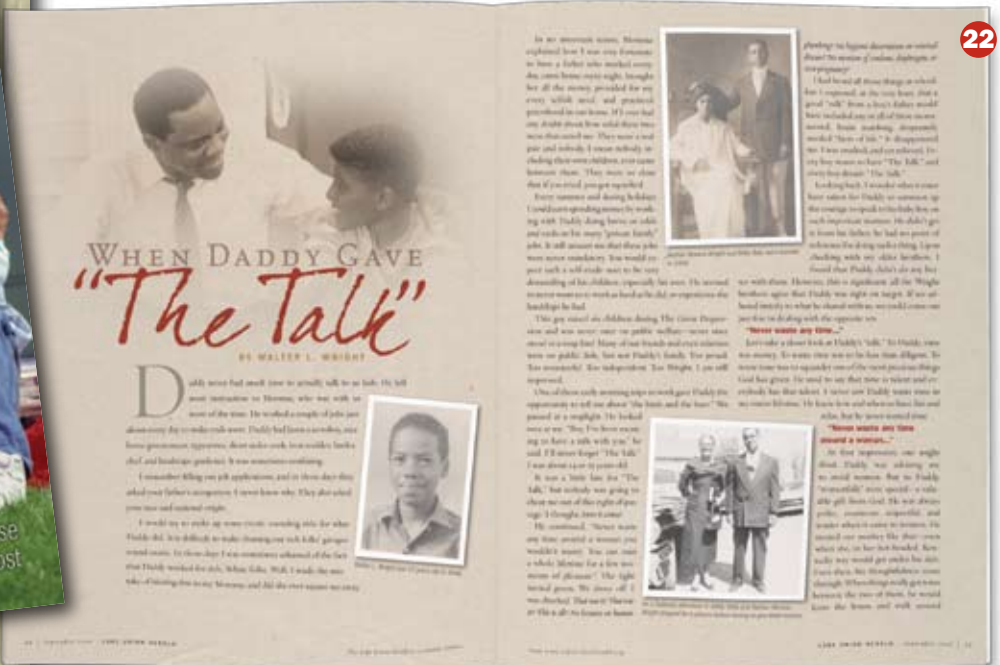


*Lake Union*  
**HERALD**

SEPTEMBER 2006

**Family  
TIME**

...nurturing those  
we love the most



*in every issue...*

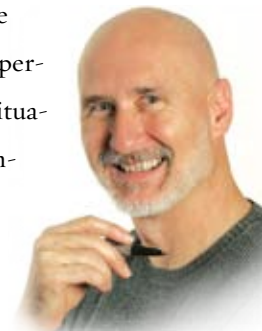
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*in this issue...*

**S**erving as a youth pastor for many years has provided a unique insight into Adventist families. I have seen the best and the worst of situations. One thing is certain: each of us was created with the inherent freedom to choose. With choices come a tapestry of outcomes and consequences. With love comes joy and sorrow, ecstasy and agony.

Our contributors for this issue on family communication write from their unique roles as helpers and healers to families. Their personal experiences working with young people from a variety of situations provide valuable insights in how we can become better communicators in our homes, churches, schools, and communities.

*Gary Burns*  
Gary Burns, Editor



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## The Valuable FAMILY

So many people, even politicians, talk about “family values.” I would like to talk about the value of the family. God, in His infinite wisdom and foresight, formed the family early in creation. It is an institution incomparable to any other. The family, as an institution, contributes so much to the church, community, state, and the world.

I remember well that the most lasting and impacting lessons learned in my life came from the family circle. How did I learn to share and get rid of selfishness? Six siblings will teach you in a hurry there is no such thing as “mine.” Who taught me to respect girls and women? My mother, by being such a kind and graceful example, taught me well. And how did I ever figure out the value and sacredness of my own sexuality? My daddy, with faltering and nervous words, gave me some very good rules to live by.

How did I learn the value of a dollar? Because Mom said, “Money doesn’t grow on trees.” Right after learning that Jesus loves me, I was made aware that God required one cent of tithe out of every dime I received, and one way I could show Him love would be to give another penny in offerings.

Who first declared to me that beauty need not be flaunted, you just wear it with dignity? Why it was my big sister, Eileen, and she still does it well. Where did I get the notion that a little entrepreneurial spirit can sometimes bring rich rewards? It was my brother, Harold, who eventually formed his own sensitivity training company and owned a TV station and two radio stations.

Did I just dream that it’s never too late to change vocations? No, it was my sister, Audrey, who went into chaplaincy training late in life, and her untimely death is all that prevented that new career from flourishing. I learned that lesson very well as I entered the ministry at 37 years of age after spending 18 years in U.S. Government procurement.

You get the picture, I am sure. God has ordained the family to be our first area of training. Even the dysfunctional family can unconsciously teach many valuable lessons to its members. Some of us are fortunate to have been reared in solid, Christian homes where the family modeled spirituality and faith in tasteful and attractive ways. Very early I loved church and all that it has to offer. Doesn’t it make sense that this love was borne out of my family’s commitment to the things of God?

How would I sum it up? I believe that a valuable family necessarily possesses family values. The same holds true for the family of God.



# Welcome NEW MEMBERS

**Illinois** One of my earliest memories of Jesus Christ was in a drama at a small church which I (**Matthew Pava**) attended as a toddler. I wept when He was crucified since I could not understand why they would kill such a Good Man. A few years later my mother gave me a Bible, and I began reading it. The truths of Genesis One, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...,” led me to realize Jesus was also the Creator. When I read “God ended His work on the seventh day, and rested, blessed, and sanctified it,” I thought, *He kept the Sabbath day, just like we do.*

Although my family were Adventists during my childhood, I rarely attended church. The first cycle of my religious growth from my Bible reading stopped when I came to the Old Testament genealogies with the “begats.”

While I was in high school, my brother, Chris, enrolled me in the Discover Bible School. I completed and mailed in all the lessons, except the final one. Thus ended the second cycle of my religious interests. I was wiser in spiritual knowledge, but still not committed to Jesus Christ or what the Bible teaches to be true.

During my freshman year in college, I began to try to figure out the meaning of life. I also e-mailed my family and friends in this search, as well as looked on the Internet. I discovered various concepts, but my brother’s response to my quest was a lengthy e-mail, complete with Bible verses and his summary statement: “The purpose of life is to serve God.” *That’s all?* I asked myself. *That’s the whole point of human existence?* You can see I was slow to understand God’s plan for my life.

My next spiritual struggle shifted to gaining deeper and more satisfying answers to what the Scripture taught and how the writings of Ellen G. White were to be applied. About this time, Chris invited me to move in with him, and I began to attend church regularly with him. I enjoyed the fellowship of the Champaign Church family which blessed me.

As I read the Conflict of the Ages Series, I struggled back and forth with belief and disbelief because of what I had read on Internet sites. Then I learned about *Ellen G. White and Her Critics*, by F.D. Nichol, on the Ellen G. White Estate website ([www.ellenwhite.org](http://www.ellenwhite.org)). Nichol defended her and explained her critics. When I finished reading it, I to-



Matthew Pava was baptized by Ray Plummer, pastor, after studying the Bible together. Plummer is pastor of the Champaign, Danville, and Paris churches in Illinois.

tally accepted her writings and asked the pastor to set a date for my baptism. In preparation, we began to study the 27 *Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists*, and in the process all my Bible questions were answered.

After my baptism, I finished reading *The Great Controversy*, and now I look forward to sharing Jesus Christ as I wait for His physical return. My journey has finally ended as today I rejoice in my knowledge of Bible truths and a relationship with Jesus that satisfies.

Matthew Pava, as shared with Bruce Babienco, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent



Armando Camacho, pastor, baptized Emma Stoflet on April 8, 2006, after she took baptismal classes for two years. She is a member of the Bethel Church.

**Wisconsin** I (**Emma Stoflet**) am being raised in a Christian, Adventist home, and I always knew I wanted to be baptized. After taking baptismal classes for two years, I felt I was ready to commit myself to Jesus. It was a wonderful day when I got baptized. Everybody was so proud of me, and I know I made the right decision.

Emma Stoflet, a Bethel Junior Academy student in Arpin, Wisconsin

**Michigan** James Warneck was angry with God from the time he was 12 years old. As a young boy, he attended church on consecutive Sundays with one of his two grandmothers who were of different, almost opposing faiths. They often lectured him on why he should not believe what the other grandmother's church taught. This left him confused and irate with religion, and he abandoned it all together.

Just out of high school, he met a special girl; they dated and eventually were engaged to be married. But he says because of his lack of discipline and sensitivity, he broke off their relationship. Mandie Ross was very hurt by the breakup and sought comfort in the Lord. Mandie was led to the Adventist church by friends.

James placated himself with worldly enjoyments, never feeling satiated. He followed a path that led him farther away from God. In mid-2005, growing increasingly tired of the negative attributes of a girl he was dating and the useless existence he was leading, James knew something was missing in life.

When James saw the movie, "The Passion of the Christ," he was extremely moved by the suffering of Jesus portrayed on the screen. He stood up and shouted, trying to stop the beating, and then he left the theater knowing he had to find out more about Jesus.

Coincidentally, James heard Mandie was going through another hurtful time in her life. To help cheer her, he anonymously sent her a bouquet of flowers. Mandie badgered the florist for the name of the sender. After repeated contacts from the florist, James allowed the release of his name. Mandie was not eager to have contact with him. Even though it had been five years since their breakup, Mandie was wary of James.

Just prior to receiving the flowers Mandie had prayed God would help her forgive her past hurts and forgive James. When they finally talked, the conversation lasted six hours. James told Mandie his desire to learn more about Jesus, believing He would fill the emptiness he was experiencing. Mandie told James about her personal relationship with Jesus and the truth she had found in the Adventist faith. They became friends.

Via the Internet, Mandie helped James find the Adventist church nearest his home—the Metropolitan Church in Northville Township, Michigan. The first Sabbath he attended Metropolitan, he was invited to the home of Jim and Becky Beardsley. James felt very welcome and comfortable. He visited again for a Friday night vespers and made many new friends.



Mandie Ross and Derek Riethmeier were instrumental in leading James Warneck (center) to a relationship with Jesus. Mandie and James were married on July 2, 2006.

James began to attend Wednesday night Bible studies conducted by Metropolitan member, Derek Riethmeier, at a local Starbucks restaurant. James loved what he was learning through the *Historicals* Bible studies with Derek, at times completing two or three lessons a week. James also felt so uplifted by taking part in the foot washing ordinance with Jim Cischke during a communion service. Afterward, he felt "really clean all day."

By mid-December, 2005, James had completed the studies, and he then met with Metropolitan Church pastor, Robert Stewart. James began a new journey on the day he was baptized, January 28, 2006. He says, "I feel the core of my being is in tune with God, and it seems so natural to follow Him. I have no doubt in my mind that I have taken the right step by becoming a Christian and an Adventist."

James and Mandie participated in pre-marital counseling with Chris Ames, pastor of the New Haven (Michigan) Adventist Church, Mandie's home church, and were married July 2.

Joy Hyde, Metropolitan Church correspondent

## Learning to Lead

LANSING YOUTH PRESENT EVANGELISTIC SERIES

BY STACI OSTERMAN

The idea of having a youth evangelistic series of seminars began last fall in Michigan when Chad Bernard, Greater Lansing Adventist School principal, and Quentin Purvis, Lansing Church pastor, shared a vision for the youth-led meetings. They knew it would be a wonderful way for youth and adult members to learn to lead people to Christ. They were convinced that youth who are given the opportunity to serve are more likely to stay in the church. When the concept was shared with the students in the school and with church leadership, it was met with great support, and the “Signs You Can’t Ignore” seminars began to take shape.

In the months that followed, leaders from the school and church united to prepare for the seminars. Church members attended a revival series on Bible prophecy led by the pastor on Sabbath afternoons and Wednesday evenings. Many who attended were asked to serve as table leaders and assistants for the upcoming series. They began to earnestly pray for the school, the speakers, and the community. The Sabbath prior to the meetings, more than 90 volunteers distributed more than 7,000 invitations to the seminars.

On Sabbath afternoon, April 8, 2006, the meetings began. Guests were warmly greeted and escorted to one of 20 staffed tables in the school’s gymnasium. Andrew Blosser, a 16-year-old member of the Lansing Church, gave the first presentation. Leaders at the tables then led the attendees through an interactive Bible lesson. The other youth speakers included Max Coon, age 18; Sara Hall, age 16; and Charissa Thomas, age 16.

On the opening weekend, a man attended who was raised an Adventist but had not been to church in years. He was so moved by hearing these youth speak of their Lord that the very next Sabbath he visited the Adventist church in his hometown. He called his father to tell him

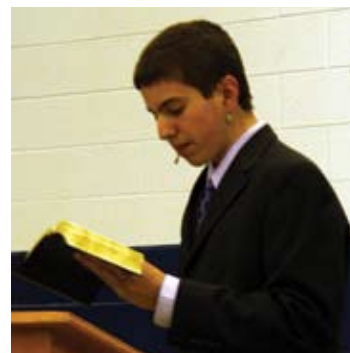


Four youth who held an evangelistic series in Lansing were: (from left) Andrew Blosser, Max Coon, Sara Hall, and Charissa Thomas.

he was coming back to church for good.

Max Coon and Sara Hall invited their chiropractor to attend the seminars. Though he agreed to come in support of his patients, he was eager to continue when he began to learn so many new things about the Bible.

Seeing the impact the meetings have made in the church and school, the principal said, “My hope is that we will continue to be a soul winning school. We want to give Bible studies. We want to constantly ask, ‘Who can we bring to the Lord?’ There is no education more pertinent than learning how to win souls for the kingdom.”



Andrew Blosser presented the first topic at the youth-led evangelistic series.

The faces of those participating in these meetings gave evidence that there is no greater joy than seeing God use you to lead someone to Him.

Staci Osterman is the Bible worker coordinator for the Michigan Conference.



# BEYOND *our* BORDERS

## Sharing Jesus with South African Orphans

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST AIDS IN AFRICA

BY LINDA FUCHS



In May, a team from the Michigan Conference was privileged to see South Africa firsthand. Loren Nelson, ministerial secretary, Craig Harris, pastor for Cadillac and West Cadillac churches, Linda Fuchs, associate superintendent for education, and Chris Davisson, a teacher at the Village School in Berrien Springs, traveled with others from the Chesapeake Conference.

Maitland DiPinto, Hope for Humanity director, planned the itinerary for us to see the beauty of South Africa, feel the pain of apartheid, understand the destruction AIDS brought to South Africa, and to see the Nhlengelo Project where Paul Mawela and his wife Martha daily give themselves to help others.

One half of the 42 million people worldwide affected with HIV/AIDS live in South Africa. The Mawelas saw a need and were determined to organize programs to help many who are suffering. They began what is known as the Nhlengelo Project.

The Mawelas set up a network to prepare meals, answer homework questions, and distribute supplies such as soap and school uniforms to orphans. AIDS has created many child-headed households needing hot meals, food staples, and adult advice. The Nhlengelo Project trains and supports caregivers who find children living alone or adults who are too sick to care for themselves. The caregivers encourage the children to come to Nhlengelo. They bathe the sick, take time to listen, bring comfort to those suffering, and provide food and needed medications.

Hope for Humanity, formerly Harvest Ingathering, is the longest established Adventist church-sponsored humanitarian ministry. Michigan and Chesapeake conferences joined with Hope for

Humanity's *Partners in Mission* program for the South Africa HIV/AIDS project. Other conferences support similar mission projects.

In South Africa, Hope for Humanity provided funds to fence the Nhlengelo Project. This fence keeps out thieves and wild animals and provides a safe place to grow gardens to feed the children.

Hope for Humanity also provided funds to build a lapa, an open-air, thatched roof building. Here, orphans eat in the shade, caregivers hold monthly meetings, and pastors are trained to set up similar projects in their community.

This spring, ladies at the Michigan Conference women's ministries retreats raised \$2,000, which provided a blanket and school uniform for forty orphans.

"I wish I could adopt one of the orphans," was echoed by many. One could not help but fall in love with them. When we looked into their eyes, we saw sadness. When we shook their hands or pushed them on the swing, we saw beautiful smiles.

Because of the Nhlengelo Project, a new Seventh-day Adventist Church has formed. Seventeen members meet every Sabbath morning with the Mawelas. Many caregivers and orphans also attend, and join members in songs of praise to our Heavenly Father.

Each Michigan church and school is invited to be actively involved in this Hope for Humanity project. We have an opportunity to help people in poverty while sharing our hope in Jesus. The need is great. For more information, contact the Michigan Conference Personal Ministries department at 517-316-1560.



Chris Davisson, seventh grade teacher at the Village School in Berrien Springs, showed orphans pictures he took of them on his digital camera. They greatly enjoyed posing for the camera.



When this young orphan walked home, she took with her a new school uniform and blanket. Money is also needed for socks and shoes.



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Linda Fuchs is the Michigan Conference associate superintendent for education.



## FAMILY TIES

# Of Bamboo and Mobiles

M E S S A G E S I N M E T A P H O R S

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

**A**uthor Stephen Covey says, “Inside each of us is this deep longing for ‘home,’ for the rich, satisfying relationships and interactions of quality family life.”<sup>1</sup>

When I think of the importance of nurture and growth in a family, two of my favorite metaphors are the Chinese bamboo tree and the mobile as a human art form.

After the Chinese bamboo tree seed is planted, nothing is seen for four years, except a tiny shoot coming out of a bulb. The growth is under ground in a massive, fibrous root structure that spreads deep and wide. In the fifth year, the miraculous Chinese bamboo tree grows up to eighty feet!

Stephen draws a parallel between the family and the bamboo tree. “You work and you invest time and effort, and you do everything you can possibly do to nurture growth, and sometimes you don’t see anything for weeks, months, or even years. But if you’re patient and keep working and nurturing, that ‘fifth year’ will come, and you will be astonished at the growth and change you see taking place.”

Nearly thirty years ago I met Edith Schaeffer, who co-founded L’Abri Fellowship, an international study center and Christian community in Switzerland. She described a family as a living mobile, different from the handcrafted and art-museum mobiles. “A family is an intricate mobile made up of human personalities,”<sup>2</sup> she said. I never looked at a mobile the same again.

I treasure her approach to viewing families as precious and beautiful. Her focus was on the beautiful things a family can be, but she was clear that an art form takes work. “The Christian family,” she said, “is a mobile blown by the gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit.” She did not see

this as a romantic idea, but saw it in accordance with what the Bible teaches is possible.

Edith suggested that as each member is born again, and the Holy Spirit dwells within, one can picture not perfection, but a measure of reality in thinking of the Christian family as constantly changing month to month, year to year, with the mix never the same—age wise, interest wise, talent wise, intellect wise. It is never static, discovering fascinating new points of communication as people grow and develop.

There is a beauty and community which can never be obtained unless someone in the family has certainty that the whole art form is more important than one incident, or even a string of incidents. Edith asks, “Have any two people never felt like walking away from each other?”

The difference is that the deep, underlying sense of the importance of family continuity must be stronger than the insistence on perfection. “People throw away what they could have by insisting on perfection, which they cannot have, and looking for it where they will never find it.”

I invite you to consider the messages God may have for you as you consider these two metaphors today.

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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.

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1. Covey, Stephen R. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*. New York: Golden Books (1997)

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2. Schaeffer, Edith. *What Is a Family?* Grand Rapids: Baker Book House (1975)





Music can reduce pain perception and boost the immune system.



## Music Therapy

KEEP A SONG IN MY HEART

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Music can elicit positive physiological and emotional responses. Listening to instrumental music can effectively improve one's mood and reduce pain perception. Finding time to enjoy a favorite musical CD can help one relax after a frustrating and tension-filled day at work or school. Research shows that people experience greater stress release when listening to live music rather than taped music.

Appropriate music has additional benefits. Recent reports have shown that music can improve one's memory and increase attention span. Premature, low-birth-weight infants also demonstrated improved weight gain when regularly exposed to singing. Furthermore, college students who actively participated in singing and playing musical instruments experienced a more positive boost to their immune system than that experienced by those who simply listened to music. This effect is possibly due to the increased breathing pattern and greater physical activity required in active participation.

The type of music you listen to can also make a big difference. Researchers found that music played in a major key with a rapid tempo can induce feelings of happiness, while music played in a minor key with a slow tempo induces feelings of sadness. In addition, consonant music was found to stimulate the pleasure center of the brain while dissonant music stimulated parts of the limbic system associated with negative emotions.

Much like exercise, music may prove to be a simple, cost-effective, therapeutic modality for chronic pain sufferers. Music provides a meaningful dis-

traction from pain and enables pain sufferers to enjoy a better quality of life. Music therapy has been shown to be an effective way to alleviate tension headaches, ameliorate depression, reduce pre-operative anxiety, and improve the mood and decrease pain perception in cancer patients, burn patients, and post-operative patients. Music also has a cathartic role by evoking positive, emotional experiences. The quality of life for hospice patients diagnosed with terminal cancer was substantially higher in those who received music therapy compared to those who did not.

J.C. Penney, while rehabilitating at Battle Creek Sanitarium from chronic fatigue and depression, received spiritual help, healing, and a new energy for life after listening to gospel singing in the Sanitarium chapel. Often King David, surrounded by difficult circumstances, also found comfort and confidence for the future through his musical experiences. Paul admonishes us to sing and make music in our heart to the Lord (see Ephesians 5:19). Experiencing blessings from God can lead us to sing praises to Him which, in turn, increases our trust in Him (Psalm 40:2, 3).

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





# EXTREME GRACE

## FAMILY Forever

BY DICK DUERKSEN

She was alone now, vulnerable to every vulture in the neighborhood. And they were gathering—relatives who lusted after furniture, clothing, and cookware, and friends who were ready to slip into her house and liberate heirlooms. Widows had few rights, and she was now a widow without even a son to protect her.

He had been a good son—all that a mother could have hoped for—and a neighborhood fixture, respected, trusted, and admired by all. His presence had assured that she would have food, even though her husband and provider was gone. His thoughtfulness made her feel special. His energy made her feel young.

And now he was gone—felled by a disease without a name. Dead within days. Stolen away from her in a way that made everyone look at her with a mixture of compassion, fear, and disdain. Compassion because “It might have been me,” yet afraid she might be carrying a bewitching power that steals life from those near her. And the looks she caught showed a disdain that bordered on contempt, the combination placing her life in constant danger. In respect for her young son, the whole town gathered to watch.

But the funeral was tiny. Hired pallbearers. The required priest. Wailers that cost her last denarius. A cortege winding out the gates to the Potter’s Field. A new body joining others who were “without value” in Nain.

The darkness of her life matched the black of her robe. Until she heard The Voice.

“Don’t cry,” He said gently, words that interrupted her grief and slowed the procession, lengthening her sadness. But words poured the glue of hope into her broken heart.

The next few moments passed in tear-filled, slow motion.

The bearers stood aside. The mourners went silent. Jesus touched her son and all watchers gasped.

“Stand up,” Jesus told her son. And her world came to life and righted itself.

For an eternal second, the crowd stood in awe-filled silence. Then, everything exploded in raucous activity. Some screamed home in terror. Others shouted angry epithets at the Healer they did not understand. But most rushed to her son to pinch his flesh, hear his voice, and invite him and his mother for dinner next Sabbath. All wanted to touch her hand in honor and joy.

Her day ended with a dance, a feast, and a thanksgiving offering. And prayers. Prayers said by mother and son. Family prayers said together. Prayers of awe and rejoicing. They were alive! Safe. Whole. Valued. Thankful. Family forever.

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



# Perfect Families

BY GARY BURNS

**D**o you have the perfect Adventist family? Have you ever seen one? As a youth pastor, I have discovered that behind the facade is usually a very normal and typical home with issues. We are by nature dysfunctional.

When we look to Scripture we find the very first family torn apart by tragedy. By taking matters into their own hands, Abraham and Sarah created a very divided and unblended family that is still in conflict today. Their grandson, Jacob, allowed jealousy and fear to rule his household, producing 12 sons from four different mothers. The result was deep anguish and heartache.

And then there is David, the poetic shepherd with a giant faith whose uncontrolled lust drove him to commit murder in an attempt to deal with the resulting pregnancy of his illicit affair.

And consider Jesus, who evidently experienced the loss of His father and the hurtful attacks by His brothers for His “insanity.” Even His mother misunderstood Him and subsequently had to be rejected as a source of direction and counsel for His life.

And consider the fact that Jesus befriended a family whose own perversion robbed sweet Mary of her innocence, purity, and worth, leading her into a life of prostitution.

And what do we do about Paul, who at one time was probably married (a qualification to be a Pharisee), yet speaks of his own singleness as a blessing?

The pages of Scripture are filled with families of brokenness. One of the most repeated stories is of the loving father, aka the prodigal son. What is God saying to us about families?

First, we must recognize that God’s counsel is given to preserve families and to avoid the very things we noted above. By being truly converted, we can experience the fruits of God’s Spirit creating an atmosphere of love in the home—a home where joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control abound.

Second, our response to brokenness must be modeled after the God of Scripture. Many feel that if they extend

grace and acceptance to families who are experiencing brokenness as a result of ill-advised choices, they are somehow condoning and perpetuating a sinful course. Feeling justified, they condemn and shun the hurting as part of their just punishment and as a deterrent to others.

Yet God did not cast His broken children aside. He restored their dignity; He continued to use them as His chosen instruments of grace, and He blessed them as He accomplished His purposes in spite of their faulty choices.

Third, we need our communities of fellowship to be safe places where we are free to honestly seek help. We need a place where couples can say, “We are experiencing difficulty in our relationship and we need your help and your prayers.” We need a place where parents, even parents in positions of leadership, can say, “We are struggling with how to relate to our children, and we need you to provide another loving adult with whom our children can connect.”

Rather than deny our brokenness as a church, we need to recognize that our pews are filled with abusers and victims, the hopeless and those who feel worthless, the addicted, the perverted, and the dejected.

Let us then encourage one another, confess to one another, and embrace one another as God’s broken children. As the writer to the Hebrew children advises, “Let’s consider how we can cheer one another on toward love and good acts” (Hebrews 10:24).

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director.

# Witnessing from Above

BY MICHAEL NICKLESS

When I heard discussions about the need to witness door to door to our neighbors, I became concerned. Even though I preach and often share intimate thoughts, going door to door frightens me a lot. A thought brought temporary relief from my guilt—my wife Lynne already goes door to door.

Every Christmas season she prepares homemade granola and fresh bread for our neighbors and delivers them with a nice Christmas card. I thought that should be good enough.

One of the most effective places to witness is close to home. I could see Lynne forming friendships in our neighborhood, but was I? Sure, we walk our dog up and down the road and wave to people as they drive by. Occasionally, we even talk to some who are walking or are outside when we walk by, but was that enough? No, it wasn't. I had to do something myself. I prayed for strength and asked God what I could do that would be enjoyable for me and for those who would receive a visitor at their door.

One morning an idea struck me as I made preparations to fly in my recently repaired, homemade airplane. Armed with my camera, I took off in the plane and flew toward our house. Flying down



Michael Nickless flies his homebuilt airplane over Charlotte, Mich., where he lives. He enjoys taking pictures of his neighbors' homes and using that as a witnessing tool.



This is an aerial photo of Millerburg Road where Michael Nickless, communication director for Michigan Conference, took photos of his neighbors' houses. He delivered the photos on a CD along with a Final Events DVD.

our street at 85 mph (1,000 feet above the ground), I took pictures of our neighbors' houses. I explained they could take the CD to Wal-Mart and have a picture printed of their house. I also pointed to the business card and explained that if their family ever needed a minister, I was available day or night and lived close by, and pointed to my house. Then, I handed neighbors the *Final Events* DVD and told them I got a very good deal and wanted to give them a copy, too. No one refused either. Needless to say, they were surprised, and some offered to pay, which I refused.

Now as Lynne and I walk down the street, we know some neighbors by name. They have my card. They have the DVD. And they have an invitation to call me at any time.

I think when the snow is on the ground this winter and we

have a pretty, sunny day, I may take some time off and fly down our street again. Perhaps when I take neighbors a winter picture, they will invite me inside and we can talk more about God's beautiful nature as seen from above. When we talk about that, the door may also open to talk about God's other Book. I know a bit about that as well.

Back at my home office, I prepared the pictures, burned them onto separate CDs, and put my business card in the CD package with my home phone number. I gathered *Final Events* DVDs and started out. I told neighbors I had just gotten my airplane back in the air after a major engine repair and to celebrate I flew down our street and took pic-

tures of our homes. I explained they could take the CD to Wal-Mart and have a picture printed of their house. I also pointed to the business card and explained that if their family ever needed a minister, I was available day or night and lived close by, and pointed to my house. Then, I handed neighbors the *Final Events* DVD and told them I got a very good deal and wanted to give them a copy, too. No one refused either. Needless to say, they were surprised, and some offered to pay, which I refused.

Michael Nickless is the Michigan Conference communication director.





## EL GOZO DEL EVANGELISMO

POR CARMELO MERCADO

**L**a Unión Peruana recientemente llevó a cabo una campaña evangelística bajo el tema “Caravana de la Esperanza”. Laicos y pastores fueron invitados a unirse en la predicación del evangelio, durante el mes de junio, en iglesias y estadios. Fui invitado a predicar en Lima en la campaña que dirigía el pastor Luis Barba, presidente de la Asociación Sur Central Peruana. Por circunstancias ajenas a mi voluntad, la última hora no pude participar en la campaña, pero informé a algunos pastores de nuestra Unión de la posibilidad de ir a Perú a predicar.

Cuando Hernell Hernández, pastor en la Asociación de Indiana se enteró de la oportunidad de ir a Perú, comenzó inmediatamente a hacer planes para viajar. Mientras él se preparaba para la campaña, varios hermanos de la iglesia de Indianapolis unieron sus esfuerzos para recoger donaciones de dinero, ropa y computadoras para que al partir, el pastor Hernández lo llevara para los hermanos y pastores en Lima.

El pastor Hernández me informó que predicó durante ocho días en la iglesia Vía El Salvador, donde la asistencia fue mayor de 350 personas cada noche. Gracias a Dios hubo una buena cosecha: 41 bautismos, y 39 personas que indicaron interés de recibir estudios bíblicos.

Me resultó muy interesante la experiencia de Freddy Duarte, uno de los conversos bautizados. Freddy había hecho una cita para encontrarse con cierta persona en esa iglesia para hablar en cuanto a planes para poder entrar en los Estados Unidos. Esa persona nunca llegó. Sin embargo, Freddy se quedó para escuchar el mensaje titulado: “Tú no puedes, pero Jesús SI”, que era el mensaje de la primera noche de la campaña. Freddy tenía problemas con el alcohol



*Pastor Hernell Hernández saludando las visitas en su campaña en Perú.*

y le parecía que no lo podía dominar. Esa misma noche aceptó el llamado de recibir a Jesús en su vida y se acercó al pastor Hernández para conversar con él. Le contó que ya estaba cansado de la vida que llevaba, que quería paz en su vida y que quería saber qué debía hacer para bautizarse. Inmediatamente se le asignó un obrero bíblico que le dio tres estudios bíblicos diarios acerca de las doctrinas de la Iglesia Adventista.

Al final de la campaña Freddy selló su pacto con Dios por medio del bautismo y ahora tiene como prioridad entrar no a una patria terrenal sino a la celestial.

Esta experiencia ha profundizado en mí la convicción de apoyar la obra misionera en otros países. La Asociación

Peruana está haciendo planes en este momento para tener el año próximo una campaña evangelística a nivel nacional. Me interesaría que pudiéramos llevar jóvenes de las cinco asociaciones de nuestra Unión para predicar las buenas nuevas de Jesús. Si al leer éste artículo cree que le interesaría participar en este plan, por favor escríbame a la siguiente dirección: [vicepresident@lucsd.org](mailto:vicepresident@lucsd.org).

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

# Sugar, Spice & E



**N**early everyone agrees with Maurice Chevalier as he begins to sing, “Thank heaven for little girls...” But it’s the next few lines of the song that are more important.

The lyrics assure us “...for little girls get bigger every day! Thank heaven for little girls, they grow up in the most delightful way!” But their growing up “in the most delightful way” doesn’t happen by chance. It has to be a planned growing up. The song, however, has no instructions on how to make that happen.

Thank Heaven for Little Girls

BY GINNY ALLEN

# Everything Nice...

Thankfully, King Solomon tells us clearly what our part is in the growing up of our little girls. He says, “Teach your children to choose the right path...” (Proverbs 22:6 NLT). The teaching of our girls is, of course, an exhaustive study. But for now, I want to look at just one small but important area: how our words affect our girls who “get bigger every day.”

Most girls are very social, and even at an early age they are generally acutely aware of little details. Girls, in general, no-

what they want and not be criticized. We have to set the stage for open communication long before they hit the adolescent years. We must begin very early taking time for “girl talk.”

Before my granddaughters were two years old, I began to invite them to share “girl talk” while sitting on the steps or snuggling on the couch. If anyone approached while we were talking, they would call out, “You can’t come right now.

## WE HAVE TO SET THE STAGE FOR OPEN COMMUNICATION LONG BEFORE THEY HIT THE ADOLESCENT YEARS.

things. They know who is wearing what, who is friends with whom, and who belongs to the “in” crowd. Most of them not only know, but they also care about these things. Their interests become a stepping stone to what we want them to know. What an opportunity for us to be a role model with both words and actions, demonstrating what is important in life! Whether it is fashion or friendships, we can add something positive.

And positive is the key word. Girls criticize each other, but they quickly become defensive if an adult voices those same criticisms. When talking with middle school and high school girls, I often preface my opinions with statements they can’t argue with: “I can’t tell you what to think, but this is how I see it...” or “This is what works for me...” or sometimes, “Have you thought of...” This works better than blunt criticism of their thoughts and opinions. To do this, obviously we have to think before we speak. We have to be a role model for the thinking process as we gently guide them into it.

Many, if not most, adolescent girls are talkers. But often that talking is with their own friends because they feel that with their peers they can say

“We’re doing ‘girl talk.’” We talked about how we liked to do our hair, or our favorite colors, or why we liked the shoes or the shirt we were wearing—anything that would help them express their opinions. They learned early that their thoughts and opinions were important to me. And they learned it was safe to share them and they would not be criticized. Because I honestly cared what they thought, they also cared what I thought.

As they grew, our conversations grew, too, in depth and seriousness. Now that they are older they freely express what they think and feel because “girl talk” started early and is a safe place to share. Girls need that safe place where they can share with openness and honesty.

When talking with adolescent girls, whether I know them or not, I often tell them, “There is nothing that you can’t tell me and there is nothing you can tell me that will make me fall off my chair.” That statement levels the ground for them. They know I won’t be shocked by what they say, and many teenagers love to shock adults. It gives them a green light for whatever they have to say.

Girls need affirmation that they can and will make right decisions. We hear a lot about “teachable moments” and truly



must notice when our girls make right decisions or show thoughtfulness in any way. A teachable moment comes when we mention it, and mention it we must. For example, “I saw how you treated so and so and it showed me what a good heart you have” or “I know this was hard for you, but you did it!” or “I know you are thinking this through because I noticed....” They need to know we believe they will make right decisions, especially during the adolescent years when decision making is so critical.

We can also use the opportunities to link what was done with serving and pleasing God. Tell your girl, “I think God must be happy when He sees how thoughtful you are.” They need to know that we see the good in them and that God sees it, too.

Some of the best teachable moments occur in the car. A teachable moment is not sermon time, but rather drawing lessons from your conversations together. If they think you are preaching, they will mentally tune you out or turn you off. I try to have good stories and good experiences ready for these times so the girls are more interested in what I have to say than what is playing on the radio. Then I let them draw the lesson and tell me what they think.

Teachable moments are best done subtly. No neon lights flashing the message, “Here comes a lesson.” This means I have to pay attention to them. It also means I can’t let myself be distracted by my own world. Too often, adults mentally tune their teens out as just so much noise.

Affirmation is important at all ages, but especially during the growing up years. Too many young people hear the scoldings and criticisms for wrongdoing, but don’t hear the affirmation for doing what is right. Everything we say is going into a memory bank, so we must make sure we are filling that bank with good deposits. As your child grows in the decision-making process, she can use your belief in her ability to do right to give her strength to actually do right. For those times when she doesn’t make a good decision, your words can point her to a better way by affirming what you want her to be. You can say, “I’m just so surprised you did this because I know you, and I know in your heart you are

not this way!” When you express disappointment, remember you are disappointed with the actions and not with her. Children know the difference.

Of course, our affirmations must be honest. Children, and especially adolescents, can’t be fooled by pretty words. So we have to keep looking for honest opportunities to affirm them. And affirmations can’t be based just on what they do. The media teaches our girls that how they look is all important. Our words can affirm what is really important. Our girls need to hear “You are growing up so nicely,” “I enjoy you so much!” and “I really like you.”

Teenage girls want to be liked as well as loved. Their growing up years form their picture of who they think they are, and often that picture stays with them through life. I often tell my granddaughters, “I am so glad you have a good heart that wants to do right. I love how you love Jesus!” What an encouragement for girls to hear things like, “I think God must smile when He sees you,” and “You are such a bubble of joy; you are so precious to Him.”

If we want our little girls to “grow up in the most delightful way,” we must make growing up a delightful experience for them. Our words can provide a base for them on which to build their characters. King Solomon tells us, “Timely advice is as lovely

as golden apples in a silver basket” (Proverbs 25:11 NLT). Thus, our words must be worthy building blocks, blocks of affirmation that point our girls the way we want them to go—the right way!

King Solomon also tells us what is important, “Teach your children to choose the right path...,” and ends with these words of hope: “and when they are older, they will remain upon it” (Proverbs 22:6 NLT).

Thank heaven for little girls. They can “grow up in the most delightful way.” But we must do everything we can to make it happen.



Ginny Allen enjoyed “girl talk” over ice cream during camp meeting with her granddaughters, Ashley and Kennedy.

Photo by Diane Pastus

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Until her recent retirement, Ginny Allen was a nurse and health educator for the Portland, Oregon, public school system. She received an award for Outstanding Service in Portland Public Schools and was knighted by the Roosevelt High School Student Association for her work in the prevention of teen suicide. Ginny speaks frequently for retreats, seminars, prayer conferences, and camp meetings worldwide. Ginny Allen ©July 2006



watercolor by Dan Tiltro

# Alumni Homecoming 2006


September 28–  
October 1

#### HONORED CLASSES

1936, 1946, 1956, 1966,  
1976, 1981, 1986, 1996

#### HONORED ALUMNI 2006

Winsome Hope Clarke BMus '75, MMus '76  
Loren B. Hamel BS '76, Bruce Lee BA '49  
Sherry McLaughlin BS '89, MPT '90

 **Alumni Association Annual Session**  
Sunday, October 1, 10 a.m.

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an email to [alumni@andrews.edu](mailto:alumni@andrews.edu).

To make arrangements for lodging, contact  
Convention Services at 269.471.3295.

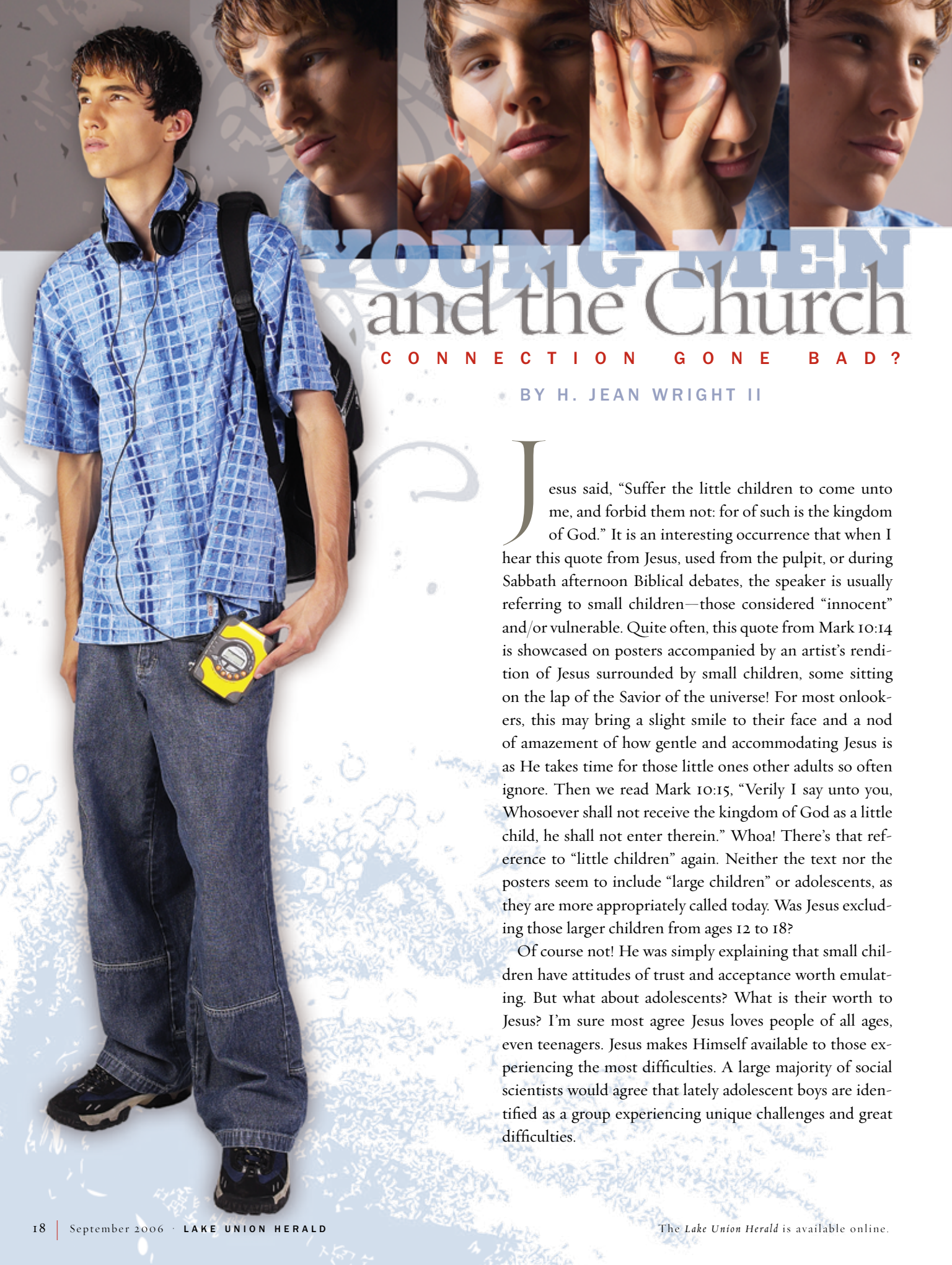
#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS YEAR'S HOMECOMING INCLUDE:

-  Golden Hearts Reunion Banquet  
People's Choice Concert
-  Wes Christiansen  
Memorial Golf Outing
-  Pizza, Pop and Professionals
-  Adventist Information  
Ministry (AIM) Reunion
-  Physics Reunion & Dinner
-  Sabbath Speaker at PMC  
Pastor Dwight K. Nelson
-  Basketball Game  
Alumni vs Students
-  **Alumni Homecoming Gala**  
Sabbath Evening, 8:30 p.m.  
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# YOUNG MEN and the Church

C O N N E C T I O N   G O N E   B A D ?

• BY H. JEAN WRIGHT II

Jesús said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.” It is an interesting occurrence that when I hear this quote from Jesús, used from the pulpit, or during Sabbath afternoon Biblical debates, the speaker is usually referring to small children—those considered “innocent” and/or vulnerable. Quite often, this quote from Mark 10:14 is showcased on posters accompanied by an artist’s rendition of Jesús surrounded by small children, some sitting on the lap of the Savior of the universe! For most onlookers, this may bring a slight smile to their face and a nod of amazement of how gentle and accommodating Jesús is as He takes time for those little ones other adults so often ignore. Then we read Mark 10:15, “Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.” Whoa! There’s that reference to “little children” again. Neither the text nor the posters seem to include “large children” or adolescents, as they are more appropriately called today. Was Jesús excluding those larger children from ages 12 to 18?

Of course not! He was simply explaining that small children have attitudes of trust and acceptance worth emulating. But what about adolescents? What is their worth to Jesús? I’m sure most agree Jesús loves people of all ages, even teenagers. Jesús makes Himself available to those experiencing the most difficulties. A large majority of social scientists would agree that lately adolescent boys are identified as a group experiencing unique challenges and great difficulties.

The concern for adolescent boys extends across race, ethnicity, and culture. Pick a newspaper from any city, township, or village in the U.S.A. and you are likely to find articles detailing a horrific incident, crime, or social problem involving adolescent males. Far too many male youth find trouble wherever more than two are gathered. What is going on with our young men? What actions can the church undertake to become a more positive influence in their lives?

## **MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SIMPLY BORED OR LACK PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Before answering the previous question, it may help to identify common issues and challenges adolescent males encounter. First and foremost, the reality is that many young people are simply bored! Parental guidance and supervision are lacking due to both parents (or single parents) who work outside the home. This fact has developed into a relatively new phenomenon called “latchkey kids.” These children, more often than not, get to and from school on their own and return to empty houses after the school day, devoid of parental influence, responsibility, or supervision.

Let’s not forget the Columbine tragedy in Colorado. Those high school age boys were troubled, no doubt, and most would agree they came from suburban, middle class, respectable backgrounds. However, their backgrounds did not shield them from the difficulties which eventually led to behaviors of such tragic proportions. Is it fair or unfair to suggest their parents apparently provided very little supervision or guidance as their sons struggled with processing their emotional distress? I imagine those parents continue to ask themselves hard questions like: “Where was I when my child planned such terrible retribution and vengeance on his peers?” or “What job duties or appointments were so important that I left my son to his own devices?” These questions and more will haunt those parents as they contemplate the value of love and concern demonstrated by parental supervision versus providing material things and unlimited freedom.

In Philadelphia, where I serve in the Juvenile Justice System and Children’s Services System, the homicide rate is already ahead of last year’s

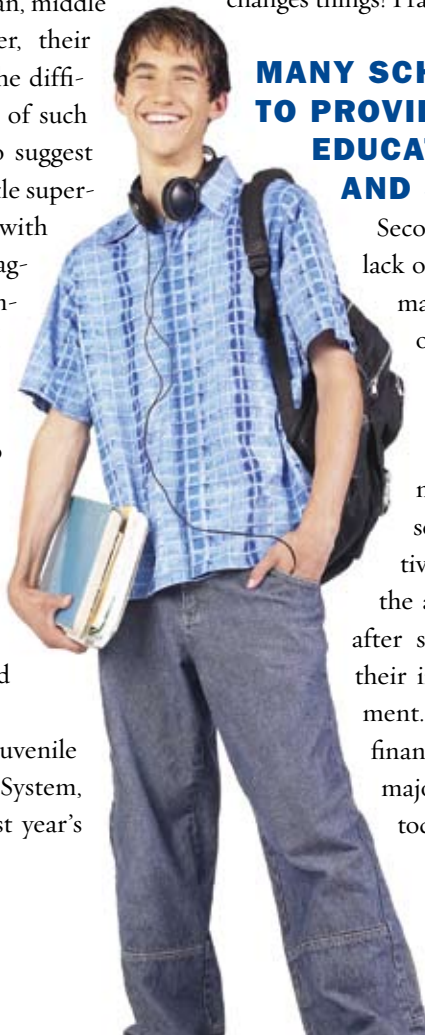
record-breaking numbers. Many victims and perpetrators are school-age children! Young people are arrested and incarcerated for crimes such as drug trafficking, robbery, and assault, to name just a few. Many are eulogized and buried prematurely!

It’s not uncommon to discover a growing percentage of these young people are raised and cared for by elderly grandparents or legal guardians who no longer have the physical energy, resources, or social support system to provide adequate supervision or training. Children of all ages need parents or parental figures who they can count on to be there, especially through that difficult period known as adolescence. This is not an article meant to emotionally “brow beat” parents or be overly critical of those who have had young people slip through their fingers in distress.

Certainly, any parent or guardian raising teenagers today has experienced some distress of their own. However, Solomon admonishes us in Proverbs 22:6, to “Train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Being a parent is very difficult work. There are no “off days” or “calling in sick.” Providing consistent, constructive supervision is a basic minimum requirement! Parents must cling to the promises in God’s Word as they implement instructions from Scripture. And never forget, prayer changes things! Prayer can even mitigate our mistakes.

## **MANY SCHOOL SYSTEMS FAIL TO PROVIDE THE BASICS OF EDUCATION, RECREATION, AND SAFETY**

Second, and almost as disturbing as the lack of parental engagement, is the failure of many school systems to provide the basics of education, recreation, and safety. For whatever reason, many schools do not hold the interests of a growing number of young people, in general, and young males in particular. Unless a young person participates in extra curricular activities such as sports, academic clubs, the arts, etc., they may not have scheduled after school activities to create balance for their intellectual growth and social development. Some young people may not be able to finance multiple activities. Unlike when the majority of after-school activities were free, today one must “pay to play,” or participate



in almost everything. For those whose parents cannot afford the price tag of participation, the alternative is often for young people to devise activities of their own imagination. Hence, there is a large disparity in decision making among some young people as to what is appropriate, or not, simply based on levels of boredom and the amount of unsupervised freedom available.

A vast majority of crimes committed and trouble realized by adolescent males occurs during school hours. Many problems occur right on school property. One must wonder who is actually in charge—students or school administrators! For some, school represents the most difficult part of their day. Many find it almost impossible to focus or pay attention in classes that do not hold their interest. Others are unable to concentrate because they are distracted by enormous stressors such as witnessing domestic violence at home, intrusive thoughts of abuse at the hand of an adult, drug or alcohol dependent parents or guardians, and/or substance abuse issues of their own.

Still others find school unbearable because they are embarrassed they cannot read or write on the level of their peers. They may worry about and try to avoid daily encounters with a bully, or they simply feel that they do not “fit in” with a desired peer group. All of the above can be reasons some teenage boys skip certain classes, are consistently late for school, or become truant altogether.

## **THE CHURCH CAN BE OF SERVICE TO YOUNG MEN**

So, now that a few issues adolescent boys may be experiencing were identified, let’s revisit and rephrase our earlier question. How can the church be of service to adolescent males? That age group is often left out of church planning meetings and program development. Some larger churches may have developed a “youth church” or services especially planned for their young people. However, that service or activity generally occurs on Sabbath only. What about the rest of the week? How often do adults in the church forget or exclude our teenagers? What programs does your church offer for teenagers during the week? What opportunities for leadership roles does your church afford adolescent boys?

These questions need definitive answers to reclaim the interest of our young people. Church leaders need to recognize “the streets” often offer more to counteract teenage boredom than the church! The church needs to formulate a “plan of action” especially designed to go after adolescent

males and bring them back into the fold. We’re not just talking about young people who may have left the church or rarely attend. We are also concerned about those who dutifully attend church on a weekly basis (due to parental threats or cajoling), but are bored out of their minds!

Although it is the adults in church who need to take a stand and plan for inclusion of adolescent boys, no plan will be successful without ensuring peers of these young people are readily available and visibly seen in leadership roles. The church should be a place where families go not only to worship the Lord, but also to find solace from a world full of pain and confusion!

Adults need to take some time to remember what it was like to be a teenager. Try to remember the difficulties you experienced, then think about today’s young people and multiply those troubles by ten! We all want to be saved into the kingdom of God!

How do we accomplish what was suggested in Mark 10:14? How can adults be as little children? How can Jesus expect us to think, act, and feel like those little ones referred to in Scripture? How can we reclaim the innocence of a child and become as trusting and accepting of the kingdom of God?

Well, if we adults have such a difficult time conceptualizing how we can possibly revert our minds and behavior back into childhood, how much more difficult might it be for teenagers to do the same when, for most, their number one goal is to put as much distance between themselves and childhood as possible? Funny how the closer children get to becoming teenagers, the more they want to be considered “adults.” Hence, the phenomenon of what I like to call “the dance of adolescence.”

This “dance” consists of having one foot squarely planted in childhood and one foot tentatively reaching for adulthood! Since the world of childhood and adulthood have little resemblance, this dance becomes increasingly difficult, resulting in some level of instability and missteps. It is God’s church that has the responsibility to be there for every misstep of our young people.

Sit down with adolescent boys and girls in your church. Talk to them about their concerns in this world and their interest, or lack thereof, in the church. More importantly, *listen* to them. Take their concerns and suggestions seriously! You may find the makings of great leadership among the adolescent males in your church and/or community.

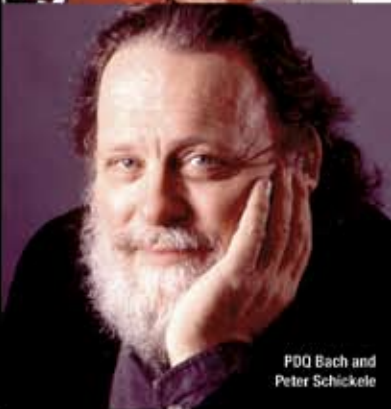
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H. Jean Wright II has earned his doctoral degree in psychology and works with young people for the City of Philadelphia as a clinical and forensic psychologist.



Sharon Isbin  
with Thiago  
De Mello

## ANNOUNCING THE 2006-2007 SEASON



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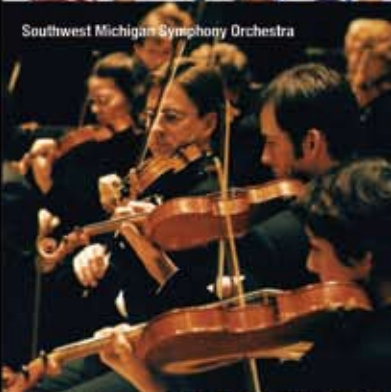
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Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra



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# WHEN DADDY GAVE "The Talk"

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT

Daddy never had much time to actually talk to us kids. He left most instruction to Momma, who was with us most of the time. He worked a couple of jobs just about every day to make ends meet. Daddy had been a newsboy, race horse groomer, typesetter, short order cook, iron molder, butler, chef, and landscape gardener. It was sometimes confusing.

I remember filling out job applications, and in those days they asked your father's occupation. I never knew why. They also asked your race and national origin.

I would try to make up some exotic sounding title for what Daddy did. It is difficult to make cleaning out rich folks' garages sound exotic. In those days I was sometimes ashamed of the fact that Daddy worked for rich, White folks. Well, I made the mistake of hinting this to my Momma, and did she ever square me away.



Walter L. Wright was 12 years old in 1946.

In no uncertain terms, Momma explained how I was very fortunate to have a father who worked every day, came home every night, brought her all the money, provided for my every selfish need, and practiced priesthood in our home. If I ever had any doubt about how solid these two were that cured me. They were a real pair and nobody, I mean nobody, including their own children, ever came between them. They were so close that if you tried, you got squashed.

Every summer and during holidays I could earn spending money by working with Daddy doing lawns or odds and ends on his many “private family” jobs. It still amazes me that these jobs were never mandatory. You would expect such a self-made man to be very demanding of his children, especially his sons. He seemed to never want us to work as hard as he did, or experience the hardships he had.

This guy raised six children during The Great Depression and was never once on public welfare—never once stood in a soup line! Many of our friends and even relatives were on public dole, but not Daddy’s family. Too proud. Too resourceful. Too independent. Too Wright. I am still impressed.

One of those early morning trips to work gave Daddy the opportunity to tell me about “the birds and the bees.” We paused at a stoplight. He looked over at me. “Boy, I’ve been meaning to have a talk with you,” he said. I’ll never forget “The Talk.” I was about 14 or 15 years old.

It was a little late for “The Talk,” but nobody was going to cheat me out of this right of passage. I thought, *Here it comes!*

He continued, “Never waste any time around a woman you wouldn’t marry. You can ruin a whole lifetime for a few moments of pleasure.” The light turned green. We drove off. I was shocked. *That was it! That was it? This is all? No lectures on human*



*Nathan Monroe Wright and Willa Dale were married in 1918.*

*plumbing? No hygienic dissertations on venereal disease? No mention of condoms, diaphragms, or teen pregnancy?*

I had heard all those things at school, but I expected, at the very least, that a good “talk” from a boy’s father would have included any or all of these monumental, brain numbing, desperately needed “facts of life.” It disappointed me. I was crushed, and yet relieved. Every boy wants to have “The Talk,” and every boy dreads “The Talk.”

Looking back, I wonder what it must have taken for Daddy to summon up the courage to speak to his baby boy on such important matters. He didn’t get it from his father; he had no point of reference for doing such a thing. Upon checking with my older brothers, I found that Daddy didn’t do any bet-

ter with them. However, this is significant: all the Wright brothers agree that Daddy was right on target. If we adhered strictly to what he shared with us, we could come out just fine in dealing with the opposite sex.

**“Never waste any time...”**

Let’s take a closer look at Daddy’s “talk.” To Daddy, time was money. To waste time was to be less than diligent. To waste time was to squander one of the most precious things God has given. He used to say that time is talent and everybody has that talent. I never saw Daddy waste time in my entire lifetime. He knew how and when to have fun and relax, but he never wasted time.

**“Never waste any time around a woman...”**

At first impression, one might think Daddy was advising me to avoid women. But to Daddy, “womenfolk” were special—a valuable gift from God. He was always polite, courteous, respectful, and tender when it came to women. He treated our mother like that—even when she, in her hot-headed, Kentucky way would get under his skin. Even then, his thoughtfulness came through. When things really got tense between the two of them, he would leave the house and walk around



*On a Sabbath afternoon in 1958, Willa and Nathan Monroe Wright stopped for a picture before leaving to give Bible studies.*

the block several times. He always came back. They always made up. And, they never let us kids in on it. It was none of our business.

**“...you wouldn't marry.”**

Well now, it seems Daddy was recommending that we only spend time with quality women. There may be lots of women with whom a young man might want to hang around, but he wouldn't want to live with them for the rest of his life. Daddy was saying to eliminate them from my social calendar. Why invest time with the wrong influences?

Marriage is for life. A life partner must be of the very best character, wisdom, and spiritual attractiveness you can find. Physical attractiveness always seems to take care of itself. After all, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It is a relative and subjective aspect of choosing a partner. Daddy never gave advice on physical attractiveness.

Marriage is not only for life, it is also for survival. Daddy came from a broken home. He wanted each of his children to embrace the same philosophy on marriage that he had adopted so many years before while in the Children's Home. Get married. Have a family. Save the children. No divorce. No separation—not even for a night.

We didn't all do as well as Daddy and Momma, but we never lost sight of the principle that God hates divorce—and so did Daddy.

**“You can ruin a whole lifetime for a few moments of pleasure.”**

If I had only looked closer. There were the “facts” I so desperately longed for. When passion replaces conscience, you are headed for ruin. The enemy has done an extraordinary job perverting the precious, God-given gift of human sexuality. The attractiveness of sex has been so completely exaggerated as to render it as some uncontrollable, consuming fire.



*Willa and Nathan Monroe lived in Germantown, Ohio, in 1972.*



*This picture was taken of Nathan Monroe, Walter L., and Willa Wright in 1975.*

Sex was God's idea, designed for our joy and security, and a way we could participate with Him in the procreation of the race. It was never intended to be the end all or be all of personal relationships.

A “few moments” of self-gratification can lead to a lifetime of regret and guilt. Daddy knew this, and he wanted his young son to avoid the pitfalls, the traps, that the enemy has set. He wanted me to hold myself in reserve for the woman I would marry—for the warm relationship that God could bless, and I could enjoy, in the full

freedom that God designed for husband and wife.

I find it very interesting that the apostle Paul, a single evangelist and missionary, waxed so eloquently on sexuality between husband and wife. God must have impressed him with the importance and the critical nature of this subject. In I Corinthians 7:1–11, Paul gave some excellent counsel on fidelity and honesty in the marriage bed.

In this passage, he deals with the implied “defrauding” of fake headaches and fake backaches, the despicable use of the perfect gift of sexuality for reward or punishment, and the fact that agreement between a husband and wife in these matters is absolutely essential. He also more strongly implies that a healthy sexual relationship

for a godly couple is a deterrent to immoral temptations. Now those are some very good “facts of life.”

I was careful to also give my own sons and daughter the benefit of “The Talk.” I had more and better education to draw from than did Daddy. I had more knowledge and experience than Daddy. But, I did not have more wisdom than Daddy. My children are all grown with families of their own now. I only hope that I was able to give them something just half as memorable as what Daddy gave me on that early, chilly morning.

Walter L. Wright is the Lake Union Conference president.





Andrews University Alumnus, Christian Bokich...reflects on his experience..."After Andrews, I now feel like the world is literally at my fingertips because I understand and am at ease with a wide variety of people and cultures."

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-Christian Bokich, BBA '99

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# Caring for Aging Parents

BY LAURIE SNYMAN



**W**e got that phone call that we dreaded. My husband, who was out of town, informed me, “I just got a call; Mom has been hospitalized with a broken pelvis. She may need care till she can walk again.”

Twenty-two million Americans are getting similar phone calls as Americans age and live longer. There is a 300 percent increase of adult children taking care of older parents after accidents, chronic illness, or dementia. This results in a situation where relationships between parent and child will be impacted as long as the parent lives.

Working as a hospital social worker, I watched hundreds of families deal with the care needs of elderly parents. Making decisions about health care treatment, risk of living alone, and trying to keep a parent safe but independent was not always appreciated by the parent. These decisions are often made in haste because of the older adult’s impending discharge from the hospital.

Many older adults do not comprehend their own care needs and have a drive to be independent. An AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) poll found older adults say they prefer living in close proximity to their children but not with their children. They also say they want control of their lives. Sometimes, their inability to care for themselves represents putting the adult child between the parent and their immediate family. This is termed the “sandwich generation.”

As a result of the anger they may feel at them for making decisions about their future and the care needs of their children and spouse, many adult caregivers say they feel alone, especially if they are the only local child or the only person perceived as available to help the parent. This may be further complicated by the criticism of siblings who live

far away and are not involved in the care themselves, and who may be critical because of the guilt they feel in not being as involved.

Another complication to caregivers occurs if the aging parent has a mental health problem, behavioral aggression or paranoia, substance abuse problems, or socially inappropriate behaviors. Aging parents are more vulnerable to their adult caregivers when they have a history of neglecting or physically abusing their children in the past and now are vulnerable to an angry adult child.

Life in our society has never been busier, and caregivers can be emotionally, physically, and financially drained by taking care of the elderly parent. Care could take many years. Others seize an opportunity and time to work on past relationship problems and may find the experience very positive.

Apostle Paul pointed out that families are to meet the needs of elderly members (1Timothy 5:1-7). Despite the stress caregivers often feel, 42 percent say they find support, comfort, and help from their church (synagogue, temple, or other religious organization).

It is always important that caregivers care well for themselves and delegate responsibilities often, to avoid burnout and depression. My mother-in-law was able to get services at her home—nursing and physical therapy that helped her regain her strength and maintain some independence. But we are working to become familiar with community resources and develop a support network with her local church in case another crisis emerges.

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Laurie Snyman is social worker and family therapist. She owns Awakenings Family Therapy in Lansing, Michigan.

# HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR ADULT CAREGIVERS

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

There are community service programs which offer visiting nurses, day activity programs, and respite centers. Assisted living programs will often take older adults for week-ends or a few weeks. Call, write, or talk to the Area Agency on Aging in your community for information and referral.

Caregivers may benefit from personal counseling with a professional who understands aging issues. Care-giving may be an opportunity to heal any past wounds and the last chance to work on their relationships with their parent. Caregivers need good support from the medical community and may be able to use a neurologist or geriatrician to work with any problems that arise while caring for their elderly parent.

Small groups (church based) are helping folks with babysitting, food, respite, and errands. Church members often need to be educated on how to meet the needs of adult caregivers.

## SUGGESTED READING

*A Deepening Love Affair: The Gift of God in Later Life*, by Jane Marie Thibault. Upper Room Books (1993). The author calls older adults to a new vocation, that of experiencing an ever-deepening "love affair" with God in this life.

*Into the Shadows: A Journey of Faith and Love into Alzheimer's*, by Robert F. DeHaan. FaithWalk Publishing (2003). In this chronicle, DeHaan combines his skills as a professional psychologist with his Christian faith to show that the love and grace of God are far greater than this terrible disease.

*Caring for Elderly Parents*, by Ruth Whybrow. The Crossroad Publishing Company, Inc. (1996). This book offers practical advice for a wide range of dilemmas and helps adult children deal with their own feelings.

*Growing Old in Christ*, by Stanley Hauerwas et al. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (2003). This new book presents the first serious theological reflection we have on what it means to grow old, particularly in modern American society.

*The 36 Hour Day*, by Nancy L. Mace and Peter V. Rabins. Warner Books; Revised edition (2001). Updated with the newest information on Alzheimer's Disease and dementia, this bestselling book has remained the "bible" for families who are giving care to afflicted loved ones.

*The Long Good Night: My Father's Journey into Alzheimer's*, by Daphne Simpkins. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (2003). Drawing on the experience of caring for her father,

Simpkins offers personal testimony to the presence of God amid the daily struggles of life with a terminally ill loved one.

*The Virtues of Aging*, by Jimmy Carter. The Ballantine Publishing Group (1998). In this book, the former president and present activist (founder of The Carter Center and The Atlanta Project) explores the process of aging, including his own, and describes how one's later years might just prove to be the most thrilling of one's life.

## CARE-GIVING GUIDES

*A Caregiver's Survival Guide: How to Stay Healthy When Your Loved One Is Sick*, by Kay Marshall Strom. InterVarsity Press (2000). One place to find understanding is a family support group made up of individuals who share the same concerns and burdens such as an Alzheimer's support group, stroke club, or Parkinson's support group. The group may have a professional, knowledgeable leader who educates members on what to expect, how to handle trouble spots, and who points out issues common to all caregivers. Groups allow people to share their ideas and emotions.

Reading about aging issues or the illness that affects your family member also can help fight feelings of unpreparedness.

Visit <http://www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/Publications/caregiverguide.htm> to download a caregiver's guide from the National Institute on Aging.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

There are many useful sites online. One site you may find helpful is [www.carepathways.com](http://www.carepathways.com), developed by registered nurses. At this site there is a medical/drug dictionary, a needs assessment tool to point you to care options for your situation, checklists to evaluate care facilities, a place to search by state for long-term, adult day care, Alzheimer's care, and home-care options, and facility ratings to evaluate and compare options, and many useful articles.

## HELPFUL TESTS A PHYSICIAN CAN ADMINISTER

- Folstein Mental Status Exam
- Geriatric Behavior Rating Scale
- Geriatric Depression Scale

Compiled by Laurie Snyman



## New Patient Care Center Mirrors Hospital's Spirit

The clouds had been gray and drizzly all day on June 20, 2006, as the final preparations were made for the Grand Opening of the Patient Care Center at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital. As if to indicate God's "thumb's up" on the occasion, the skies lit up as the sunshine slowly peeked through when nearly 700 community members, employees, elected officials, and administrators gathered for the ceremony. The beautiful state-of-the-art addition to the hospital campus combines high-end technological advances with the compassionate care the hospital has been providing to the western suburbs of Chicago for over half a century.

As visitors enter the atrium lobby, they are greeted by a two-story waterfall feature donated by Walsh Construction to highlight the hospital's whole-person approach to healing the body, mind, and spirit.



*Tim Cook, CEO, chats with a patient in the new Patient Care Center.*

Designed with patient privacy and greater efficiency in mind, the five-story addition optimizes patient comfort and enhances the recovery process with strategically located spaces, rooms, and service areas. "We worked with the architects to ensure that the layout of the patient care center is easy for visitors to navigate," notes chief operating officer Ed Gervain. "There are shorter,



*Cutting the ribbon were (from left) Ed Gervain, COO, ALMH; John Rapp, VP ministries and mission, AMH; Lou Currotto, member, Board of Directors, AMH; Joseph Reda, M.D., president, joint medical staff AHH/ALMH; Sheila Horner, CNO, ALMH; Ernie Sadau, president/CEO, AMH; Don Jernigan, president, AHS; Tim Cook, CEO, ALMH; and La Grange Village president Elizabeth Asperger.*

more direct routes to services such as pre-admission testing and admissions, as well as a separate private exit for patient discharge."

As patients, visitors, and employees walk throughout the building, they can see glimpses of the hospital's Christian mission reflected in architectural elements in unique and subtle ways. "We've tried to integrate Christian symbols into the building as visual cues that this is a faith-based institution," says Tim Cook, chief executive officer. "Our mission is to extend the healing ministry of Christ and our vision is that every person who enters Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital would catch a glimpse of Jesus' love."

"Many patients often refer to our staff as 'angels' and note the dedication of the people who work within our hospital walls," notes Cook. "That dedication is something that crossed the threshold with us into the new facility." Chief nursing officer Sheila Horner explains, "As we oriented the 1,200 employees on the new building and trained them on patient safety in the new facility, we asked them to make



*Nearly 700 community members, employees, elected officials, and administrators gathered for the Grand Opening of the Patient Care Center at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.*

a daily commitment to health care as a ministry, not just a job. We want empowered employees to do what is right for the patient. We are all here because God has a plan for us to be a caring team that provides health care services with Christian compassion."

"The Patient Care Center is now a facility that mirrors the spirit of the hospital," Cook says. "We present one mind, one heart, and one spirit to the community. When our employees wear a lapel pin with the flame logo, it represents the commitment we have all made."

*Crister Delacruz, director of public relations for Adventist Midwest Health*

## Heather Knight to Serve as New Andrews University Provost

On June 28, Andrews University president Niels-Erik Andreasen announced that Heather Knight, then associate provost for faculty development, diversity, and special programs at University of the Pacific in Calif., had been named the university's new provost. He stated, "I believe that the future of Andrews University and higher education in general is bright, and the

collaboration and possibilities that Dr. Knight will bring to our work here will be significant."

The decision to offer the position to Knight came after the provost search committee completed interviews of its short list of two finalists for the position. The interviews of the candidates by this committee were accompanied by a number of campus presentations by each candidate. The committee also reviewed feedback from several key groups across the campus, including faculty, staff, students, and departmental and academic deans.

Knight joins Andrews University with rich experience in teaching and administration at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif. She began her teaching career there in 1988, becoming a tenured associate professor of English in 1993, teaching a variety of literature and writing courses. She then served as an assistant provost,



Heather Knight, Ph.D., is the new Andrews University provost.

and became associate provost in 1997. Knight graduated with a Ph.D. in English from Stanford University in 1991, specializing in African American Literature; a master's in English from Loma Linda University in 1984; and a bachelor's in English from Oakwood College in 1982. She has presented a multitude of papers at conferences across the country and has articles in several publications. She has served as a panelist for the National Endowment of the Arts, as well as an evaluator on several accreditation teams and many university committees.

According to Adventist News Network (ANN), "One of Knight's major achievements at the University of the Pacific was leading a diversity program to increase minority representation in the school's faculty. The effort, begun in 1997, increased the number of minority faculty from ten percent to 19 percent, well-surpassing the United States' national average of 13 percent." Gerry Karst, chairman of the university's board of trustees and a general vice president of the Adventist world church, stated to ANN, "She [Heather Knight] expresses a strong commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education, its philosophy and mission. It is a pleasure to welcome her to the leadership team."

Pat Spangler, assistant director of University Relations

## Japhet De Oliveira Accepts Chaplain for Missions Position

Japhet De Oliveira will be one of the new faces on the Andrews University campus this fall. De Oliveira will serve in the position of chaplain for missions as well as assistant director for the Center for Youth Evangelism.

De Oliveria comes to Andrews from England where he served as youth

director for the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists since 2003. He is an energetic, innovative leader with a passion for young people. During his time as youth



Japhet De Oliveira joins the Andrews community as the new chaplain for missions as well as the assistant director for the Center for Youth Evangelism.

director and as a youth pastor for the Stanborough Park Church in Watford, England, De Oliveria began multiple youth ministry initiatives. Just a sampling of his work includes projects such as London Live, a new 20/30-something church led by young adults in the city of London; HUB, a monthly journal for youth ministry leaders across England; and the new Diploma in Youth Leadership program at Newbold College in Binfield, England.

De Oliveira earned his B.A. in theology and an M.A. in Religion with a certificate in church growth from Andrews University on the Newbold College campus.

"If I can be part of a team that makes a difference to both those connected with and searching for God, I will be a satisfied man," says De Oliveira about his new role at Andrews. "At the end of the day when I look back on my life, I want to know that I served well, played hard, that my boys and wife are proud of me, and that God inspired my leadership. Honestly, what more is there?"

De Oliveria will join the Andrews community with his wife of eleven years, Becky, and their two young boys.

Beverly Stout, University Relations media relations coordinator

## [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

### A Life of Service Impacts Community

Lake Region—In 1996, a young man stopped by Sharon Inkster Seventh-day Adventist Church in Inkster, Mich., looking for something to eat. He spoke with Janie Brown, Sharon Inkster Community Services director at that time, and told her he wanted food that did not need to be cooked. Janie was a little puzzled because she didn't quite understand why he wanted food that did not need to be cooked. The man explained he was homeless and lived in abandoned houses where he did not have a stove to cook food or any way to store perishable goods.



Janie Brown was director of Sharon Inkster Community Services for 15 years. Her vision and dedication still makes a difference in her community.

That is when God gave Janie Brown a vision to serve those in need with a soup kitchen at the church. She advertised the opening of the soup kitchen on cable TV, radio, and in the newspaper. She also invited men from the Moore Street Shelter to attend the first meal.

That was ten years ago, and the Inkster soup kitchen is still going strong with a volunteer staff made up of church members and people from the community. The soup kitchen is a real benefit to the community.

The soup kitchen is sponsored by the Community Services department and operates every Tues. and Thurs. from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Janie is still there to serve up delicious, whole-

some, vegetarian meals. The recipients of the soup kitchen have a saying, "We may not know what the lady in the chair is cooking, but whatever it is, it sure is good!"

The soup kitchen offers Meals-on-Wheels for seniors and the handicapped of Inkster. Volunteers make meal deliveries twice weekly, and they also deliver bread to eager recipients.

Each fall, Sharon Inkster Community Services gives out over 170 Thanksgiving baskets to referrals from several community organizations. The Annual Vegetarian Taste Fest and Clothing Give-A-Way held each Aug. are also great successes, and all are welcome!

Still going strong in her mission for the Lord at age 68, Janie operated the soup kitchen while attending school four days a week. She was the director of Community Services for 15 years. Just recently, Janie turned the operation over to Gladys Jones, due to her declining health. We pray God will bless Janie and keep her in good health.

We also pray that her dream for Sharon Inkster Community Services will continue to grow as it provides free drug counseling, Bible studies, food for the needy, and emergency assistance. For further information, call 734-722-2313, or write 28537 Cherry Ave., Inkster, MI 48141.

Cheryl Claiborn and Linda Robinson, Sharon Inkster correspondents

### Books Delivered in God's Time

Lake Region—The Independence Boulevard Seventh-day Adventist Church participated in the Ten Commandments telecast offered by Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). We ordered five thousand books to help promote the televised event, which was coordinated to run the weekend of the national Ten Commandments Day initiative. My group



Yolanda Marie Brownlee

Patricia Goldsmith, an elder at the Independent Boulevard Church, distributed Ten Commandments Twice Removed books in her community.

was to distribute 300 books. The first 100 books arrived two weeks before the big event, but because of a prior commitment, I was not able to distribute them that day.

The following week, the remaining 200 books arrived. On that Sabbath and Sun., I had to attend a Vacation Bible School meeting and was still unable to distribute the books. We only had a few days left before the books needed to be in people's hands.

Mon. was busy with errands, and the books were still waiting to be distributed. The next day was filled with all the extra work that comes with preparing students for graduation. The books were still waiting to be delivered, but when?

On Wed., I accompanied my husband to an appointment he had up north. On the way back home, I was very weary and literally falling asleep at the wheel. I asked God to help me be faithful.

By the time I got home, I had made up my mind to take a nap before I went out to distribute the books, knowing I had to return to work that evening. As soon as we got home, I turned around, walked right out the door, and headed toward my territory instead of taking a nap.

A little fearful, but praying for God's Spirit and asking Him to help me to be faithful, I started at the far northern point of my area. No one was around so I continued east, but there were only factories in that area. I came to a little strip mall and was able to distribute all but 45 books. When people saw me passing out the books on the Ten Commandments, they came up to me and asked, "Can I have one?"

"Do you have any more?"

"Where is your church located?"

As I continued, I said, "To God be the glory!"

I put the remaining books under my neighbors' doors. I was delighted when one neighbor came to both the Fri. night and Sabbath morning special programs we shared from 3ABN. She came before it started and stayed until it was over. She enjoyed the programs so much and wanted to get copies of what she had seen. I happily invited her to the Ten Commandments study the Independence Boulevard Church would soon be offering; she definitely wanted to be a part of it.

Many members and guests said they learned so much by watching the special Ten Commandments programs. Now our church is planning to follow up the telecast by using the same material as a mid-week series soon.

Ralph Shelton, our pastor, and Lenna Crosby, the women's ministry leader, led out in this powerful initiative. They both commented that their vision and plans were too small and wished they had prayed more and done more.

People really are thirsting for the Word of God.

Patricia Goldsmith, an elder at Independence Boulevard Church, Chicago, Ill.



Clare Church members invite you to visit their church to view the new mural, "The Wedding Supper of the Lamb," recently painted by church member, Chrystique Neibauer.

## Clare Fellowship Room Gets New Look

Michigan—While many of us were still sleeping on that first Sun. of Michigan Camp Meeting, Chrystique Neibauer woke early to meet her goal for the day. Clare Church members were about to receive a wonderful surprise when they came to church the next Sabbath. She gathered her paints and palette and most importantly, she asked the Lord to guide her hand that day as she took on a most daunting task.

The Clare Church fellowship room would look a little different from then on. Months before, Neibauer was privately asked to paint a mural of "The Wedding Supper of the Lamb" at the church. Although the Lord has blessed her tremendously with artistic talent, dealing in sacred themes is the most challenging because she wants to portray the "Lord's business" accurately.

So, in fear and trepidation, she put her hand to the wall and began to cre-

ate a depiction of the supper table in Heaven. Neibauer said she sensed the Lord guiding her hand every second of every minute of the 14 hours it took that Sun. to paint the scene.

Despite her talent, she says she never would have been able to create such a striking image that brought many a church member to tears when they first laid eyes on it. The best part is that no matter where you sit in that fellowship room, it looks as if you are sitting at the head of the table.

This mural is a constant reminder to those who attend the Clare Church that they need to keep their eyes focused on Jesus and the preparations He has made for us in Heaven. So, if you feel like visiting, the doors at Clare are always open for guests. You can't miss this beautiful painting; you'll notice it as soon as you walk through the doors. And when you join us for fellowship after church, we promise we will seat you at the head of the table.

Mellissa Hoffman, Clare Church correspondent



On behalf of Martinsville Church members, Sabbath school superintendant Janice Gawley presented a check for \$3,500 to Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president, for the India church project.

## Martinsville Church Hears “Call” to India

Indiana—When Angela and Laurel McPherson returned from their mission trip to India, they shared their many blessings and personal experiences from the trip in a special meeting at the Martinsville Seventh-day Adventist Church, where their parents are members. As a result, Martinsville Church members decided spontaneously to begin a program to raise \$3,500, the amount needed to build a church in India.

In Apr. 2005, all the Martinsville Church members collected every item they could find for a two-day “yard sale,” held in the church fellowship hall. Baked “goodies” were also donated for the sale. At the sale’s conclusion, items not sold were donated to a local community organization, which forwarded them to the coastal regions recently devastated by hurricanes.

Even the children of the Martinsville Church wanted to be involved in helping build the church in India. The Primary Sabbath school class collected aluminum cans to sell and raised more than \$100 to add to the fund.

Martinsville Church members held another sale in Fall 2005. It took the Martinsville Church, with 61 members, just a little over a year to collect all of the funds to reach their goal of \$3,500. This was accomplished not

only by yard sales and selling aluminum cans, but also with members’ donations.

When Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president, visited the Martinsville Church on Sabbath, June 10, 2006, he was presented with a check for \$3,500 for the India church project. Thurber was excited to learn of the members’ unselfish decision to build a church

in India. He remarked later, “Despite the members’ desire to build a new sanctuary for their own church family, they decided to build one for a new congregation in India first.”

The Martinsville Church members have also pledged to provide \$600 annually to finance a pastor or a lay person for the new India church. God’s blessings are wonderful, and to be part of His work is a joy.

Martinsville Seventh-day Adventist Church Release

### [LAKE UNION NEWS]

## Michigan Conference Launches New Magazine

Michigan—*Balance* is a new, health outreach magazine created by Lifestyle Matters and the Michigan Conference. It is an easy, inexpensive tool to make friends and introduce community members to balanced nutrition, spiritual help, and practical information. There is a great need for an inexpensive, attention-grabbing, short magazine to be used by church members and literature evangelists for witnessing, creating community awareness, and stimulating an interest in local church health programs. Because the subjects of health and preventive medicine are hot topics in the public arena at this time, such a magazine could also be ef-



fectively used in hospitals, clinics, schools, health professionals’ offices, and other points of public contact. *Balance* magazine is designed to fill that gap.

The 12-issue magazine series can be used in two sets of six issues each. Church members can establish friendships and interests in the community by handing out one magazine every two weeks for 12 weeks in a designated neighborhood. This strategy could open the door to create interest in upcoming Lifestyle Matters seminars or other health programs and enable church members to establish friendships in their area. This could be repeated with the other six issues the following year. *Balance* is also an excellent handout to prepare a community for an upcoming evangelistic meeting. You can put your flier in the third or fourth issue you share. People will look forward to each issue and they will be ready to come with you to the meeting.

The magazine is an excellent gift for non-attending church members. *Balance* can be used for county fairs and health expos, school fund-raisers, and Pathfinder fund-raising. It is a great sharing magazine for anyone, anytime!

For more information and pricing for bulk orders, call Sheri Christie at 517-316-1527, or visit website: [www.lifestylematters.com](http://www.lifestylematters.com).

Vickie Griffin, Michigan Conference health and temperance director



## Illinois Conference Session Report

Illinois—At the Apr. 30 Illinois Conference constituency meeting, a significant five-year initiative was presented—“Touch Every I for Jesus.” It was explained to those present that the initiative challenged every church and school, every program and ministry, and each member to touch the life of every person in Ill. for Jesus.

With a population of more than 12.7 million, this may seem a daunting task. But Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matt 24:14). Those present wholeheartedly agreed to pursue this goal.

Every zip code in Ill. was assigned to a church, and each church was challenged to grapple with how to touch the lives of those who live in their communities. A new evangelism committee was formed and includes advocates for major people groups; discussion will focus on how to share the Gospel in word and action with other people groups.

This initiative cannot be accomplished merely through human planning and organization. Illinois Conference leaders know success will come when all the people in Ill. react as they did in Nehemiah’s time, “...for they perceived that this work was done by our God” (Neh. 6:16 NKJV).

When Kenneth A. Denslow, Illinois Conference president, addressed the constituency, his presentation corresponded with the conference’s mission statement—“Preaching, Teaching, and Healing.” Additional reports presented by others magnified God’s leading in our territory.

Denslow described the diverse pastor group as dedicated servants and spoke of their involvement with laypersons in evangelistic preaching, such as meetings in Springfield; the NADEI Field School of Evangelism in Peoria; Hope for the Homeland and Hope for Our Day meetings; a series



The newly-elected Illinois Conference administrative and department director teams were affirmed at the 30th Illinois Conference Constituency Session.

at the Oakhill Adventist Church; and programs by local churches broadcast on the radio. He shared that many congregations have a new place to worship.

Jim Martz, Illinois Conference superintendent of schools, reported on a new program to make Adventist education more affordable for individuals who have never attended an Adventist school. The “New to an Adventist School” program will provide tuition for children when parents place their children in an Adventist school for the first time. Martz also reported that more than 118 students were baptized during the past four years. In Spring 2006, 457 students were enrolled in grades K-8 and 138 were enrolled in secondary education.

Constituents voted to operate Broadview Academy on the La Fox campus for the 2006-2007 school year. They also approved in concept a future transition from a La Fox based academy campus to an electronic, technology-enhanced, multiple campus delivery system for secondary education, pending North American Division approval of the delivery system. Broadview Academy will collaborate with Adventist schools throughout Ill. to provide local secondary education. North Shore Junior Academy and Thompsonville may each become satellite campuses. Additional cam-

puses will be added as appropriate, and faculty will be placed across the system, reported Randall J. Siebold, Broadview Academy principal.

In addition to the programs in our schools, teaching also takes place through local Discovery Bible Schools. The Pathfinder department is also part of the conference’s teaching ministry, providing wholesome activities and character-building programs by dedicated leaders.

John Rapp, vice president for mission and ministry for Adventist Midwest Health, also addressed constituents. He stated, “We’re not ashamed of our connection with the mission of the church.”

Ernie Sadau, Adventist Midwest Health president and CEO, reported that the organization’s hospital names were changed to lead with the word, “Adventist.” He also expressed enthusiasm when providing an update about the organization’s newest hospital. He said, “There has not been a Certificate of Need granted to build a new hospital in Illinois for more than 20 years. Adventist Midwest Health has been granted permission to build a hospital in Bolingbrook.”

Adventist Midwest Health has more than 1,000 beds with 5,000 employees. The system ministers to more than 500,000 people annually,

touching people's lives, extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

Kyoshin Ahn, Illinois Conference executive secretary, reported that 1,748 members were added either by baptism or profession of faith during the past four years. The year 2005 ended with 12,645 members, an increase of 683 members and 14 new congregations. Half of the conference's members are now in the 20–50 age category.

Treasurer Duane Rollins provided a financial report and said it was most unusual, containing sufficient bad news and good news. The difficult financial times brought about unity and clear thinking among conference Executive Committee members and the administrative team, resulting in future plans for evangelism and education. Illustrations showed the impact a series of problems had on the conference financially, how those issues were brought into line, good progress in 2005, and a positive year-to-date budget for 2006.

Session actions also included the election of officers: Kenneth A. Denslow, president; Kyoshin Ahn, executive secretary; and Duane Rollins, treasurer. Departmental staff elected were Kenneth A. Denslow, communication; Rachel Terwilligar, development; James Martz, education; Justo Morales, Hispanic ministries; Ed Barnett, ministerial/church ministries; Paul Saint-Villiers, trust services/stewardship; Patricia Trefl, women's ministries; and Jeff Deming, youth/Camp Akita.

A full report on those selected to serve on the Executive Committee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the Education Board is available online at [www.illinoisadventist.org](http://www.illinoisadventist.org).

Delegates will convene again during the first quarter of 2007 to discuss how to step forward with the valuable Broadview Academy campus in La Fox, while developing a delivery system for secondary Adventist education in Ill.

Rachel Terwilligar, assistant to the president for communication, Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

## Gordon Engen Honored with Award of Merit

Gordon O. Engen was presented an Award of Merit by the International Religious Liberty Association and *Liberty* magazine for a lifetime of service in the cause of religious freedom. The award was presented at a service in Pioneer Memorial Church on June 17, 2006.

Engen was an effective liaison from the Adventist Church to the United States Congress while he was a part of the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty at the General Conference and the North American Division. He had previously served as director of the Lake Union



Gordon O. Engen was presented an Award of Merit for a lifetime of service in the cause of religious freedom. From left: Vernon L. Alger, Gordon O. Engen, and Blossom Engen

Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty and as editor of the *Lake Union Herald*. Engen and his wife, Blossom, have retired in North Carolina.

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

### [NAD NEWS]

## Special Weekend Planned to Commemorate Adventist History

On Oct. 20–22, 2006, a special celebration at the Hiram Edson Farm will commemorate two unique events—the 25th anniversary of Adventist Heritage Ministry (AHM), and the 160th anniversary of Joseph Bates' visit to the Edson Farm, when he brought the newly discovered truth about the seventh-day Sabbath.

“On the Edson Farm, the sanctuary truth and the Sabbath truth were joined,” explains Jo Ellen Barnard Walton, who chairs the

Edson Farm Committee. “Thus, the Seventh-day Adventist denomination really had its start right [there].”

The weekend will feature a re-enactment of the Bates visit, presented by students from Union Springs Academy, and special speakers who will explain how the sanctuary and Sabbath truths logically joined and developed into an end-time message. The Union Springs Academy choir will also present musical numbers. Those who visited the Edson Farm in 1994 will remember their beautiful performances then.



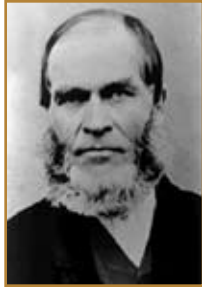
An 1840s barn once belonging to Hiram Edson's father has been restored and is located at the Edson Farm.

Fri. night and Sabbath services will be held in the Rochester (N.Y.) Bay Knoll Church. Sabbath afternoon will feature a visit to the Edson Farm where the sanctuary truth was discovered.



Joseph Bates

Sun. activities will include a bus tour of historic Adventist sites around Rochester led by Jim Nix, director of the White Estate, and a canal boat ride on the Erie Canal which



Hiram Edson

will include a vegetarian buffet meal. Plans for a much-needed visitor center at the Edson Farm will be presented.

Space is limited, so anyone interested should contact Walton as soon as possible to reserve space. She can be reached at 661-872-3741. There will be a charge to cover costs for Sun. events.

Plans are in progress to develop the Edson Farm. "This will serve both as a reinforcement for our faith and as a witnessing tool to others," Walton adds. Working drawings for a visitor center are completed, and the AHM Board has voted to commence construction in Fall 2007 if sufficient donations are received. The Sage Mission Builders have agreed to come in Sept. 2007 to do construction at no cost. However, funds are needed for materials.

The center will provide public rest rooms, currently not available at the Edson Farm, a visitor center to properly house artifacts and exhibits, and space for a resident caretaker. "This is much needed," Walton says, "because trespassers are beginning to pose a problem and a resident caretaker could lessen the risk of trespassing or vandalism to this important historic site and be there to welcome guests and to explain our beliefs."

An 1840s barn once belonging to Edson's father has been restored on the property, and many non-Adventists visited the site when we had a model sanctuary on display. More programs like this will be planned for the Edson Farm, and ultimately a permanent sanctuary will be displayed on the property.

Jo Ellen Barnard Walton, Edson Farm Committee chairperson

## [WORLD CHURCH NEWS]

### ADRA Requests Special Prayer for Young Girls in Thailand

Every year in Thailand, thousands of young, innocent girls are taken from their rural families in the northern part of the country. Hill tribe villagers are very poor and especially vulnerable, and girls from

educational assistance so they can remain in school, and it provides a home for those who can no longer remain at home because of the risk of being sold. Because these girls are no longer a burden, their parents will not be forced to sell them to make ends meet.



Please pray for these young girls and their families, as they daily struggle to live and remain safe. Pray, too, for ADRA and the ADRA workers as they work with the Hill tribe people to keep girls safe!

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these ethnic minority groups are sold into prostitution for as little as \$100 per little girl!

However, ADRA (Adventist Development & Relief Agency International) is there! Through ADRA's *Keep Girls Safe* project, ADRA provides at-risk girls (those living in poverty in rural regions) with nourishment and

Adventist Development & Relief Agency  
International press release



ADRA

Adventist Development  
and Relief Agency

# MILEPOSTS

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org). Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 47.

## Weddings

**Jaclyn J. Ondrejka and Michael R. Kurowski Jr.** were married June 18, 2006, in Green Bay, Wis. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Delmar Austin.

Jaclyn is the daughter of Dale and Robin Ondrejka of Green Bay, and Michael is the son of Michael Kurowski Sr. of Green Bay.

The Kurowskis are making their home in Green Bay.

## Anniversaries



**Richard and Doris Carlsen** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 3, 2006, by dining with all their family (except a grandson in the Army) at Tippecanoe Place, South Bend, Ind. They have been members of the Dowagiac (Mich.) Church for 33 years.

Richard Carlsen and Doris Bennett were married June 3, 1956, in Kansas City, Mo., by Pastor Vernon Heglund. Richard has been an osteopathic physician, retiring in 1997. Doris has been a homemaker.

The Carlsen family includes Steven and Alma Carlsen of Dowagiac; Dianna and Paul Runnals of Edwardsburg, Mich.; Cynthia and Darryl Kotanro of Sacramento, Calif.; Carol and Robert King of Salisbury, Md.; ten grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**Ernest F. and Doris M. Tarzwell** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 3, 2006, with family, friends, and students, at the Whitcomb Retirement Residence in St. Joseph, Mich. They have been members of the Benton Harbor (Mich.) Fairplain Church for 45 years.

Ernest F. Tarzwell and Doris M. Allen were married Sept. 5, 1946, in Pontiac, Mich., by Pastor R.K. Krick. Ernest has been a high school teacher for eight years and an elementary principal for 22 years in the Eau Claire and Benton Harbor School Districts, retiring in 1983. After retirement he has been substitute teacher and substitute secretarial for the county, and also office manager for a new Charter School near Benton Harbor. Doris has been a teacher for 31 years, 22 of which were at St. Joseph public schools, and a homemaker.

The Tarzwell family includes Ernest A. and Sherri Tarzwell of Laquinta, Calif.; and two granddaughters.

## Obituaries

**ASHLEY, Cecil L.**, age 84; born July 4, 1921, in Crossplanes, Texas; died June 14, 2006, in Deckerville, Mich. He was a member of the Vassar (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his son, David E.; daughter, Julie A. Murphy; and one grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Ronald Morrison, and interment was in Veterans Memorial Garden Cemetery, Mesa, Ariz.

**BISHOP, Robert S.**, age 86; born May 1, 1920, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; died July 15, 2006, in Eau Claire, Mich. He was a member of the Cedar Lake Church, Edmore, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanne (Selleske); son, Terry; daughter, Marcia Bishop; sister, Cheni Wise; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Michael Wise, and interment was in Cedar Lake Cemetery.

**DUCKWORTH, John R.**, age 89; born Sept. 30, 1916, in Clarksdale, Miss.; died June 17, 2006, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Irizona M. (Bland); sons, Reuben, Denneth, and Sherman; daughters, Doris M. Holloway, Juanita H. Molson, and Zorita E. Thomas; brother,

Lewis; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Dwight K. Nelson and Clifford Jones, with private inurnment.

**FELDBAUER, Fred E.**, age 90; born May 23, 1916, in Minot, N.D.; died June 21, 2006, in Mishawaka, Ind. He was a member of the South Bend (Ind.) First Church.

Survivors include his daughter, Judythe A. Gaff; sisters, Alyce R. Judson and Lois R. Mohr; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Michael Nickless and Beryl Mohr, and interment was in St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park Cemetery, South Bend.

**GREEN, Iris (Edelmons)**, age 71; born Nov. 22, 1934, in Sullivan Cty., Ind.; died Feb. 20, 2006, in Indianapolis, Ind. She was a member of the Lewis (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Howard; sister, Shirley Bickle; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ronald Kelly, and interment was in Jasonville (Ind.) Cemetery.

**JUSTICE, W. Rondal, "W.R.,"** age 65; born Nov. 26, 1940, in Chicago, Ill.; died June 20, 2006, in Indianapolis, Ind. He was a member of the Emmanuel Church, Indianapolis.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon A. (Redeemar); sons, Dorian, Lorne M., Keith, Ian, Levon, and Jasone; daughter, Shana B. Rainey; mother, Artilla (Dogan) Leving; half brothers, Errol Scott and John H. Moore; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Tundee Ojewole and Leon Bryant and Elders Walter Wright, Joe Bryant, Auldwin Humphrey, and George Bryant, and interment was in Washington Park North Cemetery, Indianapolis.

**KOTRBA, William J.**, age 89; born Sept. 10, 1916, in Rock Creek, Mo.; died June 19, 2006, in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was a member of the Kalamazoo Church.

Survivors include his wife, Millicent E. (Ballett); sons, Leonard W. and Dennis W.; daughters, Carol L. Krott and Pamela S. Priest; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Daniel Ferraz, and interment was in East Cooper Cemetery, Cooper, Mich.

**PRESNELL, Judith A. (Powser)**, age 59; born Oct. 12, 1946, in Wayne, Mich.; died July 1, 2006, in Inkster, Mich. She was a member of the Metropolitan Church, Plymouth, Mich.

Survivors include her daughters, Kimberly LeBlanc and Jennifer Colburn; brothers, Norm and Buzz Powser; sisters, Ruth Klaska, Sandra Darocha, and Cindy Powser; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Bob Stewart and Micah Davis, and interment was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia, Mich.

**STUCK, Murray M.**, age 84; born Aug. 27, 1921, in Alberta, Canada; died July 8, 2006, in Battle Creek, Mich. He was a member of the Delton (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Sophia (Rudick); sons, Marty and Ivan; daughters, Sharon Smith, Carol Rhodes, Donna Hook, and Janet Costie; brothers, Lorin and Thurlow; 12 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Bruce Moore and Chaplain Dan Jensen, and interment was in VA National Cemetery, Battle Creek.

**SUMMERS, Alvie W.**, age 92; born Dec. 21, 1913, in Chicago, Ill.; died June 26, 2006, in Goshen, Ind. He was a member of the Elkhart (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his son, Curtis; daughter, Charlene Smith; half brother, Orville Lippett; sister, Gwendolyn Myer; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Loren Nelson, and interment was in Oakridge Cemetery, Bristol, Ind.

**WAGNER, Sandra M. (Sawatski)**, age 63; born Mar. 3, 1943, in Saginaw, Mich.; died July 17, 2006, in Flint, Mich. She was a member of the First Flint Church.

Survivors include her husband, Dale A.; son, David; daughter, Chrystal Cardo; sister, Susan Woods; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Gerald Baker, and interment was in Flint Memorial Park Mausoleum.

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## Sunset Calendar

	Sep 1	Sep 8	Sep 15	Sep 22	Sep 29	Oct 6
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:20	8:09	7:57	7:45	7:32	7:20
Chicago	7:26	7:14	7:02	6:50	6:38	6:25
Detroit	8:08	7:57	7:44	7:32	7:20	7:07
Indianapolis	8:18	8:07	7:56	7:44	7:32	7:21
La Crosse, Wis.	7:43	7:31	7:18	7:05	6:52	6:39
Lansing, Mich.	8:15	8:03	7:50	7:38	7:26	7:13
Madison, Wis.	7:35	7:23	7:10	6:58	6:45	6:32
Springfield, Ill.	7:32	7:21	7:10	6:58	6:47	6:35



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### Miscellaneous

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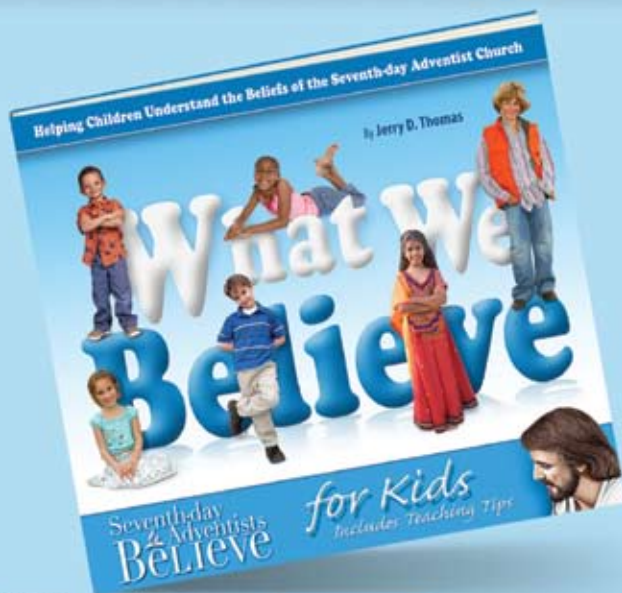
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al fundraising experience, bachelor's degree, good people skills, communication skills, highly motivated, organized, experience in educational setting preferred, and professional references required. Significant travel required. Adventist apply immediately at [www.andrews.edu/HR/jobs.html](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/jobs.html).

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#### **NIGHTLY TOPICS**

- September 29 *The Presence*
- September 30 *Mysteries of the Ancients*
- October 1 *Closer Than You Think*
- October 2 *The Appointed Hour*
- October 3 *The Deliverance*

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# Announcements

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

## Andrews University

**Homecoming 2006:** Andrews University invites you to Homecoming 2006 which will be held **Sept. 28-Oct. 1**. Classes to be honored this year: 1936, '46, '56, '66, '76, '81, '86, and '96. For more details, visit [www.andrews.edu/alumni](http://www.andrews.edu/alumni).

## Illinois

**Seniors Retreat (60+):** Come join us for our third annual retreat at Camp Akita. The dates are **Fri., Sept. 29, through Sun., Oct. 1**. For more information, call Norma at 630-856-2874; e-mail [seniors@illinoisadventist.org](mailto:seniors@illinoisadventist.org); or go online at [www.illinoisadventist.org](http://www.illinoisadventist.org).

**SERENDIPITY—Interfaith Women's Retreat, Oct. 6-8**, at the Hilton Hotel, Lisle, Ill. Keynote speaker: Kay Kuzma. Seminars include, "Losing the Clutter," "The Mundane," "The Debt," and "Losing Ourselves Through Our Time with God." Special teen track for young women ages 13-18. Registration brochure is available on Women's Ministries link at [www.illinoisadventist.org](http://www.illinoisadventist.org), or by e-mailing [wm@illinoisadventist.org](mailto:wm@illinoisadventist.org).

## Indiana

**Boot Camp Training** for lay evangelism is **Sept. 15-16** at Timber Ridge Camp. Special speaker/trainer will be Robert Folkenberg Sr. Boot Camp Training will also be held **Sept. 29-30** at the Glendale Church with speaker/trainer Ben Kochenower. To register for either of these special sessions, call Sheri DeWitt at the Indiana Conference office at 317-844-6201.

**Indiana Women's Ministries Weekend Retreat** is **Sept. 29-Oct. 1** at the beautiful Oakwood Inn in Syracuse. Ginny Allen is this year's guest speaker. To register, contact Shari Blackburn at [sblackburn@juno.com](mailto:sblackburn@juno.com), or phone 260-622-4749.

**Teen Backpack Trip** hiking the legendary Knobstone Trail is **Sept. 29-Oct. 1**. For applications, contact Trish Thompson at the Indiana Conference youth department at 317-844-6201, or e-mail [youth@indianaadventist.org](mailto:youth@indianaadventist.org).

**The Indiana Academy Alumni Association** welcomes all graduates/attendees to the IA campus for Alumni Homecoming, **Oct. 13-14**. Honor classes are 1956, '81, and '96. In addition, other recognized classes are 1966, '76, and '86. For more information, contact Bonnie Meyer, alumni president, at 574-586-3466, or e-mail [n9qen@prodigy.net](mailto:n9qen@prodigy.net); or you may contact Bill Hicks, IA development director, at 317-984-3575, ext. 228, or e-mail [bhicks@iasda.org](mailto:bhicks@iasda.org). Also the 16th Annual IA Alumni Golf Classic and Auction will be held **Fri., Oct. 13**. For more information regarding the golf/auction event, contact Lawrence Johnson at 765-649-7256, or e-mail [ljohnson@mustinbuilders.com](mailto:ljohnson@mustinbuilders.com).

**Marriage Maintenance Seminar** with Walter and Jackie Wright is **Nov. 17-18** at the Cicero Church. This special event is sponsored by the Indiana Conference family life department. To register, contact Ron or Collene Kelly at 317-984-4376, or e-mail [pastkelly@aol.com](mailto:pastkelly@aol.com).

## Lake Region

**Listen to Pathway to Peace Radio Bible Class** with Cary and Elene Rodgers, **Sun., 8:30-9:00 a.m.**, on WGPR 107.5 FM (Detroit). Uplifting Jesus Christ from Genesis to Revelation! It is a 30-minute radio broadcast with interactive Bible study, powerful testimonies, and inspirational thoughts. The speakers have the urgency and fervency to give the good news of Jesus Christ and His Three Angels Message to the world through media. *Pathway to Peace* Radio Bible Class

is designed for a diverse radio audience and is currently airing on more than 20 full-power stations in the U.S. and Central America. For more information, go online to [www.PathwaytoPeace.net](http://www.PathwaytoPeace.net).

**Save the Date!** The Lake Region Conference Women's Retreat will be held **Oct. 6-8** in the luxurious The Ritz Carlton Hotel in Dearborn, Mich. For more information, contact the Lake Region Conference Women's Ministries Department, 8517 South State St., Chicago, IL 60619; or call 773-846-2664.

## Lake Union

### Offerings:

- Sept 2** Local Church Budget
  - Sept 9** Fall Mission Appeal
  - Sept 16** Local Church Budget
  - Sept 23** Local Conference Advance
  - Sept 30** Union Conference Designated
- Thirteenth Sabbath:**
- Sept 23** South Pacific Division
- Special Days:**
- Sept 2** Men's Day of Prayer
  - Sept 3-9** Nurture Periodicals (*Adventist Review, Insight, Guide, Primary Treasure, Little Friend*)
  - Sept 10-16** Family Togetherness Week
  - Sept 17-23** Hispanic Heritage Week

## Michigan

**University Seventh-day Adventist Church** members in East Lansing, Mich., celebrate their 50th year anniversary **Sept. 15-16**. Speaker for the worship service will be Roger Coon, pastor in 1967. The church is located at 504 Ann St. in East Lansing. For more information, visit the church website at [www.universysda.com](http://www.universysda.com). If you plan to attend, e-mail [Joan48840@earthlink.net](mailto:Joan48840@earthlink.net).

**The Michigan Boarding Academies Alumni Association** invites all its alumni from Adelphian, Cedar Lake, Grand Ledge, and Great Lakes Academies for a memorable weekend **Oct. 13-14**. Honor classes this year are 1956, '66, '76, '81, '86, and '96. For more information, visit the Alumni section of our website at [www.glaa.net](http://www.glaa.net). Come join us!

**Ionia (Mich.) Elementary Church School Reunion:** Join us on **Oct. 15** from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the school, 721 Elmwood. Even if you can't attend, we need the following from you: *copies only* of school pictures and current picture of yourself; current home address, phone number, and e-mail address; and donations to Ionia Church School. R.S.V.P. by Sept. 22 to Gerry Baker, Beecher Manor, Inc., 11394 N. Linden Rd., Ste. F, Clio, MI 48420; phone 810-687-4330; fax 810-687-4332; or e-mail [gerry@usol.com](mailto:gerry@usol.com).

**Mich. Singles Retreat:** Mark your calendar and join fellow adult singles (over 21) for a relaxing retreat at Mich.'s beautiful Camp Au Sable **Oct. 27-29**. Jim Micheff and staff have planned a Christ-centered, uplifting program. Registration forms will be available in mid-Sept. at [www.misda.org](http://www.misda.org). For more information and prices, contact Lyn White at 517-316-1570, or via e-mail at [lwhite@misda.org](mailto:lwhite@misda.org).

## North American Division

**La Sierra School of Business Students Start Music Venture:** LSU and SDAudio have joined together to give Adventist youth a chance to have their talents heard! This CD is focused on showcasing the musician. Interested in being on a collaborative CD? Here's how. If you are a member of the Adventist church and have pre-recorded a song, please send us a copy of your original music. Send us a CD or mp3 version of your song(s) including the check list available on our website, [www.sdaudiosite.com](http://www.sdaudiosite.com), to the following address: SDAudio, La Sierra University, School of Business, 4500 Riverwalk Pkwy., Riverside, CA 92515.

**The Greater Boston Academy Alumni Association** will hold its annual reunion on **Sept. 29-30** at the academy located at 108 Pond St., Stoneham, Mass. Honor classes are those ending in one or six. For further information, contact Alumni president, Arthur Barnaby, at 951-359-4344, or e-mail [afbarnaby@juno.com](mailto:afbarnaby@juno.com). See also the Alumni website at <http://gba.myfamily.com>.



**Maranatha Volunteers International's 2006 Convention** will be held **Sept. 29-30**, in the Portland, Ore., area. All are invited to attend this inspirational weekend. Featured speakers are Mark Finley, general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; Ron Watts, president of Southern Asia Division; Paul Rat-sara, president of Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division; and Leonel Lozano, president of Ecuador Union Mission. For more information, contact Maranatha Volunteers International at 916-920-1900, or visit [www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org).

**Sunnydale Adventist Academy (Mo.) Alumni Weekend** will be **Oct. 5-8**. Honor classes are: 1956, '66, '71, '81, '86, '91, '96. Activities start with the Silver Showcase, Thurs. evening, Oct. 5. For additional information, call 573-682-2164, or visit website [www.sunnydale.org](http://www.sunnydale.org).

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**Dakota Adventist Academy**, Bismarck, N.D.: Come and reminisce with old school friends from DAA/PVA/SRA at the alumni gathering, **Oct. 6-8**. Honor classes are 2002, 1997, '87, '82, '77, '67, '57, '52, and '47. If you have any questions, contact Judy Liebelt, Alumni president, at 701-428-3382.

**Society of Adventist Communicators Annual Convention**, "The Heart & Soul of Communication," will be held in Baltimore, Md., **Oct. 12-15**. For additional information, visit [www.adventistcommunicator.org](http://www.adventistcommunicator.org). Register before Sept. 8 for an early bird discount for attendee and/or spouse. Student rates available. Special lodging rates are available at the Radisson Lord Baltimore.

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## PARTNERSHIP *with* GOD

### Partners in Parenting

BY GARY BURNS

Today I saw one of my "kids" from years ago when I served as her youth pastor. I am good friends with her father, whom I appreciate and admire. After congratulating her on her recent marriage to her "perfect" match (she was all aglow), I asked how her father was doing. Eagerly she gave her report. I could tell by her expressions and mannerisms that she shared my admiration and respect for her father. She showed almost as much joy and enthusiasm for our discussion of him as she expressed in talking about her new husband.

I took the opportunity to reflect on how gifted and wise my mentor

and her father was. She paused and said with a twinkle in her eye, "You know, it's amazing how much wiser he is now than he was when I was 16."

To be a partner with God in raising teenagers means that I accept the cross of not being appreciated or understood at certain stages in their lives. It means that I will continue to patiently love and live with passion and integrity, whether or not my good will is accepted or reciprocated. Learning to love them as He loves me—that's what partnership with God in parenting is all about.

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director.

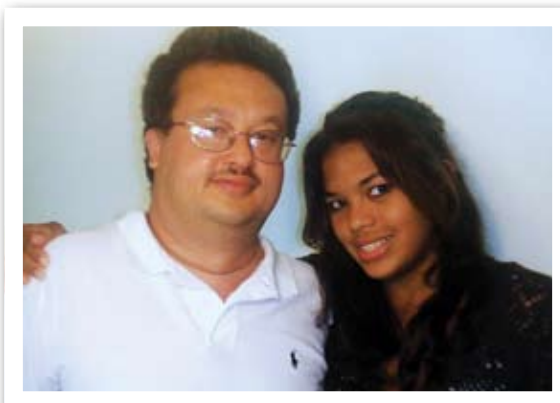
# God Can Change the WORST IN YOU

BY ROSSENERY VARGAS

One day when I was about eight or nine years old, my dad was preaching (he's a pastor), and one of the stories in his sermon got my attention. The story began with a rebellious seventh grader who was basically the worst you could ever imagine. His mind was set on doing what he wanted, how he wanted, and when he wanted.

One time this seventh grader tried to burn a girl because he thought she was fat and ugly. And that wasn't all, or the worst; he and his friends were determined to make every science teacher leave the school. First, they attempted simple things (simple things for them) like tossing rats at them, talking when they weren't suppose to, and being disrespectful—each time with the intent to make the teacher leave. After months of doing what they wanted, they succeeded.

A new science teacher came to the school. She was strict, and her big belly revealed she was expecting a baby; they knew she wasn't going to be an easy target. They tried doing the simple stuff that worked on the others, but ended up at the principal's office. After becoming tired of not getting what they wanted, they started to make a plan so she would leave them for good.



Alex and Rossenery Vargas

Well, after weeks, the plan was finally ready. They went to class and everyone did their normal routines as if nothing different was going to happen. The class bell rang, and they waited outside the door for her to come out. Everyone was ready to proceed with the plan.

The teacher came out and headed for the stairs, together with the big mass of students who hurried out for their next class period. They all followed her, and the rebellious seventh grader stretched out his arm and pushed her down the stairs. He didn't care about her life or her baby's life; he

only cared about what he wanted. Thanks to the Lord, a great mass of students were going down the stairs, too. She fell on their backs, which stopped her from losing her baby, but she became unconscious.

I sat wondering what kind of person could do something like that when the words "that seventh grader, that evil kid was me," came out of my dad's

mouth. I was in shock. Then he continued, saying, "I met Jesus a year after that, through the teacher that I tried to kill." He paused and then continued, "I asked God to change me and to make of me something better than the kid who did what he wanted, how he wanted, and when he wanted. Who would imagine that God would turn me into a pastor and someone lovely? Jesus can do just the same for you ... He can change the worst of you and change it to good."

Rossenery Vargas is a 15-year-old sophomore at Andrews Academy. She is a member at Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She will receive a \$100 scholarship because her article was selected for publication.

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**Danielle Gajewski**, age 15, is a member of the Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church. At church, Danielle has an infectious smile and a sparkle in her eye. She is a deaconess and frequently operates the sound system. She also assists her pastor with PowerPoint presentations and DVD production for evangelistic meetings. She enjoys children's ministries, Vacation Bible School, and singing.



Danielle Gajewski

Danielle is a sophomore at Portage High School. The most important thing she learned was "You can't judge others too quickly before getting to know them." Her favorite class was civics. She said, "I had the best teacher. He made it easy to understand and fun." Her most challenging experience was when her friend, Tom, was killed in a tragic car accident. Danielle was on the Honor Roll and Principal's List for academic distinction.

She loves the outdoors and joined 4-H when she was eight years old. She successfully competed in knitting and horsemanship at the Wisconsin State Fair and was involved in the "Annie" and "Mary Poppins" productions at the fair, also. Her hobbies include art, drawing, painting, horseback riding, reading, writing, and talking with friends.

Danielle looks forward to graduating from high school, attending college to become an interior designer, and founding her own business.



Jessica Sinnett

**Jessica Sinnett**, age 18, is a member of the Richland Center Seventh-day Adventist Church. She enjoys her church family. Her pastor, David Scofield, reports, "She is a wonderful young member. She leads singing for Sabbath school regularly, provides special music whenever asked, helps younger Pathfinders and Adventurers, has served on nominating committees, and in general is a great young lady."

Jessica graduated from Richland Center High School last year. She is an athletic girl who also excelled in academics and community service. Her achievements speak well of her: vice president of her class in grades 11 and 12, Key Club vice president for two years, Honor Roll for seven of her eight semesters, graduated with honors, and was the recipient of Lion's Club and Kiwanis awards. Jessica was also elected homecoming queen for her high school and was captain of the varsity softball team. The most important thing Jessica learned in school was "You have to do what you feel is right and not what others tell you."

Jessica plans to pursue higher education and become a sports athletic trainer. Her hobbies center on the outdoors and sports. She enjoys softball, coaching and playing volleyball, canoeing, camping, reading, and cooking.

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